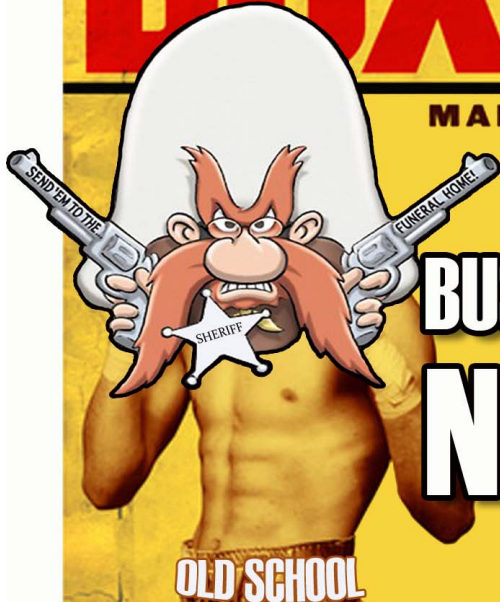


LA COUNTY SHERIFF ELECTION

JUNE 3, 2014: TITLE FIGHTS AT A POLLING LOCATION NEAR YOU

BOXING FOR SHERIFF

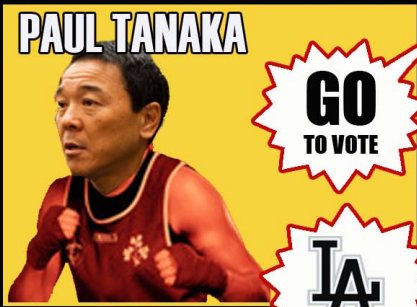
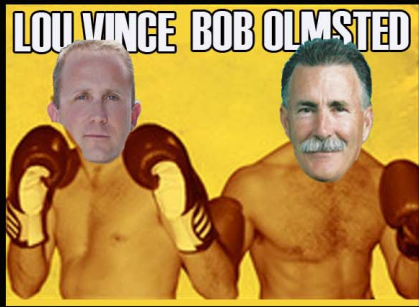
MAIN EVENT **15** ROUNDS



BUSINESS-AS-USUAL VS. NEW IDEAS

THERE'S A LOT ON THE LINE: SHERIFFS' USE OF FORCE & SHOOTINGS / ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION & INCARCERATION VS. JAIL EXPANSION / AB109 FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS / FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF VICTORY ON IDS AND SENATE BILL 458 (GANG DATABASE - RIGHT TO NOTIFICATION, APPEAL AND REMOVAL) / BAIL REDUCTIONS / SUPPORT FOR INTERVENTION-PEACEBUILDERS / CONSTANT STOP & FRISKS + UNFAIR TICKETING BY SHERIFFS ON BUSES METRO / RACIAL PROFILING & STOP AND FRISK PRACTICES IN STREETS AND SCHOOLS / ENDING DEPUTIES' VIOLENCE & DISRESPECT AGAINST PEOPLE DETAINED IN LA JAILS / COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT OF SHERIFFS (WITH REAL AUTHORITY).

SEVEN HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDERS



GO TO VOTE

LA

POLLS OPEN
7AM - 8PM Go to <https://lavote.net/locator/> to find your location.

BE A PART OF HISTORY!
IF YOU CAN'T VOTE YOU CAN STILL GET OTHER PEOPLE OUT.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1998 THAT WE HAVE SOMEONE BESIDES SHERIFF BACA ON THE BALLOT.



Facebook - Youth Justice Coalition / freelanow@yahoo.com / 323-235-4243

BEFORE YOU VOTE FOR LA COUNTY SHERIFF IN TOMORROW'S ELECTION, CHECK OUT WHERE THEY STAND ON YOUTH ISSUES

Young people of color – ages 13 – 24 – are the population most targeted for stop and frisk and ticketing on both the streets and public transportation; the population most likely to be killed by deputies' gunfire; the population with the highest rates of arrest, detention and incarceration; the population most targeted by law enforcement for gang injunctions and gang labeling (on the CalGang Database); as well as the population suffering the highest rates of unemployment and underemployment. No population has more *to gain or lose* in the election of LA County's new Sheriff.

