



SMART JUSTICE. SAFE COMMUNITIES.
A PLAN FOR A SAFER
PULASKI AND PERRY COUNTY

BY

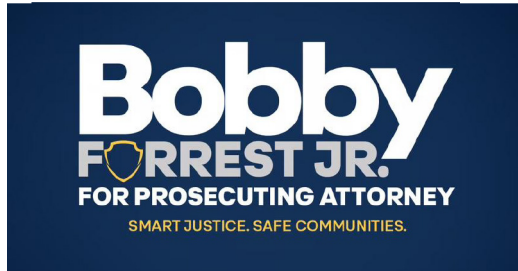
Bobby
FORREST JR.
FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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PULASKI

PERRY





Smart Justice. Safe Communities.

A Plan for a Safer Pulaski & Perry County

Family and Friends, we are grappling with a violence epidemic. Just this year alone, there have been over 25 deaths in our district. From Little Rock to Jacksonville to Perryville to Maumelle, we all want the same things: to be safe and keep our families safe. This sweeping reality impacts us all, and we must act with urgency to protect our children and communities.

To build a safer Pulaski and Perry County, we must have a moderate, diverse, and effective prosecutor's office led by a Prosecutor Attorney who prioritizes safety. We need a leader with the acumen to manage a law office and the experience to effectively fight crime in the communities it serves. The Prosecuting Attorney must understand the role and be able to work collaboratively with law enforcement and community members. We must have clear consequences for violent offenders and address root causes of crime if we ever dream to reach safety in our homes. We need a leader that puts our cities first. I am that leader. I am asking for your support as I seek to become your next Prosecuting Attorney and I promise you, I will not be distracted. I will work diligently and justly on your behalf.

From my days navigating the justice system as a minor with no father for guidance, to serving as a police officer, to practicing as a defense attorney, I have seen the criminal justice system from all sides and know what it feels like to be both a victim and an offender. At the very core of the criminal justice system is the elected prosecutor. They hold the keys to future results of many citizens' lives, both victims and offenders. It is almost like they operate in this invisible middle space between charging and sentencing. But the middle is the most critical part because the middle is what reinforces what happens at the beginning and drives what happens at the end. I will hold violent and repeat offenders accountable while also prioritizing alternatives to incarceration, such as diversions for individuals who can benefit from services like drug and mental health treatment.

I am asking for your support in becoming your next Prosecuting Attorney and am confident that my lived experiences and unwavering love for this district will help bring a fresh perspective and the change we need in order to build a safer Pulaski and Perry County. I have enclosed my biography and five-pillar plan for a safer district. Join me in making our district safer through SMART justice. Vote Bobby Forrest Jr. for Prosecuting Attorney.

With humility,

Bobby Forrest Jr.

Candidate for Prosecuting Attorney for the 6th Judicial District, Pulaski and Perry County

Bobby Forrest Jr.: Real Experience Matters

Bobby Forrest Jr. is a proud native of Jacksonville, Arkansas, with deep family roots in Earle, Arkansas. Raised by a single mother alongside three sisters, Bobby's early life was shaped by faith, resilience, and hard-earned lessons. Growing up in public housing, with a father incarcerated for most of his life, Bobby's path was anything but easy. Yet, those challenges planted the seeds for his passion for justice.

At the age of 10, Bobby was baptized at a neighborhood church that he walked to on his own. His mother, having dreams of her own to become a forensic scientist, never really had the chance. He and his mother would watch cop shows every night together. Bobby knew that when he grew up, he wanted to be a cop. But growing up in an impoverished community, the real challenge was how to make it out alive and without being incarcerated. By 14, he was arrested for the first time. At 16, it happened again. But instead of being defined by his mistakes, he was given another chance by Judge Wiley Branton Jr. — a moment that changed the course of his life. Bobby went on to graduate from Jacksonville High School. He immediately joined the Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer and began studying Criminal Justice in college.

Bobby joined the Jacksonville Police Department at just 21 years old. He had a passion to come back and fight crime right in the neighborhood he grew up in. During the first year, Bobby received three Letter of Commendations for saving the lives of three different citizens in Jacksonville, including the well-known pursuit of a young man who hijacked a school bus full of school kids. A year later, at 22, he became an undercover narcotics detective. It was in this position that he saw the effects drugs can have in the community and dedicated to stopping violent drug dealers. He recalls one of his biggest busts where several guns and drugs were removed from the street. In 2015, his career came to a sudden stop when he made a decision that would cost him his job. While trying to protect a friend but breaking department policy, Bobby was terminated. He describes this incident as devastating and life changing, as he had wanted this career his whole life. He reached rock bottom, but fortunately, that setback became a setup. Bobby decided if he could not be a cop, he would become an attorney.

