

Candidates Profiles

Incumbent Candidate Name: Mark Lindquist

Campaign website: <https://marklindquist.org/>

Social media accounts (if applicable): www.facebook.com/LindquistMark www.twitter.com/LindquistMark

Campaign office address: P.O. Box 1821, Tacoma, WA 98401

Campaign phone: (813) 508-0673

Challenger Name: Mary Robnett

Campaign website: <https://maryforprosecutor.com/>

Social media accounts (if applicable): <https://www.facebook.com/pg/maryforprosecutor/posts/>
<https://twitter.com/maryerobnett>

Campaign office address: P.O. Box 883, Tacoma, WA 98401-0883

Campaign phone: (206) 919-1484

In the News – Mark Lindquist

What news articles have been written about the candidate?

Article re: death Penalty - <https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article193965314.html> “The death penalty is a question with profound moral implications, certainly worthy of wide discussion,” Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Lindquist said. “That discussion should not be limited to legislative debate in Olympia, but instead should be the subject of civic dialogue around the entire state.”

Controversy re: misconduct charges - <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/why-text-messages-and-nancy-grace-will-complicate-pierce-county-prosecutor-mark-lindquists-re-election-campaign/>
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/pierce-county-prosecutor-mark-lindquist-calls-rival-a-liar-as-contest-heats-up/>

Controversy re: appearance on Nancy Grace show, resulting in recommendation for public disciplinary hearing following outcome of the 2018 election - <https://medium.com/protectorsdigest/mark-lindquist-is-pierce-county-washingtons-prosecutorial-fame-monster-8d2b5e284639>

Re: concerns over aggressive prosecutions / “prosecutorial misconduct” per the WA State Supreme Court - <https://www.bellinghamherald.com/opinion/article22290507.html> and <http://mynorthwest.com/848690/pierce-county-prosecutors-nancy-grace-investigation/>?

Q&A with 31st Dems: <https://31stdistrictdemocrats.org/pierce-county-prosecutor-mark-lindquist/>

What events will the candidate be speaking at? What community meetings will the candidate be hosting?

Issues – Mark Lindquist

- Death Penalty – position on this is ambiguous. See News Tribune article linked above.
- Teen Sexting – cannot find any stated position by Lindquist on this
- DWLS3 – cannot find any stated position by Lindquist on this

- Article by Lindquist re: HPO Program - <https://tacomaweekly.com/guest-editorial/new-high-priority-offender-program-reduces-crime/>
- Criminal Justice Reform – cannot find any stated position by Lindquist on this. However, see link above to Bellingham Herald article on aggressive prosecutions and excerpts below from Q&A with 31st Dems (also linked above).
 - We need to reduce bias and barriers to justice. In the Prosecutor’s Office, we work with the courts to accomplish this. We also have victim’s advocates who assist victims of crime, and we have other constituency services for community members, and good communication with a variety of community groups. For example, as mentioned above, we are leaders in the state for protecting and educating elders, including non-English speaking elders.
 - RE question about Black Lives Matter: “Just that, black lives matter. As a Prosecutor, I am aware that our criminal justice system, including police and prosecutors, can be biased.”
- I-1639 (WA gun reform initiative) – cannot find any stated position by Lindquist on this.
- Candidate’s priority issues - Per campaign website: Suing big pharma to hold them accountable for its role in opioid epidemic; fighting crime (High Priority Offender Program) and following up on cold cases; formed Elder Abuse Unit several years ago and received \$400K award in 2016 from US Dept of Justice to continue this pursuit; unified approach for Domestic Violence teams; alternative courts for “non-violent drug offenders, veterans, and those with mental health issues”; public service culture.
- Per Q&A with 31st Dems:
 - –Elder Abuse Unit, protecting elders and other vulnerable adults.
 - –Data-driven prosecution, reducing crime and reducing bias in the system.
 - –Therapeutic courts, drug court, veteran’s court, and a new mental health court, diverting non-violent offenders with mental health issues from the criminal justice system and into services. We are also diverting juveniles from the system and into services.
 - –Holding Big Pharma accountable for their role in the opioid crisis and the harm it has caused to our community
 - ...commitment to community, commitment to public safety, commitment to improving the justice system, and a commitment to integrity in all pursuits that rises above the many pressures. Also, accomplishments that demonstrate the commitments.

Candidate Background – Mark Lindquist

Deputy prosecutor, 1995-2009

Prosecutor, 2009 to present.

Mark was appointed to be Pierce County Prosecutor by a unanimous bipartisan vote of the County Council in 2009. He was elected to a four-year term in 2010. He was re-elected in 2014 with 96% of the vote against a write-in candidate who is running against him again.

