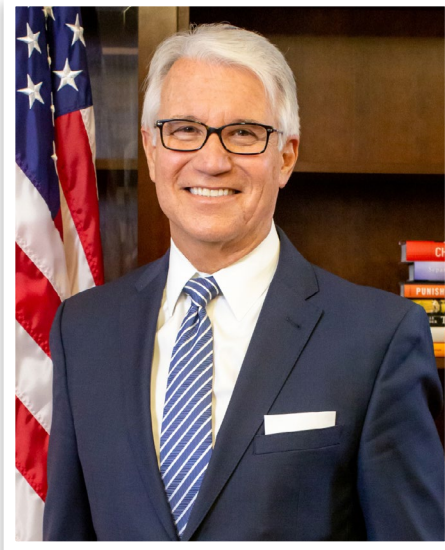


MIDTERM REPORT 2023



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
George Gascón

Seeking justice through prevention,
education, and enforcement



A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

When Los Angeles County voters granted me the honor of leading the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in 2020, we set audacious goals. We wanted to start to right-size our own piece of a nationwide carceral system that was out of control, funneling people into the jail and prison system without questioning whether each decision truly promoted public safety. For years, L.A. County had been leading the country in the number of people sent to jail, with little return, as we saw violent crime continue to increase. L.A. County also not only led in condemning people to die, but we used the death penalty disproportionately against people of color. We sought the maximum punishment possible in the name of victims but have often heard from victims about how we failed to provide them with lasting support. And we didn't stop to ask what policies and investments could actually prevent crime, to stop harm from occurring in the first place.

In preparing this report, I had the privilege of reviewing all of the work performed by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office over the last two years, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude for everything that we have accomplished that brought us closer to achieving our office's mission. Of course, change does not happen overnight, and we have a long way to go. But in the last two years, our office supported tens of thousands of victims and helped them on their journey to becoming survivors. We held people who caused real harm accountable, and we made sure that those with power did not evade accountability because of their privilege, as has too often happened in the past. We also increased our efforts to prevent crime and intensified our work with key partners to address behavior that is often criminalized instead of treated, like addiction and mental illness. These are hard issues to address but continuing to pretend the criminal legal system is a solution to them is simply unacceptable. We have also convened collaborative efforts that are working to ameliorate the fentanyl crisis and help our undocumented community members.

When I took office, I promised to be transparent about our work. Among other things, that vow means sharing these reports. This report describes our work in four key areas:

- ▶ **Accountability**
- ▶ **Victim and survivor support**
- ▶ **Righting past wrongs**
- ▶ **Preventing future harm**

I also promised to listen, and to constantly learn from both our mistakes and accomplishments. This report lays out adjustments in policy that we have made after two years in office. With even these small changes, we have held firm to our core principles: that kids should be treated like kids, that excessive sentences do not promote public safety, and that we must work to address the root causes of crime to keep people safe.

Looking back at the last two years, we are extremely proud of the work highlighted in this report. We also know we have a long way to go toward a system of justice that works for everybody. Change does not happen overnight, but we will continue fighting and remain undeterred in advancing public safety equitably for our communities.

George Gascón
Los Angeles County District Attorney



MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will advance an effective, ethical, and racially equitable system of justice that protects the community, restores victims of crime, and honors the rights of the accused. We are a learning organization that believes in reduced incarceration and punishment except in circumstances in which it is proportional, in the community's interest, and serves a rehabilitative or restorative purpose.

ACCOUNTABILITY

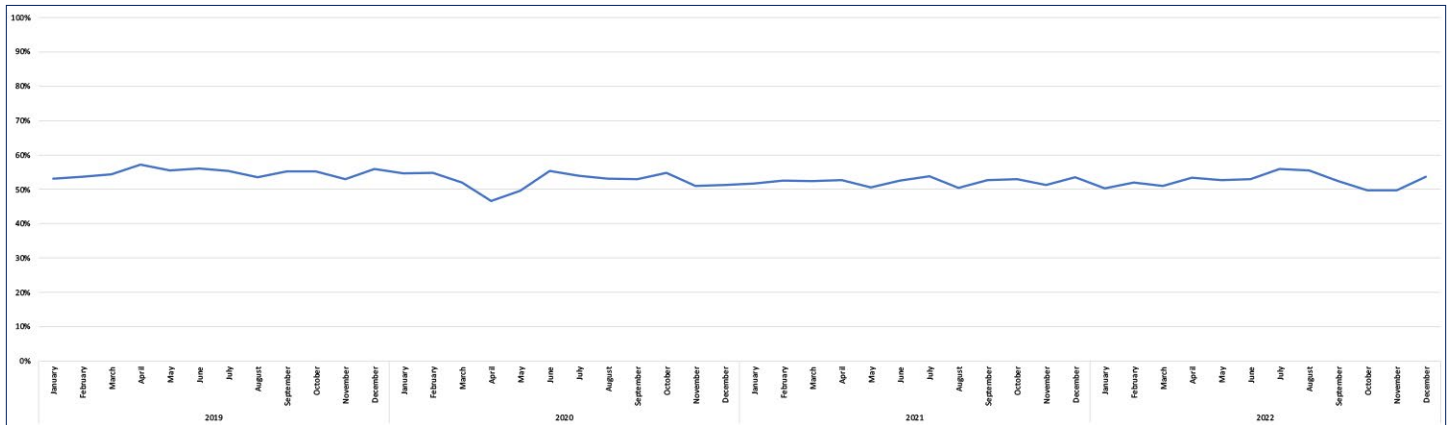
Accountability is an integral part of the justice system. We are interested in meaningful accountability that holds harm-doers responsible for their actions and delivers a set of consequences aimed at mitigating future harm from occurring. Accountability looks different depending on the circumstances of each case.