The Youth Justice Coalition co-sponsored two Sheriffs' Debates during which we were able to get answers to questions that youth and their families identified as most important to the safety and well-being of young people.

Below are the candidates' responses. (Not all candidates answered all the questions.) YJC notes occasionally appear when statistics given by the candidates are incorrect.

1. BACKGROUND OF CANDIDATE AND VISION FOR ROLE OF SHERIFF

Gomez

Career – now retired – law enforcement with LA Sheriffs Department. Committed to changing hiring practices with a minimum age of 21. “If elected I will immediately send an email to all Sheriffs Department staff to focus on building a new culture of professionalism and respect.”

Hellmold

Stated role of sheriff is to demand “ethics and professionalism.” Also stated that LASD needs a Sheriff who understands the department and will make changes from the inside, who focuses on openness and transparency, who lays out clear expectations and hold staff accountable. A career law enforcement officer with LASD, he was brought in as commander to address jail conditions after Sheriffs Department jail violence and corruption was exposed. Identifies as one of the people (along with Rogers) tasked with reforming jails in light of findings of Commission on Jail Violence and FBI investigation. Claimed, “Others may do political posturing about what they will do, but I was brought in after jail violence was exposed. I have a track record of instituting reforms.”

McDonnell

Currently, Police Chief of Long Beach Police Department / Career law enforcement officer with Los Angeles Police Department. Served on County Commission on Jail Violence – body that issued more than 60 recommendations on changes needed in jail administration and treatment of detainees. Stated that role of Sheriff is to build safer streets, jails and neighborhoods; to increase and improve deputy training; the new sheriff needs to set the standard and tone for the department and all its personnel. Claimed his focus will be on “restoring public trust, accountability, and mutual respect.” Also stated that, “Most of the other candidates are insiders trying to be outsiders. But I am a true outsider. I am the only candidate who has experience as a police chief (Long Beach PD).”

Olmstead

Career law enforcement officer; was a commander in the jails, and raised his concerns about violence and staff misconduct with Sheriff Baca. If elected, on his first day, would “call command staff together” to restructure the command staff. LASD also needs to strengthen the hiring process for Sheriffs, including raising the requirements. Will also do a comprehensive financial report.

He stated, “I have shown that I have the courage to do what is right and uphold constitutional policing. I went outside department and broke the code of silence. Some of the candidates (here) are close friends of Baca and were part of Baca’s disastrous administration.”

Rogers

Career as law enforcement officer with LA Sheriffs Department. Identifies as one of the people (along with Hellmold) tasked with reforming jails in light of findings of Commission on Jail Violence and FBI investigation. Stated that he was “offered admittance into a Sheriff’s gang and refused to get a tattoo.” Has been “an outsider in his own department” and has proven he “will stand up to other deputies, report misconduct and reform command staff.”

Tanaka

Tanaka was an Assistant Sheriff in charge of the jails under Sheriff Baca. He stated that he “will be uncompromising with hiring practices.” Must be accountability for people collecting checks. Commitment to “hire the best.” Focus on making jails safer.

Vince

Next LA Sheriff “needs to rebuild trust with the community.” Need institutional reform plan at all levels of department, including “financial forensics” to investigate how to better spend public dollars. LA needs a sheriff that spends “less time talking, and more time taking action.” Has been a career law enforcement officer – 20 years with LAPD, including serving as an LAPD Internal Affairs investigator. He states that he is “An outsider to the Sheriff’s Department.” Said that all other candidates, except Gomez, “have had an opportunity to make changes and failed.”

Committed to “introducing community policing, predictive policing, and COMPSTAT. Be open and available to the community. Start a dual track career path—beat cops and jail cops, so that jail cops are ones that want to be there; not ones just out of the academy who do not want that as a career.

2. FARE EVASION TICKETING AND STOP AND FRISK OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF COLOR ON MTA TRAINS AND BUSES:

Hellmold

Stated that it’s not fair to do random checks on MTA trains and buses.

