



11/12/2009

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PINTO ANNOUNCES EIGHT-POINT PLAN FOR LEADING RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

St. Paul, Minnesota, November 12, 2009 – Dave Pinto, candidate for Ramsey County Attorney, today unveiled a comprehensive plan for leading the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. His strategic priorities focus on leveraging innovation and collaboration to reduce and prevent crime, protecting civil liberties, ensuring equal justice, and promoting openness and transparency to make Ramsey County more livable and safer for all.

“This plan lays out the values and priorities that will guide my work as Ramsey County Attorney,” said Pinto. “The plan has been shaped by the many conversations I've had with Ramsey County citizens about the community's needs, as well as by my wide-ranging experience in criminal, civil and public interest law and public policy.”

Starting on November 19, Pinto will post weekly to his campaign's blog on each of the eight principles outlined in his leadership plan.

Pinto's plan follows below.

As Ramsey County Attorney, I pledge to:

1. Fight for the vulnerable

I will use my experience as a domestic violence prosecutor to continue putting abusers and those who prey on our children and seniors behind bars. I will stand up for the average citizen by pursuing more white-collar crime such as mortgage fraud. I will prosecute criminals swiftly and to the fullest extent of the law.

2. Champion proven solutions that stop the cycle of crime and violence

I will leverage my credibility as a prosecutor to build support in today's budget environment for existing prevention and intervention programs that have demonstrated success in reducing crime in a cost-effective way.

3. Prosecute violent and repeat offenders aggressively and strategically

I will bring a “smart on crime” approach to prosecution, focusing scarce resources on violent and frequent offenders who undermine public safety and are a disproportionate drain on our criminal justice system.

4. Protect civil liberties while maintaining public safety

I will solicit citizen input and advice regarding civil liberties, communicate openly with all groups and points of view, and work closely with law enforcement to support their efforts to protect both public safety and the rights of all citizens.

5. Strive for a criminal justice system that provides equal justice for all

I will track key data regarding the charging and conviction of racial minorities, partner with community groups, and work to ensure the County Attorney's Office better reflects the diverse community it serves.

6. Foster community collaboration to reduce and prevent crime

I will provide creative leadership to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. I will make the resources of the office visible in the community, working in an inclusive, cooperative way with schools, non-profit organizations, and county agencies to provide "comprehensive care" for at-risk families.

7. Promote innovation at all stages of the criminal justice system

I will draw on cutting-edge programs from around the country to make the County Attorney's Office a national leader and innovator in criminal justice in areas including prevention, intervention, diversion, recidivism and rehabilitation.

8. Bring openness and transparency to the office

I will lead a County Attorney's Office that engages the community in dialogue on important issues and promotes transparency to ensure public trust in the legal process.

Pinto was recently endorsed by St. Paul Democrats for Civil Rights and the St. Paul chapter of the DFL Progressive Caucus. A list of the many other community leaders endorsing his candidacy is available on his website, at <http://www.davepinto.com/endorsements.html>.

A Ramsey County native, Pinto is a dedicated domestic violence prosecutor, a proven leader and a committed public servant, in the courtroom every day fighting for children and our community's most vulnerable. He is seeking the DFL endorsement for 2010.

For more information about his campaign, visit <http://www.davepinto.com>.

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