In many cases, accountability can look like being arrested, being charged, being convicted, and in certain circumstances, receiving a prison term. In other cases, accountability looks like addressing the underlying cause of criminal behavior, while taking steps to repair any harm that may have occurred by responding to the victim's unique wants and needs. Some cases should not be in our legal system at all, like when a person has an abortion, and it is a travesty that anyone anywhere suggests otherwise.

CHARGING RATES OVER TIME

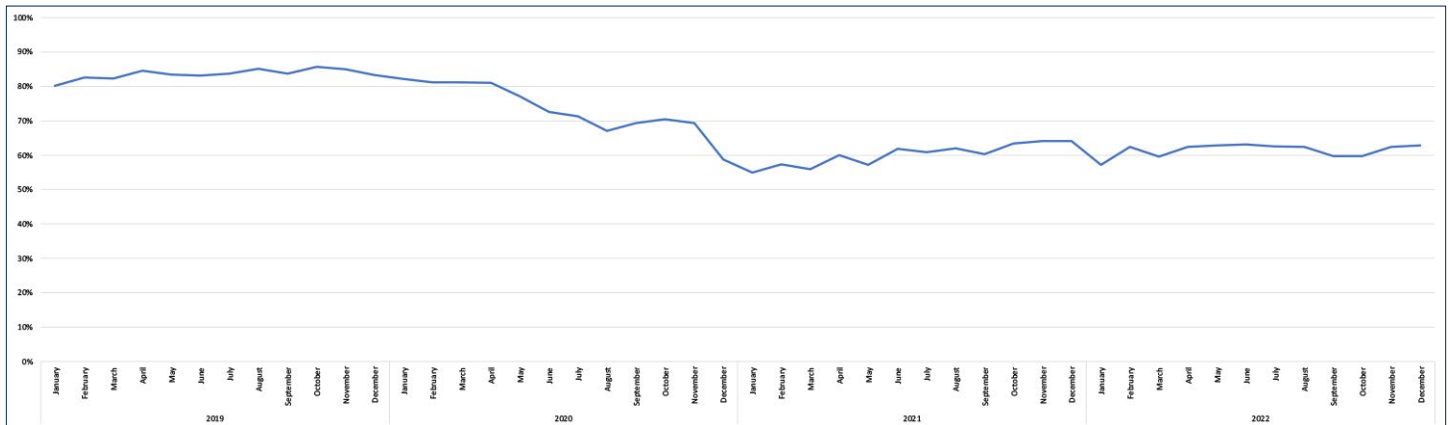
The District Attorney's Office implemented charging policies that improve public safety while reducing the impact of the criminal justice system on people accused of crimes where data has shown that prosecution has no meaningful public safety benefit.

FELONY FILING RATES



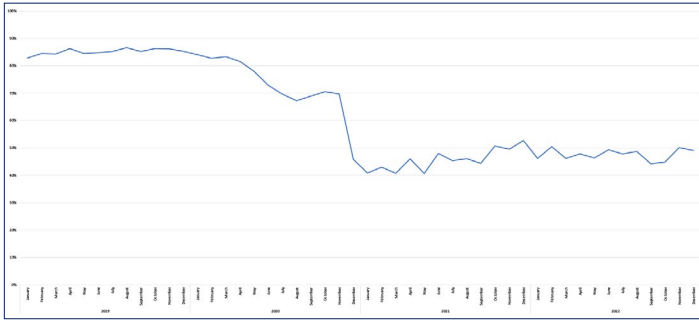
This office's highest priority is holding people accountable. Over the last three years, we have filed charges in felony cases at similar rates to prior administrations.