McDonnell

Willing to have stats regularly released on stop and frisks, based on age, race, gender, zip code, location on stop. Came close to endorsing YJC call for free student Metro pass by saying that the MTA should be basically free.

As Chief of Long Beach Police Department, McDonnell had a “fare evasion task force.” Doesn’t think there is enough enforcement of fare evasion. “There are no turnstiles on the Metro. It is based on the honor system. There is an inordinate amount of fare evasion.” Does not support decriminalization of fare evasion. Stated “That would be “surrender. And can we can never surrender. Free passes for students is a different issue, although the fees from fares are important to the county’s budget. So I don’t know how to make that happen.”

Olmstead

Agreed that racial profiling occurs on MTA. Said would reach out to community members regarding concerns regarding sheriffs on MTA buses and trains. Also agreed to gather and release data on stop and frisk.

“Likes idea” of free student metro pass: “It is solely an educational issue. Asset forfeiture could help fund it.” Asked for “more information.”

Rogers

Believes that MTA patrols from Sheriffs deputies are needed. Supports subsidized student fares, but also thinks there is not enough enforcement. Need to redesign the Metro system so that it is not based on the honor system. Also stated that he wants to focus on public safety, not make criminals out of people who can’t afford bus fare.

Vince

Agreed to release stop and frisk stats. Believes community policing model should replace “heavy focus on suppression” on public transportation with community determining role. Will “lobby the Board of Supervisors to end fare evasion and end the school to prison pipeline.”

3. LA FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN – SUPPORT FOR INTERVENTION AND TRANSFER OF 1% OF SHERIFFS FUNDS TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (JOBS, PEACEBUILDERS/INTERVENTION, YOUTH CENTERS):

Gomez

In terms of funding available, Gomez states that he would internally audit the LASD to find out “where the \$168 million went that was mishandled by the Sheriff’s Department.” He would also commit 15% of asset forfeiture money to be used for “drug and gang prevention.”

However, while he would agree to fund youth programs, but proposes Sheriff-run programs. Would expand the LASD Explorer Program. Also would work with communities to expand STAR/DARE programs. Also

stated that a possible career as a Sheriff “will provide youth with an alternative to the lifestyles their families may be participating in.”

Hellmold

Would “engage youth in programs and civic process, and train deputies to treat kids respectfully, not as adversaries.” LASD needs to commit funds and make efforts to outreach to youth.

McDonnell

No commitment to move funds from Sheriffs budget, but did claim that “Policing and detention are a reflection of the society in which we live. Some neighborhoods are heavily policed because they have high rates of crime, violence, and dysfunction and people in those neighborhoods are not financially equipped to deal with these problems. It is cheaper up front to prevent with education than it is to rehabilitate on the back end. We need education, prevention, intervention, and re-integration; but especially high quality education.”

Olmstead

Stated, “We need to do community outreach and embrace the diversity that is Los Angeles County. We need holistic approaches.” Proposes a District Attorney’s program within each Sheriff’s station that would have court leverage. “These assigned D.A.s would go after truants and educate parents. They would understand nuanced culture of area.”

Rogers

For “at-risk youth” LASD “needs to help them with intervention instead of arresting them.” Also stated that there are different strategies of policing in different neighborhoods that need to be addressed, but “racial profiling is not as pandemic as it is being made out to be.”

Vince

Would “work with communities to match youth services with community-based programs. Cops are not equipped to be social workers. Community organizations should provide those services.

We need to use money that’s available better and smarter.” Would advocate for state and county funds to provide “financial assistance to community partners”.

4. SHERIFFS’ USE OF FORCE INCLUDING SHOOTINGS OF CIVILIANS AND JAIL VIOLENCE:

Gomez

Regarding YJC’s question on deputy shootings of people in community and involvement of state and federal departments of justice: Police Brutality: “I would welcome any federal or state agency to help. We need transparency and must welcome other agencies. We need to protect civil rights. Palmdale and Lancaster Sheriffs are a bad example of how to operate.”

Hellmold

Claimed that sheriffs with misconduct will be disciplined, fired and have charges pressed against them. However, also stated that in the jails, there is a lot of sheriffs' "use of force" caused by "inmate on inmate" violence. Will order Sheriffs to cover tattoos, and will not allow deputies to have tattoos signifying support of sheriffs' "gangs."