He earned a job at a prestigious firm while completing college and was accepted into law school, where he emerged as a student leader — earning magna cum laude honors, becoming a Thurgood Marshall Scholar, serving in multiple leadership roles, and joining Law Review. Bobby founded Chosen Law Firm and today, it has grown into a multimillion-dollar operation with four attorneys. He has taught Criminal Justice at UALR, serves on the Civil Service Commission for the City of Little Rock, and holds licenses to practice in Arkansas, Tennessee, and both the Eastern and Western Districts.

Tragically, in 2023, Bobby's sister was brutally murdered — a life-altering moment that deepened his commitment to ending senseless violence. He is a proud father, the founder of Xperience Kitchen and Lounge, a restaurateur, a real estate renovator who supports Section 8 families, a BBQ lover, a football fan, and a dedicated mentor. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the Arkansas Bar Association Board of Trustees, St. Mark Baptist Church. Bobby is a

servant-leader whose life proves: second chances are not just possible — they're powerful. A proud Army veteran, experienced trial lawyer, proven leader, and skilled manager, Bobby is committed to fighting for our district by reducing violent crime through smart and just prosecution. He is ready to hit the ground running in the fight to make our communities safe.

OVERVIEW

The Prosecutor has a big role in promoting public safety. They reinforce what happens at the beginning and drive what happens at the end. The Prosecutor chooses what charges to bring as well as what sentence to seek. They determine who gets charged as an adult or juvenile, who can get rehabilitation or mental health services, or who deserves incarceration versus probation. It is the prosecutor's duty to be a guiding voice, help train police officers, and bridge the gap between communities most affected by violent crime. Still, prosecutors must take immediate action to address the skyrocketing violence, and must act with urgency. Our county is bleeding and like a doctor, prosecutors must work to stop the bleeding immediately, while also working to treat the wound: root causes, such as poverty, unemployment, systemic bias, and ongoing inequities.

Under my leadership, the Prosecutor's Office will prioritize removing violent and repeat offenders from our communities. Concurrently, we will support alternatives to incarceration, and provide services for low-level offenders who would benefit from the help. This is Smart Prosecution and this is how we build safer communities.

Five Pillars of the SMART Prosecution Plan for a Safer Pulaski and Perry County:

- I. Focusing on Violent Crime and Illegal Gun Traffickers
- II. Advocating for Victims and Witnesses
- III. Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Juvenile Justice System
- IV. Focus on our Tool Bag to Address Root Causes of Crime
- V. Rebuilding Strong Collaborations with our Community Leaders and the Community

I. Focusing on Violent Crime and Illegal Gun Possessors

Under the current administration, several homicide cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence, speedy trial issues, or just outright lost in trial due to lack of experience in his office. It seems that the policy of the current administration is to overcharge and plead down to ridiculous extremes later.

While multiple factors have contributed to the rise of homicides — many of which are not in control of the prosecutor's office — we do see a rise in homicides when we see a lack of accountability. Under my administration, prosecution of violent crimes and illegal gun possessors will be a top priority and those offenders will be removed from society. Either they will change their actions or I will change their residence. We will build a safe district by focusing on the following:

- A. Recruiting Passionate and Experienced Prosecutors**
- B. Creating Task Force for Gun Traffickers**
- C. Holding Illegal Gun Possessors Accountable**
- D. Gun Court**
- E. Tracking Case Outcomes**

A. Recruiting Passionate and Experienced Prosecutors

The current prosecutor's office has failed to retain skilled and experienced prosecutors. Since the current prosecutor has taken office, he has lost over 200 years of experience with over 20 prosecutors leaving the office during his tenure. This cannot happen if we want to solve this issue of violent crime in our community. I will recruit experienced and trial-ready prosecutors who will tackle the backlog of current violent and gun cases. This specialized team will only work on violent cases and gun cases so their efforts will not be stretched thin with thousands of other cases while trying to maintain a docket full of capital murders. It will be my expectation that they develop relationships with victims and witnesses, visit crime scenes, as well as work with investigators to secure strong legal evidence. Each member will know the case and be trial-ready. I plan to match senior and junior attorneys to build competence and training while increasing the overall experience in the office. I also vow, as the elected prosecutor, to personally assist in prosecuting these violent offenders to help secure convictions. We must aggressively and quickly address violent and gun crimes with quick consequences.