MISDEMEANOR FILING RATES (Except for Addiction-Related Misdemeanors*)

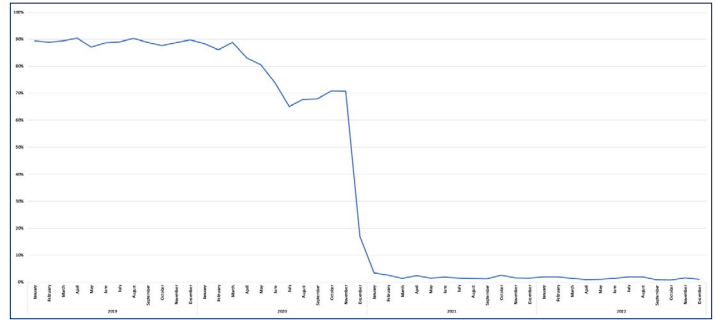


“Do no harm” is also an overriding principle in our office, and we have decided to shift resources away from misdemeanors where prosecution serves no public safety benefit. We have, therefore, dramatically decreased our filing rate for cases associated with addiction, while focusing on those misdemeanors where violence, and especially domestic violence, occurs.

Total Misdemeanor Filing Rates



Addiction-Related Misdemeanor Filing Rates



* Figures do not include behavior traditionally associated with substance abuse; filings of Health & Safety Code 11377 (possession of methamphetamine and other narcotics), 11364 (possession of drug paraphernalia), 11350 (possession of a controlled substance), 11550 (under the influence of a controlled substance) and Penal Code 647(f) (public intoxication).

CHARGING PRACTICES

Our office strives to ensure the sentences we request are proportionate to the individual’s culpability and to the need to protect public safety. Therefore, the office no longer seeks the death penalty, which has never been shown to deter crime, is racist on application, morally untenable, irreversible, and expensive. LADA also strives to treat kids like kids, and to ensure they are kept out of the adult system and provided with the opportunity to grow into productive adults.

SENTENCING

Excessive sentences have not been shown to enhance public safety, although **research** has shown that excessive sentences increase the likelihood of re-offending and lead to future victimization. The purpose of the Los Angeles District Attorney is to not only seek justice for existing victims of crime, but to prevent future victims. This office remains committed to that mission. Therefore, the office generally does not utilize sentencing enhancements, except in cases that affect our communities’ most vulnerable or in cases of extraordinary circumstance.

Additionally, in order to establish a policy safety valve to consider unique cases, we established two committees to review potential exceptions to two distinct policies. **The Alternative Charging Evaluation (ACE) Committee** was established to review cases that may qualify for an exception from the office’s presumptive policy against seeking life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). **The Juvenile Alternative Evaluation (JACE) Committee** was also established to determine whether a juvenile should be transferred to adult court.

These committees contain experienced attorneys with diverse backgrounds, who review the rare cases in which extraordinary circumstances and uniquely vulnerable victims warrant a deviation from these two distinct policies. To date, ACE has decided that 13 cases involving 15 individuals rise to the level of seeking LWOP. JACE has found that the unique circumstances of three youths’ cases warrant transfer to adult court.

THREE STRIKES

We continue to challenge the state’s Three Strikes Law, and are encouraged by the California Supreme Court decision to allow a petition for review challenging its automatic application. This law, which is now 28 years old, has caused tremendous harm to our communities. We believe we can have accountability without the harshest punishments. The Three Strikes Law is outdated, disproportionately affects marginalized communities, and has not been shown to increase public safety.

DIVERSION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

In addition to our standard charging practices, the office has continued to expand and bolster opportunities for diversion, allowing the space to address root causes of a person’s behavior and offer rehabilitation and restoration for harm caused.

Restorative Enhanced Diversion for Youth (REDY), launched in 2021, allows youth ages 14-17 who meet a certain set of criteria to avoid criminal charges by participating in individually tailored programs. These plans address underlying issues that contribute to their behavior, such as mental health needs and substance use disorders.

The **Reconciliation Education and Counseling Crimes of Hate Program (REACCH)**, a victim-centered restorative justice post-conviction pilot for hate crimes secured its first participants. The program provides people on probation with counseling, anti-bias education and victim reconciliation in a controlled setting.

HOLDING EVERYONE ACCOUNTABLE

Law Enforcement

As a result of a state law change, effective July 1, 2021 fatal shootings of unarmed persons by police officers in the State of California are investigated by the California Department of Justice ([Government Code Section 12525.3](#)). All other officer-involved shooting incidents where an individual is injured in Los Angeles County, or instances of unlawful officer conduct, are investigated by the Los Angeles County District Attorney.

It is LADA’s responsibility to ensure that law enforcement officers who violate the public trust are held accountable. Law enforcement and our communities suffer when bad actors evade accountability.

Over the course of 2021 and 2022, the office filed at least* 49 cases against 52 law enforcement personnel, ranging from DUIs to murder.

