



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Attorney Wes Duncan announces bid for Washoe County District Attorney with unanimous law enforcement support in Washoe County and across Nevada

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA (JUNE 9, 2025) -- Sparks City Attorney Wes Duncan announced his intention to run for Washoe County District Attorney in 2026. Duncan's announcement follows the **unanimous support and endorsement from all regional law enforcement associations representing the rank-and-file members of their agencies**, including the Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association, Washoe County Sheriff's Supervisory Deputies Association, Reno Police Protective Association, Reno Police Supervisory/Administrative Employees Association, Sparks Police Protective Association, and the Nevada Police Union. The Nevada Police Union represents sworn members of Nevada's State Police, Highway Patrol, Parole and Probation, Capitol Police, State Fire Marshals Investigation Division, University Police, Department of Wildlife Wardens and Division of Agriculture officers.

Additionally, Duncan has earned the coveted **statewide** endorsement of the **Public Safety Alliance of Nevada** that represents 25 law enforcement entities across the state and 10,000 law enforcement officers. Finally, Duncan has also earned the **Nevada Association of Public Safety Officers and the Nevada Law Enforcement Coalition** that represents another 20 police associations and 1300 law enforcement officers across the state of Nevada.

"I'm running for Washoe District Attorney to make Washoe County a safer place to call home and raise a family," said Duncan. "Unfortunately, each notable crime trend in our county is moving in the wrong direction, and District Attorney Hicks seems unwilling or unable to tackle the challenges our community faces while ignoring the concerns of law enforcement." Duncan continued, ***"I look forward to sharing my vision of how to make Washoe County safer, uniting the law***

enforcement community in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, and exposing the many professional and ethical failures of District Attorney Hicks."

Wes Duncan's unprecedented and resounding endorsement from law enforcement against a sitting incumbent underscores the strong demand for new leadership in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office. Leaders from the county's most prominent law enforcement agencies and associations offered the following statements in support of Wes Duncan for District Attorney:

Reno Police Protective Association President Tom Lopey added, ***"It was evident that the men and women of Reno Police were deeply concerned about ongoing challenges, including limited communication, a lack of consistent leadership, and significant issues stemming from the charging policies and direction of District Attorney Hicks' office. Officers expressed frustration that victims of serious crimes were being denied justice due to inconsistent or overly restrictive charging decisions, which they believe undermine both public safety and community trust."*** Referencing these concerns, President Lopey further stated, ***"We believe Wes Duncan is the clear choice for District Attorney when it comes to public safety. He has earned the trust of law enforcement, can bring stakeholders together, and offers a strong, clear vision for making our community safer."***

John Torres, president of the Reno Police Supervisory/Administrative Employees Association added, ***"I have seen firsthand how the charging policies of District Attorney Hicks has endangered the community and frustrated the hard-working men and women of law enforcement. Our members work hard to investigate cases and put away dangerous criminals. However, time after time, the charging policies of District Attorney Hicks either allow dangerous criminals to get away with heinous crimes by not charging them, or the cases that do get charged are often plea bargained without the input of our members. These poorly negotiated cases have led to more violent crime including murder. We need a change in leadership in the District Attorney's office and Wes Duncan is our choice to lead that office and keep our community safe."***

Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association Executive Director Jason Leshner agreed, ***"Wes Duncan is the leader we need for this moment as the trust between the District Attorney's Office and our members has been completely lost. Our members are hungry for a district attorney who sees himself as a partner with law enforcement so we can work together to keep our community safe. After three terms of District Attorney Hicks our community needs a change."***

Nevada Police Union President Dan Gordon added, ***“Wes Duncan will aggressively prosecute DUIs and other offenders that endanger our roadways. Currently, many of our State Troopers feel like the District Attorney’s Office does not seriously prosecute DUI cases submitted to their office, and they believe a change in leadership has long been needed. Wes Duncan is the change they believe in.”***

Finally, Sparks Police Protective Association President Nick Slider remarked, ***“Wes Duncan’s commitment to law enforcement during his time as the City Attorney in Sparks has been unwavering. From the training he provides, to the way he prosecutes crime, Wes has always had our back, and he will make a fantastic District Attorney. We support him because he has always supported us.”***

As the Sparks City Attorney, Wes Duncan has led numerous initiatives, including partnering with Sparks Police to pass homeless ordinances to protect public health and safety, launching an anti-retail theft campaign, creating an initiative to protect seniors from scams, advancing domestic violence prevention efforts, passing a first-of-its-kind ordinance to criminalize domestic violence in the presence of children, enacting ordinances to curb illegal street racing, and implementing an initiative to raise awareness about the dangers of fentanyl.

“I am honored to be law enforcement’s choice in this race for Washoe County District Attorney. As a father of four young kids and an Iraq war veteran, I understand how critical it is to protect our community from crime and keep our county safe,” said Duncan.

Prior to becoming Sparks City Attorney, Duncan served as an active-duty Air Force Judge Advocate, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and worked at the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad. After active duty, Duncan became an Air Force reservist, currently holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serves as a Staff Judge Advocate. He also served as Chief Assistant City Attorney in Sparks, a felony prosecutor at the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office, a partner at a private law firm, and First Assistant Attorney General of Nevada. Additionally, Duncan was an elected State Assemblyman and a Deputy District Attorney in Clark County. Duncan is married to his wife Jennifer, an Air Force reservist and Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran. He and Jennifer are the proud parents of four children.

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