

# ACLU of South Carolina

## Charleston County Sheriff Questionnaire

RESPONSES FROM KRISTIN GRAZIANO:

### Invest in Communities and People

Section 1: The ACLU believes it is past time to drastically reduce the size, scope, and role of law enforcement and drastically increase investments in areas like housing, education, and health care, especially in the Black and Brown communities that have been most targeted by discriminatory practices.

1. Will you reduce the Charleston Sheriff's Office budget request beginning with the first fiscal year of your term and advocate for the reinvestment of those funds in non-Sheriff Department services including education and mental health services, especially in communities that have historically been over-policed?

YES

Explanation: There needs to be a thorough examination of sheriff's office finances, and money should be redirected to other places if it is determined that there is a need. I do not have the authority to direct where those funds go -- Charleston County Council does -- but I could strongly suggest the redirection of funds. For example, the transport of mental health patients should not be a law enforcement function, unless the patient is a danger to others. Law enforcement can assist, but it should not be primarily our function.

### Build Community Trust

Section 2: The Charleston County Sheriff's Office currently has a 287(g) agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). While many Sheriffs across the country have already decided to terminate 287(g) programs and focus county resources on local priorities, the

YES

4. Will you commit to end the practice of housing immigrants in ICE detention and not renew the IGSA agreement?

YES

Section 3: Reduce law enforcement jurisdiction - Charleston County must ensure the proper response to community issues, and eliminate law enforcement's role as a "solution" for drug use, misbehaving children at school, homelessness, and mental illness, and other issues where officers lack the tools, training, and resources to handle the situation.

5. Will you instruct Sheriff's deputies to decline to arrest or cite people for minor offenses including failure to pay fines and low-level (one ounce) marijuana possession?

YES

Explanation: The law already allows deputy sheriff's discretion in physical arrests; however, they are not trained to cite rather than arrest. I commit to aggressive training to reduce physical

Explanation: I commit to this, with the exception being if there is an imminent and direct threat to the safety of others.

Section 4: Limit law enforcement power - As Charleston County residents witnessed first hand on May 31 when multiple law enforcement departments engaged in police violence against people

wouldn't allow anyone at the sheriff's office to use them. Chokeholds are considered a form of deadly force, and they will never be an acceptable use of restraint.

With no-knock warrants, I believe they are dangerous and risky to both deputies and citizens. We have much better strategies to serve warrants. In my 32 years of law enforcement, I have never executed a no-knock warrant nor would ever put my employees in a position to do so.

Section 5: Ensure Law Enforcement is Transparent and Accountable - Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of good government, yet law enforcement too often act in secret and with impunity. Charleston County must ensure that law enforcement is transparent and accountable to the people when they abuse their power.

12. Will you commit to end the practice of charging fees for FOIA and data requests, responding to requests in a timely manner, and a presumption against the use of investigatory exemptions?

YES

Explanation: I believe that transparency is essential to rebuild community relationships. I plan to publish body cam footage after vetting them to protect the identities of mental health patients, victims of sexual assault, and children. I also plan on implementing a more streamlined response for FOIAs, with the exception of material that could jeopardize ongoing investigations.

13. Will you commit to establishing an independent community advisory board including county residents and impacted community members that would meet regularly with the Sheriff's office, request and review data, inspect jail facilities, and make recommendations on enforcement and jail policies, practices, and responses to incidents?

YES

Explanation: I plan on establishing independent advisory boards, one consisting of outside professionals to formulate new policies and standards at the sheriff's office, and the other inviting community members to have oversight over daily practices, to establish better relationships with the citizens we serve, and to hold us accountable when we make mistakes.

14. Will you commit to use independent investigations outside the chain of command of the sheriff in situations where there is a death or serious injury in which an officer was involved, or involving all deaths of incarcerated persons?

YES

Explanation: I commit to an independent investigation in the event of an officer-involved death or serious injury. I intend on following that law.

15. Will you create a publicly accessible database that: a. Documents complaints about law enforcement misconduct and the outcomes of investigations into potential wrongdoing (redacting individual officer information): b. Documents law enforcement and corrections personnel found to have misconduct and the results of those investigations:

a. YES

15a. I would create that database, but I would redact critical information that may result in the person or their family being targeted by wrongdoers.

b. YES

15b. I believe it is a matter of critical public safety to make public officer misconduct.

Section 6: End policing for profit - From civil asset forfeiture to fines and fees, South Carolina law incentivizes law enforcement to prioritize revenue collection. Charleston County must ensure that law enforcement is focused on the fair administration of justice, not collecting revenue or meeting quotas.

16. Will you commit to ending participation in programs that encourage policing for profit (e.g. civil asset forfeiture)?

YES

Explanation: I will support legislation in Columbia that regulates asset forfeiture. In my review of the past four years of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office's budget, this fund has served as the sheriff's personal travel fund, and I do not agree with that.

17. Will you commit to not collecting and/or spending revenue that is not specifically granted to the Sheriff's Office through the Charleston County budget process?

NO

Explanation: I take exception with one specific fund where money is generated through vending machines and phone fees by inmates. This fund generates nearly \$500,000 annually, and a review of this fund -- I believe -- indicates that it has been misused by jail and law enforcement administrators. I commit to redirecting those funds for the sole benefit of funding restorative justice educational or work programs for inmates. Additionally, I commit to a thorough investigation of the sheriff's office and jail spending.

Section 7: Protect Incarcerated Trans People - Transgender people are far more likely than cisgender people to encounter abuse and violence behind bars. Jail staff often contribute to this harassment by holding transgender people in facilities that are not consistent with their gender, looking the other way at harassment, and denying them access to medical care, including hormone therapy.

18. Will you commit to place and classify people by their gender identity and ensure that transgender people have access to medically necessary care?

YES

Explanation: I commit to protecting and treating all LGBTQ and transgender people with dignity and respect. I will insure that transgender people are housed in accordance of their personal identification. Staff will also be required to undergo training to address transgender