- ▶ [27 cases in 2021](#)
- ▶ [22 cases in 2022](#)

The current administration has also **filed more** on-duty, officer involved shooting (OIS) cases **than under the prior two administrations, combined**. District Attorney Gascón has filed eight criminal cases involving the use of unreasonable non-deadly force, as well as four on-duty officer involved shootings. The Lacey administration filed one officer involved shooting case, and the Cooley administration filed none.

We have also gone back and evaluated past convictions when we have learned that the case relied on an officer who abused public trust. We have **reversed dozens of convictions** of people whose cases relied on the help of officers who have since been charged with crimes, or evidenced clear racial bias or dishonesty. Only by correcting past wrongs can we create meaningful trust in the community.

PRESS-TELEGRAM

Long Beach man imprisoned for 11 years released after officer is charged with perjury

'When the integrity of a conviction is at issue, continued incarceration is no longer in the interest of justice,' DA George Gascon said in a statement



Long Beach Police Department headquarters is at 400 W. Broadway. (Google Street View)

By [TONY SAAVEDRA](#) | tssaavedra@scng.com | Orange County Register
 PUBLISHED: July 28, 2022 at 5:18 p.m. | UPDATED: July 29, 2022 at 9:43 a.m.

Hundreds of cases are being reviewed after police officers involved were relieved of duty over racist and anti-Semitic messages

By Alexandra Meeks, CNN
 Updated 6:21 AM EDT, Fri August 20, 2021



* As a result of the administration’s implementation of a first-ever centralized criminal charge evaluation system, increased oversight of investigations of law enforcement officers, and commitment to transparency, additional cases previously not cited in the 2021 Annual Report have been included. LADA continues to identify improvements to internal procedures to ensure the public has access to the most reliable information.

Protecting Workers and Fighting Wage Theft

Wage theft takes hard-earned money away from working people and their families. And unfair business practices such as failing to pay overtime, misclassifying employees, and other unjust practices affect not just workers, but also hurt our community by putting law-abiding employers at a competitive disadvantage. As a result, D.A. Gascón has **increased the office's focus** on prosecuting people who prey on workers.

D.A. Gascón stood with Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters to announce **an agreement with the California Labor Commissioner** set to bolster the investigation and prosecution of wage theft and protect workers.

D.A. Gascón, California Insurance, Commissioner Ricardo Lara, California Labor Commissioner Lilia García-Brower, and advocates from the Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund (MCTF), also announced a long-awaited resolution of criminal charges filed against Pacific Commercial Company (PCC). Misclassified **janitors received \$240K in restitution.**



Additionally, the office filed **43 felony counts** against two executives of South El Monte-based Golden Food, Inc., a poultry processing company, for underreporting their payroll to workers' compensation insurance carriers and failing to pay their employees as required by law.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS

PROTECTING IMMIGRANTS

L.A. County is home to the largest immigrant population in the country. LADA is committed to the safety of all Angelenos, regardless of immigration status.

LADA was proud to co-sponsor Senate Bill 836, which **prohibits disclosure of a person's immigration status in open court** in a criminal case by any party unless approved by a judge. The success of this law has been a significant win for public safety as numerous studies show that undocumented immigrants are less likely to report crime and cooperate with law enforcement if they believe working with police and prosecutors will lead to deportation.

Los Angeles Times

OPINION

Op-Ed: How local D.A.s can help protect immigrant families from dangerous federal policies

BY GEORGE GASCÓN AND MIRIAM ARONI KRINSKY

JAN. 19, 2023 3:01 AM PT



A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Escondido, Calif. (Associated Press)

District Attorney George Gascón also implemented the County's **first-ever comprehensive criminal justice immigration policy**. To ensure immigrant victims and witnesses feel safe reporting crime, it provides them a chance to secure temporary visas while working with law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting criminal offenders, securing accountability. The office also employs a blanket policy of non-cooperation with Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for purposes of civil immigration law investigation and enforcement.

The policy reflects state law that aims to ensure equal treatment of citizens and noncitizens. Read the full policy [here](#).

IMPROVING VICTIMS SERVICES

Over the last two years, our Victim Services Bureau has assisted **34,558 people** in need of support, and assisted **thousands more** with securing financial support through state funding.

After a national search, District Attorney Gascón hired Tanishia G. Wright as the **new Director of the office's Bureau of Victim Services (BVS)**. Tanishia brings a depth of experience having served our local communities on behalf of L.A. County Public Health at MLK Hospital's Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center.

D.A. Gascón also **increased LADA's service capacity** and hired 16 additional victim services representatives. Ms. Wright oversees approximately 77 representatives and has a complete staff of about 117 employees.

In the wake of multiple mass shootings across the country in 2022, the Bureau implemented a **Mass Victimization Advocacy Crisis Response Plan**.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS



The plan ensures coordination among Bureau representatives as a part of countywide response to provide direct and immediate support on site of a mass casualty event. The Bureau of Victim Services serves as the lead provider following such tragedies occurring within Los Angeles County.