McDonnell

Believes that there has been excessive violence in jails, and stated that LASD needs systems of accountability for misconduct. Condemned tattoos on deputies including use by some sheriffs of tattoos earned by killing people. Said that any sheriffs that participated in Sheriff violence within the jails need to be terminated, observed, and investigated. However, he also used the word "predators" to describe incarcerated people.

Regarding sheriffs' violence in the community, stated that "A very small percentage of interactions with officers result in use of force, but they get a lot of attention from the media. The department needs to explain the case to the public better. Currently the dept is too secretive."

Olmstead

Agreed that excessive force occurs and that Sheriffs Department has cost the county hundreds of millions in lawsuits. Identified himself as an early "whistleblower" when he was working as a commander in the jails. Called out Tanaka for participating in Sheriff gangs, and said, "I'm upset. This could have been prevented... Its shameful when we lose public trust."

Regarding YJC's call for State Attorney General to Appoint a Special Prosecutor to investigate law enforcement use of force, stated that there are both training issues and some people needing indictments. Argued that Sheriff must set the tone and needs to be transparent, but stopped short of calling for outside, independent investigator. However, did say that he reported abuse in jails to FBI and welcomed their investigation of jail violence.

Rogers

Regarding YJC questions on sheriffs' use of force in streets, "I offer my condolences to families who have lost loved ones to sheriff violence. Use of force needs to be last resort." Stated he would invite the U.S. Department of Justice to support implementation of best practices. No one will "be promoted or tolerated" who has sheriffs' "gang" tattoos. Called out Hellmold for being endorsed by Palmdale and Lancaster sheriff departments who have engaged in "racist practices targeting African American and Latino residents" of the Antelope Valley.

Further stated that, "Excessive use of force happens when the message is given at the top that anything goes. The LASD needs a stricter chain of command, and needs to hold supervisors accountable. \$47 million dollars in lawsuits was paid out last year."

Tanaka

Acknowledged that he has witnesses many incidents of use of force, but has "never tolerated bad behavior excessive force or bad behavior." Stated, he would "not tolerate Sheriff gangs." Also stated that most sheriff

groups are not neo-Nazi gangs. As part of Vikings (he has a Vikings tattoo on his ankle) it was formed to build comradery among sheriff deputies.

Vince

Stated that there will be “no more Sheriffs cliques and gangs” and that “change starts from the top.” Also stated that violent sheriffs will be prosecuted. As a former officer in LAPD Internal Affairs, stated “I know what it means to have had to report, investigate and hold accountable officers involved in misconduct.” Committed to instructing command team and conducting workshops with all deputies to end Sheriff cliques and gangs, and implement “100% Constitutional policing.”

5. GANG INJUNCTIONS:

Gomez

LASD “needs to be pro-active. Gang details are understaffed. The gang units need to be brought back. Better staffed gang details allow officers to be aware of community needs.”

Hellmold

“Connie Rice and Advancement Project are doing great work. They endorse my campaign for Sheriff. I am pro-intervention. But, people don’t face the reality of what gang members do. Gang injunctions are needed because they tackle organized crime. Gang injunctions only go bad when officers are overzealous in their enforcement. It takes a lot to get a gang injunction, it is an extreme process.” (YJC Note: LA County has more gang injunctions than any other place in the world with more than 100 neighborhoods covered across the county. The courts in LA have not denied a single injunction.)

McDonnell

Supports injunctions. In Long Beach, McDonnell claimed that he “ensured notification to enjoined people and of youth’s parents, and developed a model appeal process system.” Recently wrote an article in *Police Chief Magazine* about injunctions.

Olmstead

Supports injunctions. Believes in “full disclosure for enjoined people, and that people have a pathway to exit.” Proposes to educate people on exit process.

Rogers

Supports injunctions and also supports “full disclosure and notification for gang injunctions.” (Note this is already required under the law.) Was gang commander of the Sheriffs Department for 3 years. Also upholds that there continue to be “a clearly defined process for removal from the injunction.” In addition, proposes diversion and alternatives for youth to “combat gang problem.” Stated that, “The department cannot just arrest its way out of gang crime.”