Community involvement:

- Chair, 2012-13 United Way Campaign
- Board of Directors, Tacoma Community College Foundation
- Senior Fellow, American Leadership Forum
- Board of Directors, Tacoma City Club
- Member, Rotary 8
- Reading tutor at McCarver elementary school
- And numerous other community activities

In the News – Mary Robnett

- <http://progressivevotersguide.com/washington/2018/primary/mary-robnett#race3301> “Mary Robnett spent 18 years working in the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's office. She worked in the office’s special assault unit

before being promoted to Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor. Robnett now works as an Assistant Attorney General in the Sexually Violent Predators unit in Bob Ferguson's office. She is running as a non-partisan candidate with a focus on de-politicizing and restoring integrity to the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and letting veteran prosecutors do their job. She has very strong support in the legal and law enforcement communities."

- <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/superheated-race-for-pierce-county-prosecutor-pitting-boss-against-former-chief-deputy-is-most-expensive-county-level-contest-in-state/>
- Q&A interview: <https://31stdistrictdemocrats.org/pierce-county-prosecutor-mary-robnett/>

Issues – Mary Robnett

- Death Penalty: Cannot find any stated position on this by Robnett
- Teen Sexting: Cannot find any stated position on this by Robnett
- DWLS3: Cannot find any stated position on this by Robnett
- Criminal Justice Reform:
 - per Q&A with 31st Dems "All of us – regardless of race, socioeconomic background, orientation, ZIP code or any other factors – should be equal before the law. As Prosecutor I will be mindful and systematic about driving out biases, increasing opportunities for all, and using the necessary task of criminal justice to help build healthier communities. Better access to justice starts with quality public defense and more community outreach to hear concerns from under-represented communities."
 - Re Black Lives Matter question from 31st Dems: "It's a statement of values, one that reminds us that too many barriers to justice and too many disparities exist in the system today."
- Candidate's Priority Issues per campaign website:
 - "Mary can restore trust and run the Prosecutor's Office in a non-political manner. She is intent on restoring the public's trust and letting veteran deputy prosecutors do what they do best: Put the bad guys away."
 - "Our county ranks #1 in the state for violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, assault). The opioid epidemic is contributing to a persistent property crime problem... But to tackle these issues, problems within the Prosecutor's Office must be addressed. Mary is running to restore trust in an office beset by controversies and scandals. She will bring stability to the Prosecutor's Office and return focus in the top job to the basics..."
 - 1 - "Non-partisan, non-political prosecutor's office" 2 – "truly putting people's interests first" 3 – "right experience to fight crime"

Candidate Background – Mary Robnett

Per campaign website: Mary began her career as an emergency dispatcher for first responders in two different rural Sheriff's offices, all while putting herself through college. She graduated with honors from the University of Puget Sound's law school in Tacoma.

With an interest in public service, Mary joined the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office in 1994 and worked her way up through the ranks to become the Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor. She was called upon to handle some of Pierce County's biggest cases,... Uncomfortable with the partisan, political way current incumbent Mark Lindquist operated, she departed in 2012 to join the state Attorney General's Office. Hired by Rob McKenna (R) and promoted by Bob Ferguson (D), Robnett works as an assistant attorney general in the Sexually Violent Predators unit...

Based on her performance and initiative, Mary was awarded the Attorney General's Excellence Award (2015) and the Attorney General's Office STAR award (2017).

During her tenure at the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, the Pierce County Sheriff's Office twice awarded Mary the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of the Year Award, in 2006 and again in 2012. Mary was also awarded the Tacoma Police Department Certificate of Merit in 2009.

Getting to Know the Candidate

Have you attended any meetings where the candidate spoke (e.g. candidate forum, town hall, etc.)? Which one(s)?

Have you met in-person with the candidate? If so, what did you discuss in your meeting?

Other Information the ACLU Should Know?

Robnett used to be Lindquist's supervisor: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/superheated-race-for-pierce-county-prosecutor-pitting-boss-against-former-chief-deputy-is-most-expensive-county-level-contest-in-state/>

"Robnett, 62, is a first-time candidate. An assistant attorney general who worked at the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office from 1994 to 2012, she regularly tackled some of the county's worst crimes. At one point, she was Lindquist's supervisor. After he became prosecutor in 2009, he appointed her as chief criminal deputy. She campaigned for Lindquist in 2010 during his first run for the office." "I was very supportive of him when he was appointed to that position and his first run in 2010," she said. "What's changed is I've had a chance to watch his track record. I'm running because Pierce County deserves something better."