Representatives also regularly speak in the community and hold virtual panels to share resources and information with service providers. BVS has hosted **over a dozen Community Provider Forums** over the course of the last two years.

The Forums are publicized in advance, are open to the entire community, and recordings are made publicly available for anyone who missed them, on the office's [Vimeo page](#).

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

In 2022, we prosecuted multiple cases of sexual and gender-based violence. With every case of this nature, we provide assistance and resources to help keep victims safe and counseling referrals to address the trauma involved.

In addition to helping victims obtain restitution, LADA provides criminal justice system orientation, court support, protective order assistance, emergency shelter, food and clothing, and assistance in filing for compensation.

Some of the most high-profile include the case against former film producer **Harvey Weinstein**, who was convicted of three counts of sexual assault against a woman. Jurors deliberated for 10 days before finding Weinstein (dob 3/19/52) guilty of one count of forcible rape, one count of forced oral copulation and one count of sexual penetration by a foreign object.

STATEMENT ON HARVEY WEINSTEIN

“I want to thank the survivors in this case, who exhibited extraordinary bravery in a case that put them in the national spotlight. Reporting sexual assault is never easy. Subjecting oneself to at times brutal cross-examination can be retraumatizing and extraordinarily painful. I stand in awe of their fearlessness. They deserve better than what the system has given them.

I also want to thank the jurors for their service during this lengthy trial and for examining all of the evidence carefully. I am of course disappointed that the jury was split on some of the counts, but hope its partial verdicts bring at least some measure of justice to the victims.

Finally, I want to thank the entire trial team. These cases are never easy and this is no exception. Our team will meet to determine whether or not we intend to retry the counts that were hung.”

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCÓN
December 19, 2022

Also, **Eric Weinberg** was charged in an 18-count complaint for sexually assaulting five women at different times between 2014 and 2019. At the District Attorney’s request given his threat to the community, a judge ordered that Weinberg be held without bail.

Others include the case against, **Richard Turner** who was charged for sexually assaulting 10 girls while he worked at two schools in Los Angeles and the conviction in the case against **James Mason Heaps**, an obstetrician-gynecologist formerly employed by the University of California, Los Angeles, on five counts in connection with the sexual assaults of some of his patients.



RIGHTING PAST WRONGS

EXONERATIONS

Innocent people go to prison with shocking regularity. For too long, prosecutors have prioritized convictions over justice. If we want our criminal justice system to yield reliable results, we must ensure convictions are accurate and trustworthy. This mission requires us to go back and examine cases where we have potentially gotten it wrong in the past.

Under District Attorney George Gascón's administration the office's Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) was **tripled in size** and the criteria for eligibility was expanded. Two people thus far have been exonerated.



▶ Alexander Torres was wrongfully convicted of murder in 2001, and sentenced to 40 years to life in state prison. Mr. Torres spent more than 20 years incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. He was able to return home to his family in 2022.



▶ Maurice Hastings was convicted of murder in 1988 and sentenced to life in prison without parole. From the time of his arrest, Mr. Hastings maintained his innocence. Crime scene DNA was matched to someone else in 2022, resulting in his release and exoneration. He returned home after spending 38 years in prison.

Maurice Hastings' case especially demonstrated the need for increased use of readily available technology, such as DNA testing, that can determine the integrity of an investigation—and mean the difference between life and death for a person convicted of a crime. Mr. Hastings had submitted numerous requests for **DNA testing** of crime scene evidence under two prior administrations, and had been denied each time. Under the current administration, the DNA testing request was approved, and proved his innocence.



Mr. Hastings' case also gravely underscores the most important reason **why this office no longer seeks the death penalty**: it is irreversible once carried out, and the justice system is fallible. The prosecution in Mr. Hastings' case had sought the death penalty, and jurors ultimately imposed a sentence of life in prison without parole. Had the prosecution in his case been successful, an innocent man would have been sentenced to death.

SECOND CHANCES

Human Trafficking Victim Diversion Program

Human trafficking victims often feel trapped, isolated, and helpless. With few options or resources immediately accessible to them, they can find themselves engaging in unlawful activity at the behest of their trafficker, during the time they are being trafficked, or simply as a matter of survival.



LADA Human Trafficking Awareness 2022 campaign billboard, in partnership with Clear Channel Outdoor and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office

We know that being criminalized further compounds survivors' trauma and makes recovery even more difficult. Recognizing the desperate need for a criminal justice off-ramp that acknowledges the context of these victims' actions, District Attorney George Gascón launched a collaborative pilot program in Pomona between LADA, the Los Angeles County Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender. The pilot provides human trafficking victims' an opportunity to clear their records of certain misdemeanors and felonies following successful participation in treatment and service programs operated by community partners. This collaborative effort helps ensure both the accessibility of services to survivors as well as removing barriers to employment, housing and recovery faced by people with criminal records.

