

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE



## 2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES

We gave both candidates running in the Democratic primary, Lorrin Freeman and Damon Chetson the opportunity to answer questions related to our criminal justice system and the office for which they are seeking election.

**View the candidates' responses to those questions. [————>](#)**

Paid for by the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. The ACLU of NC does not endorse or oppose candidates, but urges you to cast an informed vote.

# 2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES



**Lorrin Freeman**



**Damon Chetson**

## As District Attorney, I pledge to take action to:

Eliminate wealth, racial, and gender disparities in the local criminal legal system.

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End the war on drugs.

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Reduce the number of people sentenced to prison time each year.

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Increase transparency and accountability of my office and other law enforcement officials.

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Prevent inequitable harms to undocumented people.

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**YES**

**YES**

**DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

# 2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES



**Lorrin Freeman**

**Damon Chetson**

## I would support bipartisan legislation to:

Eliminate juvenile life without parole.

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Raise the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 12.

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Eliminate the death penalty for people suffering mental illness.

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Expand expunction relief for felony convictions and A1 misdemeanors.

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Automatic compensation for imprisonment when people are exonerated.

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**DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**NO**

**YES**

**DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

# 2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES



**Lorrin Freeman**



**Damon Chetson**

## As district attorney, I will:

Never seek a sentence of life without parole for any child under the age of 18.

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Never prosecute habitual offenses when the prior offenses do not involve the threat or use of force against another person.

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Promptly declare that I will not seek the death penalty in any case.

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Automatically dismiss all drug charges resulting from possession of drugs, including marijuana, for personal use.

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Reduce the number of children referred to juvenile court for school-based misdemeanor offenses.

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**DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**NO**

**YES**

**NO - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE**

**YES**

**NO**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

# 2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES



**Lorrin Freeman**



**Damon Chetson**

## As district attorney, I will:

Support all motions to waive court costs when the defendant had been found indigent.

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Take advantage of all opportunities for prosecutor-initiated mass court debt relief and criminal record clearance.

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Minimize the coercive nature of plea bargaining when defendants decline plea bargains (aka the trial tax).

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**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**

**YES**



## Expanded responses from Lorrin Freeman, candidate for Wake County District Attorney

### As District Attorney, I pledge to take action to:

End the war on drugs. ....>

Decline. I commit to finding alternatives to incarceration for offenses that do not involve facts indicative of sale.

Reduce the number of people sentenced to prison time each year. ....>

Decline. With an increase in violent offenses I cannot make a promise that focuses on strict numbers.

### I would support bipartisan legislation to:

Eliminate juvenile life without parole. ....>

Decline. I support legislation consistent with the US Supreme Court law that requires judicial determination prior to imposition of a life sentence without eligibility of parole for a juvenile.

Eliminate the death penalty for people suffering mental illness. ....>

Decline. Previous public statements by me on this topic have been leveraged by parties as part of litigation.

### As district attorney, I will:

Never seek a sentence of life without parole for any child under the age of 18. ....>

Decline. Supreme Court law requires a judicial determination at time of conviction as to parole eligibility.

Promptly declare that I will not seek the death penalty in any case. ....>

No. At this time, only one of over ninety pending murder cases in my district has been declared a death penalty case.

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