**Emily Cole is running for Judge, Superior Court Office 76**

**Questions for elected officials**

**Peer Action 4 Change is an organization with more than 1,000 members in Los Angeles County dedicated to making life better for mental health consumers, clients, survivors and others in recovery. Our membership requests that you answer the following questions to help them make decisions on who to vote for in the March 3, 2020 election.**

1. What is more important for improving mental health currently, more locked facilities or more peer services? Please explain.

We need both. There are some people that *because* of their mental health illness are violent. Until they are effectively treated, they need to be in locked mental health facilities to help them be treated and get better. But we also need more peer services so that when people start to develop mental health illnesses, that they are treated appropriately before it starts to get worse. I don’t believe that in a County as big as ours that we should settle for only one thing to help treat the mentally ill population.

1. What is your opinion on making it easier to conserve homeless people?

I don’t think it should be easier to conserve a person.

1. Should people be forced to take psych medications against their will?

When a person has become violent and is a threat to themselves or another person, then yes, they should be forced to take medication IF that medication will help them to be less violent.

1. Do you think that the number of people incarcerated with mental health issues is an issue? If so, how would you address it?

I absolutely think this is a serious issue. This has been one of the major points of my campaign. Since I have been a deputy district attorney, I have seen the amount of mentally ill defendants in the courtroom DOUBLE. In order to address this need, we need to double the amount of treatment centers in order to address their illness. They need treatment, not jail.

1. Currently it is possible to conserve someone in California on a limited conservatorship for life with the signature of one doctor. Should limited conservatorships be changed to require a doctor of the person’s choice or more than one doctor? Should limited conservatorships be reviewed on a regular basis, as LPS conservatorships are?

I think if a person is going to be conserved for life, more than one doctor should review the issue. I do think conservatorships should be regularly reviewed.

1. Adult Protective Services is not allowed to take a complaint from a conserved person as technically that person has to be represented by their conservator in all affairs. Should the law be changed to allow people on conservatorships or others to report abuse perpetrated by conservators?

Absolutely.

1. What is your opinion on Peer Certification in California that would set standards for mental health and substance abuse peer workers allowing the workers to bill Medi-Cal?

As a deputy district attorney hoping to be a criminal court judge, I do not have any expertise in this area in order to give you an informed answer.

1. Self-help support groups are an essential tool to recovery in mental health and substance abuse as they reduce hospitalizations, medication needed, relapses, incarcerations and increase personal responsibility, healthy behaviors and employment. Would you require that each peer worker have knowledge of the dozens of free self-help support group programs in your district in order to be certified?

Yes.

1. Do you agree that hospitals and other facilities should be required to video tape with sound all incidents of use of seclusion and restraint for psychiatric reasons, and provide the person who was secluded or restrained with a copy of the tape, upon request, in order to reduce the over use and abuse of these techniques?

Yes.

1. How will you improve the employment services for people with mental health issues so that they are based on people’s skills and strengths rather than assuming the only jobs they can do are in food, janitorial, back office and landscaping?

As a judge, I will have no ability to effect this issue.

1. There is an epidemic of depression at the moment. Loneliness is a major cause of depression and early death. Self-help support groups reduce loneliness. What steps will you take to reduce the number of people depressed?

As a judge, if I see a defendant with these issues or tendencies, I would happily order them to go to these self-help support groups.

1. Are you open to sober living and shared recovery housing as a way of increasing affordable housing in your district?

As a judge, I would encourage the use of these services. But I would have no way to be able to increase the building of affordable housing.

1. What are you doing to end homelessness?

My current position is a deputy district attorney in the sex crimes division. I work with homeless victims that are victims of sexual abuse. I help them with services to find housing and therapy for the abuse they have suffered.

It is not even close to ending homelessness, but it important to me to help these victims.

1. How do you plan to reduce the stigma and discrimination against mental health consumers in your district?

Being mentally ill is an illness like any other. As a judge, I would treat any mentally ill defendant without discrimination, and I would require the lawyers in my court to do the same.

1. Do you have any other positions that will make life better for mental health consumers, clients, survivors and others in recovery?

N/A

1. Do you or anyone you know suffer from depression, anxiety, mood disorders, schizophrenia, addiction or other mental health diagnoses?

Yes.

1. What is your party affiliation?

Democrat

1. Who have your received endorsements from?

**Los Angeles County Democratic Party**

**Los Angeles County Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO)**

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SEIU Local 721 - Southern California Public Service Workers Union

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Stonewall Democratic Club

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Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL)

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Association of Deputy District Attorneys (ADDA)

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Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS)

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Teamsters Joint Counsel 42

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Mexican American Bar Association, Political Action Committee (MABA-PAC)

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Korean American Democratic Committee

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Beach Cities Democrats

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North Valley Democratic Club of Los Angeles

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San Fernando Police Association

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Torrance Police Officers Association

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Metropolitan News-Enterprise

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Canada Crescenta Democratic Club

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Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club of Cerritos

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Northeast Democratic Club of LA

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IATSE Local 33

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San Pedro Democratic Club

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Democratic Alliance for Action, Santa Clarita

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Santa Monica Democratic Club

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Painters and Allied Trades DC 36

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International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 12

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Torrance Democratic Club

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The Santa Clarita Valley Signal

United Steel Workers Local 675

United Steelworkers LA Legislative Education Committee

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Maxine Waters, US Congresswoman

Hon. Jackie Lacey, District Attorney of Los Angeles County

Hon. Steve Cooley, Former Los Angeles County District Attorney (2000-2012)

Hon. Robert Philibosian, Former Los Angeles County District Attorney (1982-1984)

Ali Sajjad Taj, Mayor - City of Artesia

Hon. Birgit Fladager, District Attorney of Stanislaus County

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**Judge endorsements**

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Supervising Judge Lisa M. Chung, Los Angeles Superior Court, Antelope Valley Courthouse

Supervising Judge Mark E. Windham, Los Angeles Superior Court, Airport Courthouse

Supervising Judge David B. Gelfound, Los Angeles Superior Court, San Fernando Courthouse

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Judge Hilleri Merrit, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Lloyd Nash, Los Angeles Superior Court (Retired)

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Judge Monica Bachner, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Michael O'Gara, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Charles Chung, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Daviann L. Mitchell, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Cynthia Ulfig, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Robert G. Chu, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge David W. Stuart, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Shannon Knight, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Daniel Feldstern, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Jared D. Moses, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Martin L. Herscovitz, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Karla D. Kerlin, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Joseph A. Brandolino, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge David Walgren, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Norm Shapiro, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Benny Osorio, Los Angeles Superior Court (Ret.)

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Judge Tony Cho, Los Angeles Superior Court

Judge Robert Applegate, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Hayden Zacky, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Maria Lucy Armendariz, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Mark C. Kim, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Valerie Salkin, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Wendy Segall, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge James R. Dabney, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Victor H. Person, Los Angeles Superior Court (Retired)

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Judge Edmund Willcox Clarke, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Carol J. Najera, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Lynne Hobbs, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Russell Moore, Riverside County Superior Court

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Judge Lisa S. Coen, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Andrew E. Cooper, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Rene C. Gilbertson, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Joseph R. Porras, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Emily T. Spear, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Daniel Zeke Zeidler, Los Angeles Superior Court

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Judge Christopher J. Frisco, Los Angeles Superior Court