

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

As District Attorney, I pledge to take action to:



Lorrin Freeman



Damon Chetson

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

End the war on drugs.

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

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

Prevent inequitable harms to undocumented people.

YES

[DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE](#)

[DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE](#)

YES

YES

YES

YES

YES

YES

YES

2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES

I would support bipartisan legislation to:



Lorrin Freeman



Damon Chetson

Eliminate juvenile life without parole.

[DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE](#)

YES

Raise the minimum age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 12.

NO

YES

Eliminate the death penalty for people suffering mental illness.

[DECLINED TO PLEDGE - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE](#)

YES

Expand expunction relief for felony convictions and A1 misdemeanors.

YES

YES

Automatic compensation for imprisonment when people are exonerated.

YES

YES

2022 WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATES

As district attorney, I will:



Lorrin Freeman



Damon Chetson

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

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

YES

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

NO

YES

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

NO - CLICK FOR FULL RESPONSE

YES

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

NO

YES

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

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.

YES

YES

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

YES

YES

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

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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