Juvenile Record Dismissals

LADA was proud to co-sponsor AB 2629, passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2022. The bill will provide greater relief from the life-long consequences of a juvenile case than record sealing because it fully dismisses juvenile adjudications rather than just hiding them from public view.

While juvenile courts have had the ability to seal a young person's court records, it still hindered their ability to enlist in the military, obtain occupational licenses and achieve meaningful employment. This new law facilitates the dismissal of past juvenile court petitions so that young people may pursue employment and educational opportunities and be empowered to live productive and successful lives.



LADA visits Boys Republic treatment community for troubled youth.

RESENTENCING

Research shows that lengthy prison sentences are ineffective, costly, and cause disproportionate harm to underserved communities. The U.S. imposes sentences that are longer than those of any comparable nation. Pursuant to a 2018 state law allowing for prosecutors and prison officials to recommend resentencing when it is in the interest of justice, **District Attorney Gascón established the office's Resentencing Unit (RU)** during his first year in office to review eligible cases.

Since the establishment of the Resentencing Unit (RU) in 2021, **110 people have been resentenced** in Los Angeles County. The total number includes those initiated by the RU, additional units in the office, and the California Department of Corrections (CDCR). Prior to the establishment of the RU, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office opposed virtually all CDCR resentencing requests and had initiated but a handful from the office.



Sentenced to life for stealing \$14: 'I needed help, but was given jail'

David Coulson, imprisoned in California under 'tough on crime' laws from the 90s, was released after decades: 'Finally someone has heard me'

by [Sam Levin](#) with photographs by Alex Welsh



- ▶ **110 people resentenced**
- ▶ **88 of the 110 people's resentencing resulted in their release**
- ▶ **0 of the 110 people have been subsequently convicted**

Thanks in part to a \$2.2 million grant awarded to the office by the State of California in 2022, the resentencing work of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office continues to be bolstered by support.

LADA's Resentencing Policy guidelines can be found [here](#).

DEATH PENALTY RESENTENCING

Studies have found no evidence that the death penalty deters people from committing crime. Additionally, innocent people are regularly sentenced to death and are executed. California has the largest death row in the country; the majority of those on death row are people of color, and many have cognitive disabilities.

Under the prior administration, LADA sent more people to death row than Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia combined.

District Attorney Gascón implemented a blanket policy of no longer seeking execution, and committed to reviewing all past capital cases from L.A. County to determine if reducing each sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole (LWOP) would be in the interest of justice.

Research has shown that death row prisoners cost the State of California \$184 million more annually than those sentenced to LWOP. Since 2021, LADA has **resentenced 20 people** on California's death row to LWOP, **saving taxpayers millions** of dollars.

Of the 20 people resentenced to LWOP, 15 suffer from intellectual or cognitive disabilities, or brain damage. Seventy-five percent are Black, 15% Latino, with the remaining two being Asian and White, respectively.

PREVENTING HARM

Although prosecutions are progressing at near identical rates for violent crimes as they have for the last decade, the fact remains that prosecution does not meaningfully prevent harm—it only serves as a tool of accountability once harm has already occurred. We cannot be satisfied with merely telling victims we have held people accountable. We have to fight to prevent people from being harmed in the first place. And we are working hard to do just that, partnering with public health experts, community partners, and law enforcement to push for solutions that address the causes of crime before they spread.

FENTANYL WORKING GROUP

With fentanyl overdose deaths soaring, District Attorney George Gascón joined with Department of Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer to convene a working group to address the fentanyl crisis through **prevention, education and enforcement**.

Saving lives must be our priority when addressing substance use. This is a community-wide problem and requires an all hands-on-deck approach.



The **Working Group** consists of the LADA office, the Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles School Police Department, the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Drug Policy Alliance, advocates, parents who have lost their children to fentanyl poisoning, and school districts throughout the county.

Additionally, LADA's Bureau of Investigations has successfully provided **training for all investigators and sergeants on the use of Naloxone (Narcan)** and each investigator has been issued Narcan kits. Updated procedures also include the availability of Narcan during every field operation investigators conduct, such as search and arrest warrants.

Los Angeles Daily News

A War on Fentanyl, Not a War on People

"Research shows that criminalizing drug use or harshly prosecuting street-level sellers does not reduce drug use, the availability of drugs, or keep drug users safer. That's why we'll focus our resources on targeting upstream dealers and manufacturers to combat the dissemination of drugs into our communities. In fact, just last week my office charged a person who allegedly possessed over \$4 million in illegal narcotics and hundreds of thousands of Fentanyl pills. In that case, we also alleged sentencing enhancements."

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCÓN
Los Angeles Daily News Opinion
December 11, 2022

JOINT-ACTION PLAN AGAINST HATE

Tragically, in Los Angeles County, reports of hate crimes increased by 76% at the start of the pandemic, according to the annual Commission on Human Relations Hate Crimes report.

