

Community Leaders Congratulate Krasner on Historic Victory, Move to Implement #DecarcerateDA Promise

“The Philadelphia Coalition for a Just District Attorney heartily congratulates Larry Krasner and all his supporters on a historic election - one that shows just how ready the City of Brotherly Love is to transform decades of draconian prosecution into family unity and investment in our communities. Our #DecarcerateDA Coalition was proud to set the tone for this race - bringing everyday people - survivors of crime and people impacted by mass incarceration - to the fore of debates in the primary and conversations in the streets.

By organizing around this historic race, our coalition of immigration and abolitionist groups, policymakers and survivors of crime, returning citizens and pastors united to not just debate issues in an election, but to push all our elected officials and administrators towards real community safety through decarceration. We look forward to providing the next DA with incisive policies and stories to help him resist pressure from those who want to return our streets to “law and order” practices that don’t keep us safe, and to pushing him and supporting him through and towards urgent and humane changes in the provision of justice in our city. And we look forward to continuing the deep organizing work across all our communities to build on an urgent truth, and one that Larry Krasner took up heartily in his campaign: that justice keeps us safe.

We will be there to ensure Mr. Krasner can enjoy a transformative First 100 Days of the next DA administration, and to a future that makes decarceration and investment in our communities a reality.

On Thursday, November 9th, at 11am, The Coalition for a Just District Attorney will gather outside of the DA’s office, across from the Southeast Corner of City Hall at 3 Penn Square, to announce our policy visions and asks for the First 100 Days of Krasner’s term, and to talk about how we will organize to support him in his transformative plans, and help keep him connected and accountable to the communities of Philadelphia seeking true justice. Email hannah@mediamobilizingproject.org to find out more.

Below are quotes from members of our coalition:

Clarise McCants, Color of Change: "Today, Philadelphians made our vision of the future clear: the City of Brotherly Love is ready for sweeping changes to center our justice system on decarcerating and investing in our communities. We must now enact the urgent and substantial changes that the city elected Larry Krasner on, to focus on fighting the causes of poverty which make our families vulnerable to policing and prosecution, not punishing people for being poor. The Philadelphia Coalition for a Justice District Attorney will push and support Mr. Krasner to work together with the community for a transformative First 100 Days of his DA administration, and to build a fair justice system that creates a safer city."

Hannah Sassaman, Policy Director, Media Mobilizing Project: "Philadelphia made history today. Here, the poorest big city in America turned out to provide a leader focused on our civil rights and on true justice a mandate to transform one of the biggest criminal justice systems in America. The Coalition for a Just District Attorney was proud to center issues of cash bail and how pretrial incarceration brutalizes Black, Brown, immigrant, and poor families, to lift up the dire consequences to immigrants of any touch by police and prosecution, the need to center survivors' voices in real ways, and myriad other issues prioritized by incredible, everyday leaders. Those leaders will support, lift up, and work with Mr. Krasner as he works for justice in our city, and will celebrate with him as he begins to deliver on the promise of a #DecarcerateDA - in his First 100 Days and throughout his tenure as District Attorney."

Erika Almiron, Executive Director of Juntos: "In a time when the federal government is prioritizing the hyper criminalization of immigrant communities, the city of brotherly love once again stands at the vanguard of ensuring the protection and equal treatment of our city's undocumented population. Tonight's victory of Larry Krasner shows that the citizens of Philadelphia choose to stand on the side of justice and are hungry for a massive revamping of our criminal justice system. From one that actively punishes our community's mere existence to one that centers family reunification and the decriminalization of black, brown and undocumented bodies. We celebrate Mr. Krasner's victory and look forward to working with him and his administration in his first 100 Days and beyond to ensure that the values which led to tonight's victory are upheld in the new DA's office."

Sheila Quintana, Community Organizer, New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia: "Today, Philadelphia voted for a system that prioritizes rehabilitation, healing and education over incarceration, exploitation, and deportation. This is a victory for the people bearing the brunt of the system of mass incarceration and whose years of organizing work made it politically possible. In the context of a federal government determined to deepen the criminalization of immigrants, we celebrate Philadelphia's courage. We look forward to working with Mr. Krasner for policies that make us safer by addressing the root causes of violence in our city. We are ready to work together for a transformative First 100 Days of his administration and to organize for a DA's office that is continuously accountable to all residents of Philadelphia."

The Coalition for a Just District Attorney, which represents over a dozen organizations working on prison abolition, civil liberties, and immigrant rights, includes: *the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project, The No215Jail Coalition, Juntos, The Center for Returning Citizens, Asian Americans United, Media Mobilizing Project, New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia, Techbook Online, VietLead, Reconstruction, Inc., X-Offenders for Community Empowerment, Project HOME, Vote for Homes Coalition, Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI), Frontline Dads, Inc., Color of Change, POWER, Decarcerate PA, GALAEI, Amistad Law Project, Black Lives Matter Philadelphia, Project SAFE, Philadelphia Red Umbrella Alliance, 215 People's Alliance, Reclaim Philadelphia, Working Families Party, Reconstruction, Inc.*