Vince

Thinks injunctions “are foolish and that they criminalize people for where they live and where they are from.” If officers are “dealing with gang-involved people,” expects officers to be “able to interact with people without an injunction,” and be able to refer them to resources or carry out an arrest if necessary.

6. CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF SHERIFFS:

Gomez

In support of “citizen oversight.” Stated that, “The current offices of independent review have no authority. They can only monitor and make recommendations.”

Gomez sued the department as an internal whistleblower because he claimed he could not get top commanders to act when he reported on the violence in the jails. Stated he “will not tolerate Sheriff gangs or cliques.” Committed to installing cameras on squad cars and uniforms.

Hellmold

In support of citizen oversight and public forums.

McDonnell

Served on the LA Commission on Jail Violence to investigate conditions and made 63 recommendations for change. Agrees that LASD needs a Civilian Review Board. Said, “We need civilian oversight, because we don’t have oversight from within.”

Olmstead

“The department has lost the public trust because of Tanaka and Baca. There is zero transparency. The department needs to get back to the nobility of policing. I will hire and promote based on character. It is a leadership issue.”

Rogers

Agrees to Civilian Oversight Process to monitor Sheriff’s Department. Identifies as one of the people (along with Hellmold) tasked with reforming jails in light of findings of Commission on Jail Violence and FBI investigation. Stated there has been catastrophic failure in jails with need to implement 24/7 crisis reform and restructuring. Need for professionalized staffing instead of cycling new recruits into the jails as part of their “training.” Need for an internal and external LASD assessment, as well as need to institutionalize community-policing and problem solving.

Vince

In support of civilian oversight. “The Sheriff’s Department cannot and should not hide from the public. We need to inform the public of what is going on in order to gain trust.” Stated LASD now has culture of “sheriffs acting as mercenaries.” A Civilian Review Board is needed to restore balance that ensures that law

enforcement works for and is accountable to the public. Stated he regularly “will ask community how to change the Sheriffs” not just implement his own changes.

7. ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL DETENTION AND INCARCERATION, MORATORIUM OR LIMITS ON JAIL EXPANSION, AND REDUCING / CLOSING PROBATION CAMPS:

Gomez

Stated that “We need jail building and rehabilitation to house inmates properly.” Also stated that Sheriff’s Department does not have enough funding to effectively handle realignment. Proposes redirecting non-violent offenders to community service with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to gain construction skills.

Regarding reducing youth incarceration, stated he would support youth programs, “especially the Explorers program to train future sheriffs as an alternative to family lifestyle of gang and drugs.”

Hellmold

Agrees that Sheriff should have greater pre-trial release authority to reduce jail overcrowding and provide release to more people pending court date. Stated that LASD needs to focus on the violent crimes not on minor ones for incarceration. But also said LA needs to tear down Men’s Central Jail and rebuild to use for “violent criminals.” Said women’s jail is necessary, but needs to be closer to families. Proposed location is in Castaic. Supports alternatives to incarceration for some people with mental illnesses, but also supports building of new mental health jail. Need education and resources. Regarding youth – proposes to focus on re-entry and “end adversarial relationship with cops.”

McDonnell

Agreed to look at split sentencing as a way to reduce length of stay in jail for those convicted to county time under AB109 realignment. Also suggested implementation of a pilot program to release 500 “low-risk offenders” and do a follow-up “risk assessment” on the impact on crime and recidivism. Upset at implementation of AB109 without “adequate resources,” believing it gutted Parole and overwhelmed Probation.

Olmstead

Jails have always been overcrowded. Split sentencing needs to be increased to “transfer more inmates on probation instead of jail.” Also would commit to release of the mentally ill from jail. The Twin Towers jail doesn’t need to be a mental health facility. Supports building of women’s jail in Cataic, but said he would also support “in-reach” programs (more community based programs inside) and re-entry programs for people returning home.

Believes that AB109 has been a failure with no guidance from the state on uniform regulations. He is in favor of voting rights for people under community supervision if they don’t have a felony. Claims that people with felonies should lose right to vote.

