State’s Attorneys in Maryland are accountable to you, the public, and are elected to their position every four years. How much information is available for you to make the decision? Are the candidates for the office of State’s Attorney in your county “tough on crime” or are they “smart on crime”?

To help with your decision MAJR sent a questionnaire to each of the candidates for State’s Attorney. They were asked six questions:

1. In your opinion is there a difference between being “tough on crime” and being “smart on crime”? Please explain.
2. Should minor offenses be decriminalized, resulting in fines instead of jail time?
3. Do you favor using pretrial risk assessment? Will you recommend pretrial supervision?
4. Would you work to expand criminal diversions in which willing victims and offenders are offered mediation?
5. Would you support reentry programs to improve employment opportunities for inmates returning from state prison sentences?
6. Would you support mental health screening and treatment of pretrial detainees?

Links to the responses of eleven candidates are below.

- Anne Arundel County
  - Anne Colt Leitess
- Caroline County
  - Maureen Keogh
- Harford County
  - Lisa H. Marts
  - Steven L. Trostle
- Howard County
  - Richard Gibson
  - Kim Oldham
- Kent County
  - Brian DiGregory
- Montgomery County
  - John McCarthy
- Prince Georges County
  - Aisha Braveboy
  - Mike Lyles
- Washington County
  - Bernard W Semler II

While eleven responses doesn’t fully cover the field of candidates, it represents over 20% of all candidates, and over 30% of candidates in contested races. The primaries are just a start, and we hope to have more to report to you prior to the General Election. Stay tuned!

Please vote on June 26th!

MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over fifty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.