



## 20 Questions for Delaware General Assembly Candidates

CANDIDATE NAME: LARRY LAMBERT (D)

CANDIDATE DISTRICT: STATE REP. DISTRICT 7

The Coalition for Smart Justice is committed to cutting the number of prisoners in Delaware in half and eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Elected officials are essential to achieving those goals. We have launched a campaign to communicate with voters about candidates' positions on issues related to criminal justice reform. This questionnaire is the focus of that effort. If you choose not to respond, we will indicate that in our public communications.

### Scale Questions

1. Delaware sends too many people to prison with sentences that are too long.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

2. Communities of color are over-policed and underserved.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

3. Prison time is an effective deterrent to crime. Longer sentences mean less crime.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

4. It is important to invest more state resources into diversion programs such as drug treatment and community supervision so that fewer people go to prison.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

5. It is important to invest more state resources into services that will assist people coming out of prison to find a job and be successful as they re-enter the community.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

6. When an especially egregious crime happens in Delaware, it is important to pass a law to make sentences harsher.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

In general, we should not be so reactionary when it comes to sentencing, but I can see a rare occasion where this may be appropriate. For example, if the especially egregious crime is against the vulnerable (young, elderly, special needs, etc.) and the sentencing has loopholes a criminal's lawyer can exploit, then it may be prudent to review the possibility of passing a law to make sentences harsher.

7. The state should retain the power to seize people's assets under current civil asset forfeiture laws even though no crime has been proven.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

8. People of color are treated more harshly by the police and prosecutors than white people.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

9. Probation sentences are too long and there are too many obstacles to meeting the terms of probation.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

10. Delaware should reinstate the death penalty for murder.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

11. Delaware should reinstate the death penalty only for murder of a police officer, prison guard or other first responder.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

12. The state should establish a civilian oversight board that would review incidences such as serious police brutality or when a police officer kills someone while on duty.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

13. Bail reform is important so that a person's ability to access money does not determine who stays in prison awaiting trial and who goes home.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

14. Juveniles should not be tried as adults no matter what crime they are accused of.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

15. People with a felony record should be able to have that record expunged by a judge, even for serious crimes, after a period of 5-10 years has elapsed with no further criminal activity.

Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Disagree  Strongly Disagree

## Open-Ended Questions

16. African Americans are 22 percent of Delaware's population and 51 percent of our prison population. What should the General Assembly do to reduce the racial disparities at various stages of our criminal process?

Such a striking disparity is rooted in centuries of systemic racism. Unfortunately, institutionalized racism is interwoven into the foundation of every nation that practiced chattel slavery. To end this, it would take a full spectrum approach from the General Assembly to dismantle and reform broken systems that keep us from living our mantra of "liberty and justice for all." We can begin to end institutionalized racism by directly addressing the following issues with progressive policies and laws that incorporate input and strategies from the Smart Justice Campaign in Delaware, our citizens and non-profit organizations that are directly engaged in this social justice movement like ACLU of Delaware, Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, Delaware United and Network Delaware:

- Criminal justice reform
- Ending mass incarceration
- Supporting "Banning the Box"
- Policing Reform
- Health and healthcare reform – ending disproportionate barriers in access to quality care
- Housing reform – Affordable access to housing for all
- Education reform

- Expand after-school and early childhood education programs
- Employment reform – like the Civil Rights Act, Fair Employment Act and Fair Pay Act
- Wealth Inequality – supporting a livable wage and legislation guaranteeing equal pay for equal work regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation
- Immigration Reform

17. The average length of stay in prison in Delaware is 50 percent longer than the national average. Will you pledge to advocate for the elimination of all mandatory minimum sentences? Please give a yes or no answer and any explanation you think is necessary. If there are mandatory minimums you support, please identify them specifically.

Yes

18. Do you support legislation and appropriation of funds requiring the collection, analysis and publication of statistical data in order to track prosecutorial decisions, evaluate the effectiveness policies and assess racial bias in the criminal justice system? Please give a yes or no answer and any explanation you think is necessary.

Yes

19. Other than gun control legislation. how can Delaware fight our gun violence problem? Are there specific proposals that you would offer as a member of the General Assembly to reduce gun violence in the state?

Outside of gun control legislation, I would work to address Domestic Violence as it is the leading form of gun in Delaware. As a member of the General Assembly, I would address Domestic Violence by proactively engaging and nurturing at-risk youth with conflict resolution courses, additional mental health resources, and additional after-school programming before they get caught up in intergenerational cycles of domestic violence and gun violence. For decades I have guided and mentored young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.



20. Do you support diversion for people accused of some violent crimes such as offensive touching and assault in the third degree?

Yes