District Attorney George Gascón and Robin Toma, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, joined to launch a series of community-based forums to inform a joint-action plan to reduce and prevent hate in Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office continues to **file hate crime charges far above the statewide average** (86% to the statewide average of 54%). However, while prosecution can bring accountability, our focus must also extend to preventing harm from occurring in the first place.



Los Angeles Daily News

OPINION · Opinion

As your district attorney, I will continue to hold the hateful accountable: George Gascón

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón speaks during a press conference. (Photo by Keith Birmingham, Pasadena Star-News/ SCNG)

By **GEORGE GASCON** | PUBLISHED: July 14, 2022 at 6:20 p.m. | UPDATED: July 14, 2022 at 6:20 p.m.

“This epidemic of hate is something that we, as a society, must grapple with together. It will take all of us, coming together and establishing new partnerships where we work to devise solutions that help us step out of a world where hate thrives.”

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE GASCON
JULY 14, 2022

PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn **Roe v. Wade**, District Attorney Gascón joined 82 other elected prosecutors from around the nation to commit to using their well-established discretion and refuse to prosecute those who seek, assist in, or provide abortions, calling the criminalization of abortion care “a mockery of justice.”

The effect of the decision led to the imposition of draconian measures for people seeking reproductive health care around the country, and prosecutors remain the last line of defense against the criminalization of health care in many jurisdictions.

In California, abortion remains legal. But we need to provide support for visitors from states where it is not. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors sought to establish the Safe Haven Pilot Program to expand and improve access to sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, for residents and visitors alike. Further, with the swift action of the State Legislature and Governor, law enforcement and California corporations are prohibited from cooperating with or providing information to out-of-state entities regarding a lawful abortion obtained in California.

LADA **proudly supported** both the **expansion of care and prohibition of information sharing about personal health care choices**. We remain committed to ensuring reproductive care is available to all who seek it, and that service providers are protected.

Vex

District attorneys could be a last defense against abortion bans

More than 80 elected prosecutors have already committed to not enforcing abortion bans.

By Nicole Narea | @nicolenarea | Jun 25, 2022, 4:05pm EDT

An anti-abortion activist holds up a sign that read “We Dissent” in front of the Supreme Court on June 25, 2022, in Washington, DC. | Alex Wong/Getty Images

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

DA Community Violence Reduction Division (CVR)

Launched in 2021, the Community Violence Reduction (CVR) Division is responsible for investigating and prosecuting the most troubling instances of street violence. Experienced trial prosecutors are embedded in four Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) stations and assigned to work with police, community members, public health entities and social services in the investigation, prevention, disruption and prosecution of these crimes. The focus is to prevent crime by working proactively with all stakeholders, recognizing that violence is an issue that must be addressed holistically and that arresting and prosecuting criminal behavior alone cannot stop it.



BOI Community Violence Reduction Team (CVRT)

The office launched the Bureau of Investigation, Community Violence Reduction Team (CVRT) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Probation Department to support LADA's effort to reduce violence in some of the most challenged areas within the county. Investigators assigned to the unit collaborate with prosecutors, crime analysts, law enforcement partners, community members, public health entities and social services to address violent crime "hot spots" throughout the county. The goal of CVRT is to reduce community violence in Los Angeles County through crime prevention, intervention, interruption, and enforcement actions. This team recognizes that a collaborative effort is needed to successfully reduce violent crime in a meaningful and long-term way.

Since their inception, the CVRT team has helped prevent numerous threats to public safety such as:

- ▶ **Seizing 53 illegally possessed firearms, 12 of which were "ghost" guns (unregistered and untraceable firearms).**
- ▶ **Conducting parole and probation compliance checks in partnership with local law enforcement for those participating in Post Release Community Supervision.**

PREVENTING HARM

Gun Violence Prevention

In an era of tragic mass shootings, we continue to call for sensible gun control measures to curb the national health emergency created by gun violence the country is currently facing. Further, D.A. Gascón, joined by LAPD's Chief Michel Moore and the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, also called upon three credit card companies to once again show responsible corporate citizenship by **stopping online payments for the purchase of ghost gun kits.**

In response to mass shootings like the ones in Buffalo, Milwaukee, and Laguna Woods in May 2022, District Attorney Gascón, Suzanne Verge, president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Brady United to Prevent Gun Violence, and Donna Brown,

a survivor volunteer with Moms Demand Action, laid out steps elected officials must take to prevent mass shootings. Among the steps highlighted in the District Attorney's call to action were:

- a) **Implement reasonable gun control. People should not have access to assault rifles or ghost guns.**
- b) **Reinvest in our struggling communities and address issues like poverty, homelessness and lack of economic opportunity.**
- c) **Fund programs proven to stop violence, like after-school programs, employment and income assistance programs and violence interruption programs.**



Suzanne Verge,
District Attorney Gascón
and Donna Brown.