Rogers

Need greater flexibility to release people from jail, including bail reform, compliance with the Trust Act to decriminalize undocumented people. Stated that LASD needs to focus on rehabilitation. However, also stated that people convicted under AB 109 need to “serve their time.” Also stated support for building of women’s jail, but “make sure they can see their families.”

Regarding AB109, Rogers claimed it has “huge flaws.” Claims that it has gutted probation and parole, and that there is a 70% recidivism rate for probation/parole. He also stated, “These are the folks that steal your cars, steal your identity, and burglarize your businesses. Released criminals are responsible for 80% of crime in communities.” Advocates for stricter probation and parole. (Note: the data he gave was the recidivism rate before AB109. The YJC can’t find any evidence to support this since AB109. System data is in fact much more positive indicating that recidivism is lower among people who receive alternatives to incarceration and re-entry services.)

Rogers also proposes limiting further the rights of convicted people. He supports voting rights for people under community supervision if they don’t have a felony.

Vince

Jails are violent and LA needs to reduce overcrowding. Stated he would push LA County Board of Supervisors to allow for pre-trial release and bail reform. Claimed that bail should reflect risk of flight, not County’s financial gain. States he will release people with low level crimes, focus on re-entry services, release people to treatment that have addiction issues, release people who are seriously ill, and reduce population by 10-20% through the development of community based alternatives to detention and incarceration. Overall, the LASD needs a “holistic approach” to dealing with social problems. Does *not* support building of new women’s jail.

Regarding youth incarceration, stated that “re-entry begins on first day of incarceration, or even upon arrest.” Supports YJC’s recent victory for issuing of birth certificates and state IDs for everyone who is released – both youth and adults.

8. DECRIMINALIZATION OF UNDOCUMENTED STATUS / PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANTS:

Hellmold

Disagrees with Sheriffs past involvement in “Secure-Communities” program that questions all detainees regarding their immigration status and refers people arrested and/or detained by Sheriffs to ICE Immigration for possible detention and deportation.

McDonnell

Agrees to working with ICE in the jails, including document background checks of detained and incarcerated people.

Olmstead

Immigration and Customs Enforcement should not be involved in misdemeanor cases, only on detention and possible deportation of immigrants that “prey on people.”

Vince

States he will have *no* cooperation with ICE “Secure Communities” program, no ICE officers in jails, end the confiscation of vehicles for lack of documentation, and end the “breaking apart of families and “Arizonafication of Los Angeles.”

9. DECRIMINALIZATION OF MENTAL HEALTH:

Gomez

Will focus on developing best care including more hiring doctors and nurses to staff medical and mental health units.

Hellmold

Stated he will make “total transformation of interacting with the mentally ill” by operating a mentally ill jail that is a “proper care facility with mental health experts.”

McDonnel

Stated that 20% of people detained in county jails are suffering from mental illness. Argued that his administration would work more closely with Department of Mental Health and mental health court, as well as to advocate for funding increases for mental health clinics. However, he did not make a commitment to redirect some of sheriffs funding or jail expansion capital funds toward the building or operation of mental health clinics.

Olmstead

The 15-20% of inmates who have mental health issues, would be better served in a community-based mental health facility and intervention process. Proposes a mental health court for pre-booking, pre-trial release, and split sentencing. Would release “low-level inmates” to anger management and other structured programs.

Rogers

Stated that he would ask State and County Board of Supervisors to match what Sheriffs spend on mental health. “We need treatment options for mental health care, not incarceration.”

Stated that “Incarceration and crime is a public health problem. Many people need medical treatment.” However, also stated he would build a separate mental health jail as well as “re-furbish” men’s central, letting some people out earlier, but keeping “violent mentally ill” in longer.

Tanaka

Stated that there are “Too many people locked up with mental health problems.”

Vince

Will lobby Board of Supervisors to get mentally ill out of jail and support community based mental health facilities and treatment options. Focus on professionalizing jail staff toward model of building career expertise in custody, and turning over greater roles inside to civilians, including education, mental health and treatment.