

Addison County State's Attorney Candidate Questionnaire: Eva P. Vekos

The ACLU of Vermont reached out to each candidate for state's attorney in June 2022 and asked about their views and policy intentions through a series of county-specific questions.

Q: For many, the money bail system perpetuates widespread wealth-based incarceration: those who have money are released from jail while their court case is pending, those who do not have money remain in jail while their case is pending. Will your office adopt an office-wide policy to not request monetary bail?

A: No

Q: In 2018, Vermont passed a law lowering the maximum bail amount for expungable misdemeanors to \$200. If you will not adopt a policy to never request monetary bail, will you adopt an office-wide policy to not request monetary bail for individuals charged with expungable misdemeanors?

A: No

Q: Access to a vehicle is a practical necessity in a rural state, and yet many Vermonters have lost their licenses because they have been unable to pay traffic fines. In 2015, then-State's Attorney T.J. Donovan instituted a "[Driver Restoration Day](#)," where those with suspended licenses could pay \$20 per fine and have their license restored. Within one year of being sworn into office, will you institute or participate in a similar driver's license restoration program?

A: Yes

Q: Will you, at minimum, maintain the Addison State's Attorney Office's DLS diversion program?

A: Yes

Q: The Vermont House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would have reduced penalties for drug prosecutions. One of the bill's goals was to reduce racial disparities in Vermont's drug prosecutions. Will you write and publish a drug prosecution policy that adopts, at a minimum, the categorization and limited penalty structure of [H. 505 \(2022\) as passed by the Vermont House of Representatives](#)?

A: Yes

Q: Will you institute or participate in an expungement clinic in your county within one year of being sworn in?

A: Yes

Q: Will you, at minimum, maintain the Addison County Prosecutorial Guidelines?

A: Yes

Q: Will you track and publish data on your office's charging decisions, diversion recommendations, bail recommendations, plea offers, and sentencing recommendations by race/ethnicity, gender, age, and public defense eligibility to identify and address racial, gender, and class disparities in your office's prosecutions?

A: Yes



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Q: A recent Council of State Government's report recommends Vermont's state's attorneys' offices "develop internal guidance to support consistency in charging and plea-bargaining decisions." To the extent your office does not have such policies, within two years of being sworn in, will you publish policies regarding charging, bail, plea bargaining, Brady/Giglio obligations, sentencing, and data collection?

A: Yes

Q: Addison County is home to numerous immigrant farmworkers. As state's attorney, will you train and direct prosecutors, in written policies, to consider the immigration consequences of a conviction during each stage of a case, and to favor dispositions that avoid adverse immigration consequences?

A: Yes

Q: Vermont is in the midst of an unprecedented overdose crisis. Overdose prevention sites or mobile services, where individuals can use their own drugs in view of medical personnel ready to save their life, help prevent needless deaths and have been implemented in hundreds of locations around the world. There has never been a recorded death in an overdose prevention site. Do you support the opening of overdose prevention sites or the use of mobile overdose prevention services in Vermont?

A: Yes

Q: As state's attorney, will you expand your offices use of restorative justice and court diversion services and publish data showing such an expansion?

A: Yes

Q: Vergennes traffic stop data from 2015-2019 showed that Black drivers are nearly 4 times as likely as white drivers to be searched during a traffic stop, despite being less likely than white drivers to be found with contraband during searches. Black drivers were also two to four times more likely to be stopped by Vergennes police. Will you adopt a written policy, similar to that of the [Chittenden County SAO](#), where non-safety related traffic stops resulting in arrests are presumptively not charged because they may be based on a pretextual stop?

A: No

Q: Will you decline to prosecute children for typical childhood behavior such as disorderly conduct, fights, smoking marijuana, or other low-level infractions committed in school or the community that do not result in serious physical harm, and instead reject the case or refer them to restorative justice processes?

A: Yes

Q: Will you develop, implement, and/or continue updating a "Do Not Call" or "Brady" witness list, and require all prosecutors in your office to reject new cases and search warrant requests from police officers with histories of dishonesty, racism, or bias?

A: Yes



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