B. Creating Task Force to address Gun Traffickers

Illegal guns flood our streets at a rate that our district has never seen. Both juveniles and felons have access to guns right under the nose of our law enforcement. With such access to guns, one must ask, "Where are the guns being supplied from?" My administration will work to dismantle illegal gun traffickers and sellers. In order for us to ensure safety, we cannot only focus on prosecuting once a gun has been used, but also on prosecuting those people who sell guns illegally in our community.

C. Holding Illegal Gun Possessors Accountable

Those who carry guns illegally, especially people with prior violent convictions, pose a serious threat to public safety. Under my leadership, there will be a zero-tolerance policy for illegal gun possession. We will pursue strict penalties for those caught with illegal firearms. By doing so, we aim to deter others from carrying weapons illegally. In addition, for juveniles found in possession of guns, we will ensure that they face appropriate consequences while also receiving interventions aimed at redirecting their behavior. Our goal is to step in early and decisively to prevent future violence.

D. Gun Court

To efficiently handle the volume of gun-related cases, I will advocate a specialized Gun Court. This court will expedite cases of illegal gun possession and other gun crimes, ensuring swift resolutions and consistent outcomes. By dedicating court time and resources specifically to these cases, we can reduce backlogs and deliver faster justice. A Gun Court will also allow judges and prosecutors to develop expertise in firearm cases, leading to more effective sentencing and potentially specialized programs (like gun safety education or partnerships with community anti-violence initiatives) for offenders. This focused approach underscores the

seriousness with which we treat gun crimes and aims to reduce recidivism among gun offenders.

E. Tracking Case Outcomes

It is imperative that we know exactly what the outcomes are of the arrests we are making in these types of cases so we can learn how to better advocate and prosecute. Prosecution will be certain and swift. I promise to track the outcomes of these cases while also providing a transparent way for the office to communicate the outcomes to the public. We should all know who, what, and the outcome in these types of cases.

II. Advocating for Victims & Witnesses

As the elected prosecutor, I would have a duty to make sure that victims and witnesses trust the system and the process. Victims and survivors must believe that they will be heard and that they will receive full transparency about the status of their case. Witnesses must trust that coming forward to law enforcement and our office means they will be protected and not intimidated or retaliated against during the trial process.

- A. Diversifying the Prosecutor's Office**
- B. Restructuring the Complaint's Office**
- C. Vertical Prosecution**
- D. Aggressive protection**

A. Diversifying the Prosecutor's Office

African Americans and other minority groups make up over two-thirds of the criminal justice system here in our district. Currently, the office only has a fraction of that diversity among its prosecutors. This lack of representation can lead to mistrust and miscommunication with victims and witnesses from different backgrounds. I will make it a priority to recruit and hire qualified minority prosecutors and staff. By diversifying the Prosecutor's Office, we can ensure that our team better reflects the community we serve, and thereby improve communication, trust, and cultural understanding in our interactions with victims and witnesses.

B. Restructuring the Complaint's Office

The Complaint's Office is often the first point of contact for victims seeking justice. Under my administration, I will restructure this office to be more responsive and compassionate. This will include training staff to handle cases involving trauma and implementing a streamlined process for victims to file complaints and receive updates. I will ensure that prosecutors are involved early, examine the best way to hear complaints, and ensure that victims are heard quickly. If charges are determined to be filed, my office will not delay.

C. Vertical Prosecution

Due to the high turnover rate under the current administration, many cases involving victims are being passed from one prosecutor to another — sometimes seeing three different prosecutors

before the case ever makes it to trial. This causes victims to have to relive their trauma multiple times as they recount their story to new faces. Under my administration, prosecutors who handle cases involving victims will get involved quickly and remain the attorney on the case through its conclusion. Although this is not always possible, we will set procedures in place such that if a secondary attorney must take over, they will be familiar with the case and the victim so that trust is maintained. This continuity is crucial for providing victims the comfort of knowing someone is with them every step of the way.