CO-GOVERNANCE

District Attorney George Gascón has prioritized bringing community into the office. He is committed to constantly listening and learning, and in order to ensure the community's voice is always represented in the office's work, he has formed a number of Community Advisory Boards and expanded the public's access to the office.

Community Advisory Boards are a **first** for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. They meet regularly, seek input from the greater community, and provide regular feedback on improvements the office can implement to better serve residents and all those who come into contact with the office. They also help advise the office on how to improve internal diversity and inclusion.

Crime Victims Advisory Board

LADA made convening the office's first-ever Crime Victims Advisory Board a priority given the glaring need for survivors and their families to have an

avenue for direct input into the office's work. Since formation, the Board has helped select LADA's Bureau of Victim Services Director, reviewed and recommended public facing messaging to ensure we are effectively supporting all survivors, held listening and community sessions, coordinated a healing session visit to Lancaster state prison, and provided policy recommendations on a variety of topics.



Members of the Crime Victims Advisory Board
meet with D.A. Gascón and BVS Director Wright.

LGBTQ+ Advisory Board

Los Angeles is home to the second largest LGBTQ+ population in the country, and the community is uniquely impacted by the criminal justice system. Once convened, the group quickly got to work hosting community events, educational opportunities for the legal community, and launching a stakeholder survey.



LGBTQ+ ADVISORY BOARD VISITS THE TRANSLATIN @ COALITION

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Advisory Board

Los Angeles County is home to the largest Asian population of any county in the country, and AAPI representation in justice spaces has been a longtime need. The convening of the AAPI Advisory Board also came at a time when anti-Asian racism and acts of violence skyrocketed. Reports of hate crimes increased by 76% in Los Angeles County at the start of the pandemic, according to a Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations report. District Attorney Gascón committed to bringing the community’s voices to the table and ensuring transparency and accountability on part of the office, and ongoing collaboration on areas that touch this vibrant community. The Board has collaborated on multiple community events such as a Hate Crimes Prevention and Reporting workshop as well as lent insight into important policy matters.



AAPI ADVISORY BOARD

African American Advisory Board

African Americans are the most impacted segment of our community when it comes to the criminal justice system. Black people receive harsher sentences than others who are facing similar charges, are more likely to be subject to pre-textual stops by law enforcement, comprise the majority of those sentenced to death, and are the leading victims of crime, including hate crimes. District Attorney Gascón created the office’s first-ever African American Advisory Board, to maintain dialogue toward building safer, healthier and more equitable community. The Board has held meetings in the community and has provided policy recommendations on a variety of issues to improve the office’s transparency and accountability.



AFRICAN AMERICAN ADVISORY BOARD

Latine Advisory Board

Nearly half of L.A. County’s diverse population is Hispanic or Latino. As a Latino growing up in Los Angeles himself, District Attorney Gascón knows all too well that Latino people also see some of the most disproportionate impacts of the criminal justice system, both in receiving disproportionate sentencing and being victimized by those looking to cause others harm. The Latine Advisory Board has helped provide a variety of input thus far, including updates to culturally appropriate language to inform office-wide communication.



LATINE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER FRANKY CARRILLO

COMMUNITY ACCESS

Although the administration kicked-off during the COVID-19 pandemic – and a historically challenging time for community engagement – the District Attorney was undeterred in ensuring transparency and accessibility of the office. From virtual settings and expanded social media engagement to later in-person events, the public has experienced an unprecedented level of access to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

Town Halls

District Attorney Gascón has held over 20 town halls in the community. Topics ranged from the “For the Record” series delving deeper and providing clarity on LADA policies, to those affecting our most vulnerable such as human trafficking victims. Town halls are recorded and available on our Vimeo page [here](#).



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FEATURING
George Gascón
District Attorney, Los Angeles County

MODERATOR
Tiffany Blacknell
Special Advisor and Community & Government Affairs Liaison, LADA

Live-Stream of All Press Conferences



Monthly Newsletter





LADA JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS





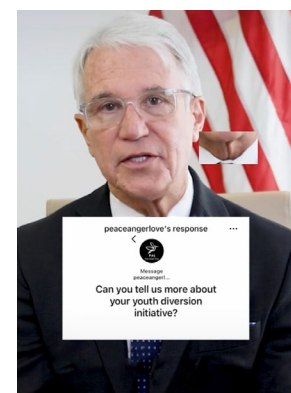


District Attorney Q&A

In our “Ask the D.A.” series, the District Attorney directly answers questions submitted online by the community. You ask, and the D.A. answers. Just a few of the submissions included:



On #AskTheDA episode #19, D.A. Gascón answers an invitation to run for office in San Diego.



On #AskTheDA episode #18, D.A. Gascón explains his youth diversion initiative known as REDY.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

LADA



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