

MERRIMACK

Paul Halvorsen (R)

1. I do not believe that Merrimack County has “mass incarceration.” Statistics from a May 31, 2018, Concord Monitor article indicates that in 2017 New Hampshire ranked 47th among states with an incarceration rate of 199 per 100,000 population. That reported rate is less than 44% of the national incarceration rate of 457 per 100,000 population. The same article also reports the New Hampshire prison population dropped 5.6% in 2017.
2. I cannot commit to “reducing the jail and prison populations” as you ask in your question because I do not control the offenses committed by defendants nor can I control the factors present when a judge imposes a sentence. Control over what offenses are committed rests only with the persons committing the offenses. Sentences imposed by a judge are influenced by a variety of factors not controlled by a prosecutor including, but not limited to, the level of offense, legislative mandates, and the offender’s criminal record. I would also refer you to my answer to question #1 concerning incarceration rates as well as my answer to question #3 concerning alternative sentencing.
3. I’ve been using various programs for pre-trial release, diversion and alternative sentencing, when appropriate, for my 15+ years as a prosecutor. I am also familiar with the use of programs by the current office of the Merrimack County Attorney and I would encourage their appropriate continued use as the Merrimack County Attorney. In fact, many programs fall under the supervision of the County Attorney including Merrimack County Pre-Trial Services, Misdemeanor Diversion, Felony Diversion, the Diagnosing and Treating

Robin Davis (D)

- 1: Yes, prosecutors must exercise their discretion to formulate reasonable and just sentences for each individual. Prosecutors should not pride themselves on lengthy sentences, but rather successful rehabilitative sentences should be the goal in each prosecution in order to integrate individuals safely into their homes and communities.
- 2: Yes, my background in chemical dependency and my long experience in this county has shown me that alternative sentencing does work. I want to support the Merrimack County Drug Court, Diversion and Pretrial Services, and Mental Health Court as well as expand alternative sentencing to other populations such as veterans and new Americans.
- 3: Yes, I feel alternatives to incarceration are the key to a healthier community.
- 4: Yes, I look forward to hearing from these constituencies and asking them for assistance in providing education and resources.

Addiction Program [DATA] and, for post-conviction issues, the Court Ordered Monitoring Program [COMP]. Also available are the Successful Offender Adjustment and Re-entry Program [SOAR], Drug Court and Mental Health Court.

4. As County Attorney any person, group or organization will certainly be welcome to meet with me. I believe input from throughout Merrimack County is clearly important when determining priorities.