D. Aggressive Protections

We live in a society where people who know what happened are scared and intimidated to come forward. Knowing this, people must trust in police and prosecutors to keep them safe. Under my administration, we will immediately arrest and seek jail time for those who try to intimidate victims or witnesses. Further, when a pre-trial no-contact order is in place, if an accused violates it, we will file charges and ask the court to set an immediate trial date, where we will seek jail time. There will be zero tolerance for any accused individuals or their associates who attempt to harass or threaten victims or witnesses in our district.

III. Prevention and Rehabilitation in the Juvenile Justice System

In order to be a safer district, we must also focus on the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders through accountability while not neglecting our duty to the safety of all. The juvenile justice system is where the future of our county lies, and if we do not shape it correctly, we are doomed to continue the cycle of crime. We must provide juveniles with opportunities for reform and growth, but also ensure that serious offenses are met with appropriate consequences.

- A. Specialized Attorneys permanently assigned to the Juvenile Division**
- B. Partnership with Community organizations**
- C. School Programming**
- D. Guns to Military Program**
- E. Identify at Risks Teens Early**

A. Specialized attorneys permanently assigned to the Juvenile Division

The current prosecutor uses the juvenile division as a training ground for newer attorneys. This allows for many errors to occur as they are inexperienced and may not know the different services available to troubled youth. I will ensure that we hire prosecutors in this division who have a passion for the youth — prosecutors who want to make a career out of dealing with juvenile offenders and who want the best for our youth. No longer will there be a revolving door in the juvenile prosecutor division which causes many cases to fall between the cracks, failing the juvenile from rehabilitation.

B. Partnership with Community organizations

In order to accomplish safety as well as rehabilitation for our youth, we must work closely with our city agencies and community stakeholders. I will create a task force with leaders from the

Mayor's office, schools, and the public defender's office to make sure we are meeting the needs of each juvenile while also hearing the cries of our community regarding the violence one may have caused. There is no one thing that fixes the uptick in crime with juveniles, but getting the community involved is a start. My administration will also partner with organizations that partner with young men who are disproportionately represented in the justice system. There are people and organizations who know more than we do on solutions and we must partner and listen!

C. School Programming

I believe it is important to partner with junior high and high schools to teach juveniles the consequences of their actions as it relates to prosecution. Who better to tell them the consequences than a prosecutor? My administration will develop a school outreach program where prosecutors visit schools to discuss the legal system, share real-life cases (in an age-appropriate manner), and outline what happens when juveniles break the law. Education and early intervention can dissuade teens from crime and help them understand the gravity of their choices. Additionally, through these programs, we can identify at-risk youth and connect them with resources or mentorship before they ever enter the criminal justice system.

D. Guns to Military Pipeline

During my time as a law enforcement officer and later as an attorney, I've seen that many young individuals carrying guns lack direction or purpose. I propose a "Guns-to-Military" pipeline program. Non-violent juvenile offenders caught with firearms could be given the opportunity (if legally permissible and with guardian consent) to enlist in junior military programs or boot camp-style training. These programs can instill discipline, provide education and job training, and give youth a sense of purpose and belonging. By channeling their interest in firearms into a structured and positive environment, we can transform a potential threat into an opportunity for personal growth and service.

E. Identify at Risk Teens Early

Prevention is key. We will collaborate with schools, churches, and community organizations to identify at-risk teens early — those showing signs of academic failure, truancy, or early criminal behavior. Once these teens are identified, I will work with community leaders to get them placed with proper mentors so we can start preventing violence and not just reacting to it. We will establish mentorship and intervention programs that connect these youth with positive role models, provide counseling and support, and address issues at home or school that may contribute to delinquency. By investing time and resources before these teens fully enter a criminal lifestyle, we can reduce crime and save lives in the long run.

IV. Focus on our Tool Bag to Address Root Causes of Crime

The fight on crime is a holistic approach. We have to be aggressive in putting away those who harm our communities, but we also have to provide support and opportunities to low-level offenders where people can benefit from a second chance. Addressing the root causes of crime

— such as addiction and mental illness — is not a sign of weakness; it is a smart strategy to reduce re-offense and build healthier communities.

- A. Drug Court**
- B. Mental Health Court**
- C. Pre-Trial Diversions**

A. Drug Court

With so many overdose deaths and drug-related crimes, it's clear we cannot jail our way out of addiction. I will expand the Drug Court program, which offers non-violent offenders struggling with addiction an opportunity to get treatment instead of prison time. By combining strict supervision with rehabilitation services (like counseling, substance abuse treatment, and job training), we can break the cycle of drug abuse and crime. Participants in Drug Court will be held accountable through regular check-ins and testing, but they will also receive the help they need to get clean and become productive members of society.

B. Mental Health Court

A significant number of crimes are committed by individuals struggling with mental health issues. Our jails have become de facto mental health facilities, which they were never designed to be. I will work to establish a Mental Health Court where non-violent offenders with mental health problems can be diverted into treatment programs. Psychologists, social workers, and trained attorneys will collaborate to create case plans that include therapy, medication, and community support. By treating mental illness as the root cause, we can reduce recidivism and give these individuals a chance to stabilize their lives while still holding them accountable for their actions in a structured way.

C. Pre-Trial Diversions

Not every offense committed by a first-time or low-level offender needs to result in a conviction and jail time. I will expand pre-trial diversion programs for eligible individuals, such as those charged with minor non-violent offenses. These programs may include community service, restitution, anger management or other counseling, and probation-like supervision. If the individual completes the program successfully, their charges would be dismissed. This approach gives people a chance to avoid a criminal record that could haunt them for life, while still ensuring they take responsibility and make amends. It also frees up resources to focus on more serious crimes.

V. Rebuilding Strong Collaborations with our Community Leaders and the Community

Prosecutors must work with all stakeholders in its fight to address crime. Unfortunately, this office has failed to do so. Under my administration, I will focus on partnering with several agencies until we have created programs and resources to address the root causes of crime.

- A. Partnering with Already Established Organizations Focusing on Young Males**
- B. Citizens Review Board**
- C. Town Hall Meetings**
- D. Safety Matters Program**

A. Partnering with Already Established Organizations Focusing on Young Males

As a father and a mentor, I have become familiar with many organizations in our community that want the same thing I want. That is for gun crime to go down, and for our young people to live. Currently, African American males are 11.5 times more likely to be victims of homicide than white males. For African American males age 18-25, it jumps to 23 times more likely. This is a huge problem, and no matter the race, we should all be concerned. I will partner with these organizations to help support and fight against the crime that these males are up against. These men need mentors and guidance **before** the crime happens. We have a chance to impact lives, and this is a priority to me especially as a Black man.

B. Citizen's Review Board

The prosecutor's office has a huge responsibility in determining what cases are filed, what charges are filed, and the punishment it seeks. Since Arkansas does not use a regular grand jury system, the elected prosecutor is the one who makes most of those decisions. In order to remain unbiased, fair, and act on behalf of the citizens we serve, there are some cases where outside counsel could assist the office in its decision-making process. I would create a Citizen's Review Board that would meet to help us make a decision in tough cases where the call is too close.

C. Town Hall Meetings

The citizens of our community deserve transparency. They deserve to know what is going on, where we stand in the fight on crime, and they should have the ability to speak to the leader they elect. My office will hold a Town Hall meeting once a quarter where members of our district can directly talk to me and also receive updates on our fight for safety. We will also create a State of the Prosecutor's Office meeting where we discuss our future plans each year.

D. Safety Matters Tour

We cannot call ourselves voices of the people if we do not know the people we serve. Most people do not know who the elected prosecutor is, and when hearing the term **prosecutor**, they often associate it with a negative connotation. Under my administration, this offer will be a part of the community it serves through the Safety Matter Tour. We will show up to community events, block parties, schools, and churches to learn from the people we serve. We cannot fight crime if we do not hear why the crime is happening to the people it is happening to.

CONCLUSION

I have a passion for criminal justice and a passion for people. I believe the prosecutor office is more than just a political position — it's a calling. I am running because I am confident that safety can be possible again for every community. I plan to lead through life experience. I will be transparent & ethical, and I will win the fight on crime. This safety plan is just a roadmap to my vision on how we get there and is not an exhaustive list. Under my administration we will use all efforts to fight crime. We will partner with community leaders and work with law enforcement to fulfill the goal. We will have alternatives to incarceration, but we will be tough in our efforts to incarcerate those who commit violent crimes and those who sell and carry illegal guns. In me, you will have a leader that will always put our district first — our Safety First.