



# Oregon District Attorneys

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# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

### Article VII, Section 17:

There shall be elected by districts...a sufficient number of prosecuting attorneys, who shall be the law officers of the State, and of the counties within their respective districts, and shall perform such duties pertaining to the administration of Law, and general police as the Legislative Assembly may direct.

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

*The mission of the Oregon district attorney is to uphold the United States Constitution and the Constitution and laws of the State of Oregon, to preserve the safety of the public, to protect the rights of crime victims, and to pursue justice for all citizens with skill, honor and integrity*

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

- 36 district attorneys representing all 36 counties.
- Offices vary from 1 employee (the DA) to hundreds of employees.
- Non-partisan elected office.
- DA's run every four years.
- The elected District Attorneys are state officers, but the individual DA offices are funded by the counties.
- The DA is generally considered part of the county leadership.

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

- Core functions include:
  - Prosecution of all felony crimes;
  - Prosecution of most misdemeanor crimes;
  - Juvenile dependency and delinquency;
  - Child support enforcement in non-public assistance cases;
  - Crime victims assistance;
  - Public records review.

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

## Criminal justice process

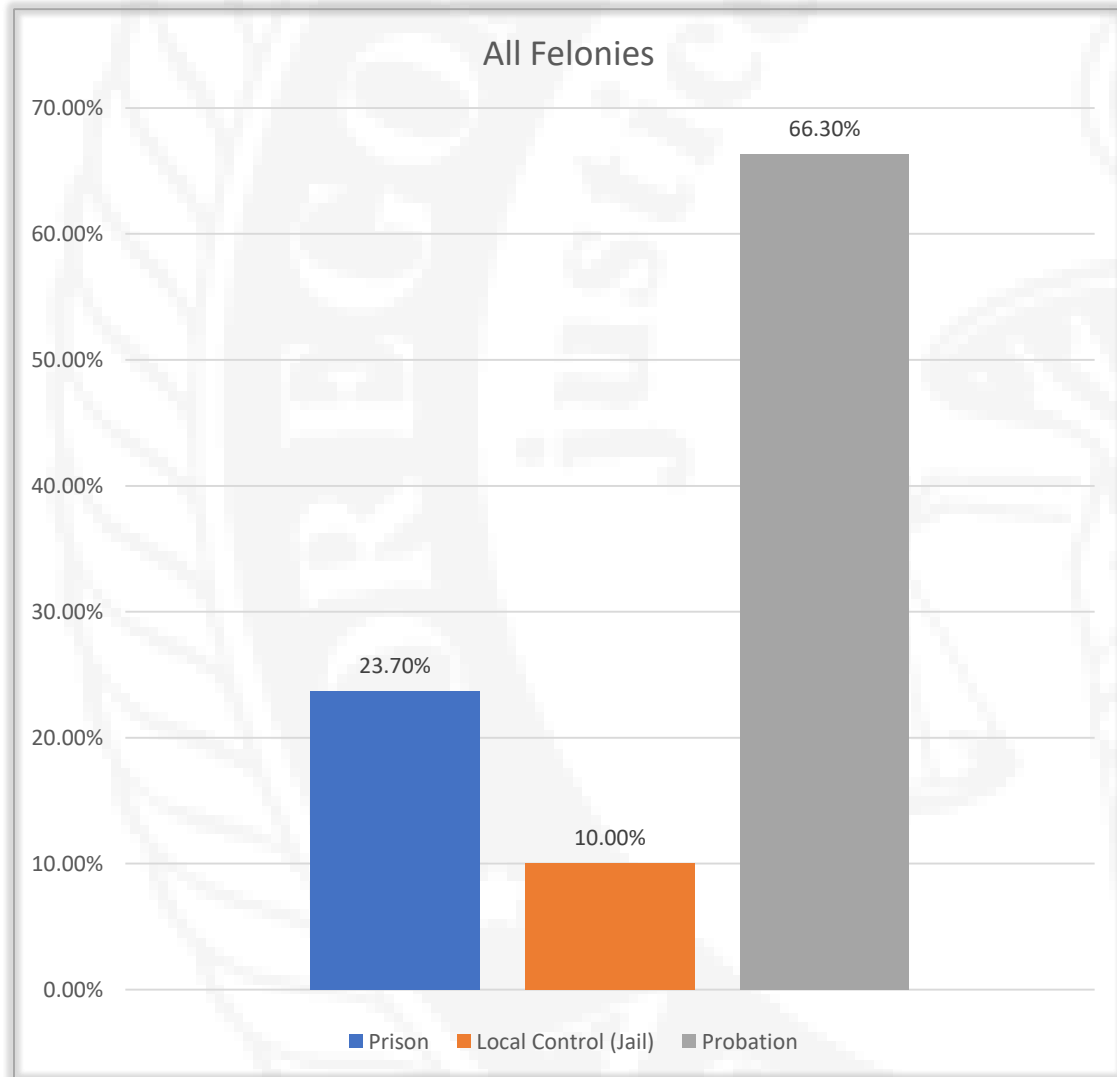
1. Police report submitted by law enforcement agency;
2. Reviewed by DA/DDA to determine if evidence of crime(s);
3. If misdemeanor, charging document prepared and case proceeds;
4. If felony, matter is presented to a grand jury, which makes the charging decision;
5. If indicted, suspect is arraigned and an attorney is appointed or retained;

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

## Criminal justice process

6. Most courts provide 30-45 days for plea discussions;
7. If no plea, case set for trial;
8. District attorney represents the state, vast majority of defendants receive public defense;
9. Trials can be either to a judge or a jury;
10. Decision is made on guilt or innocence;
11. In cases of guilt, typically goes to a sentencing hearing.
12. If the case is appealed, it is handled by the AG's office.

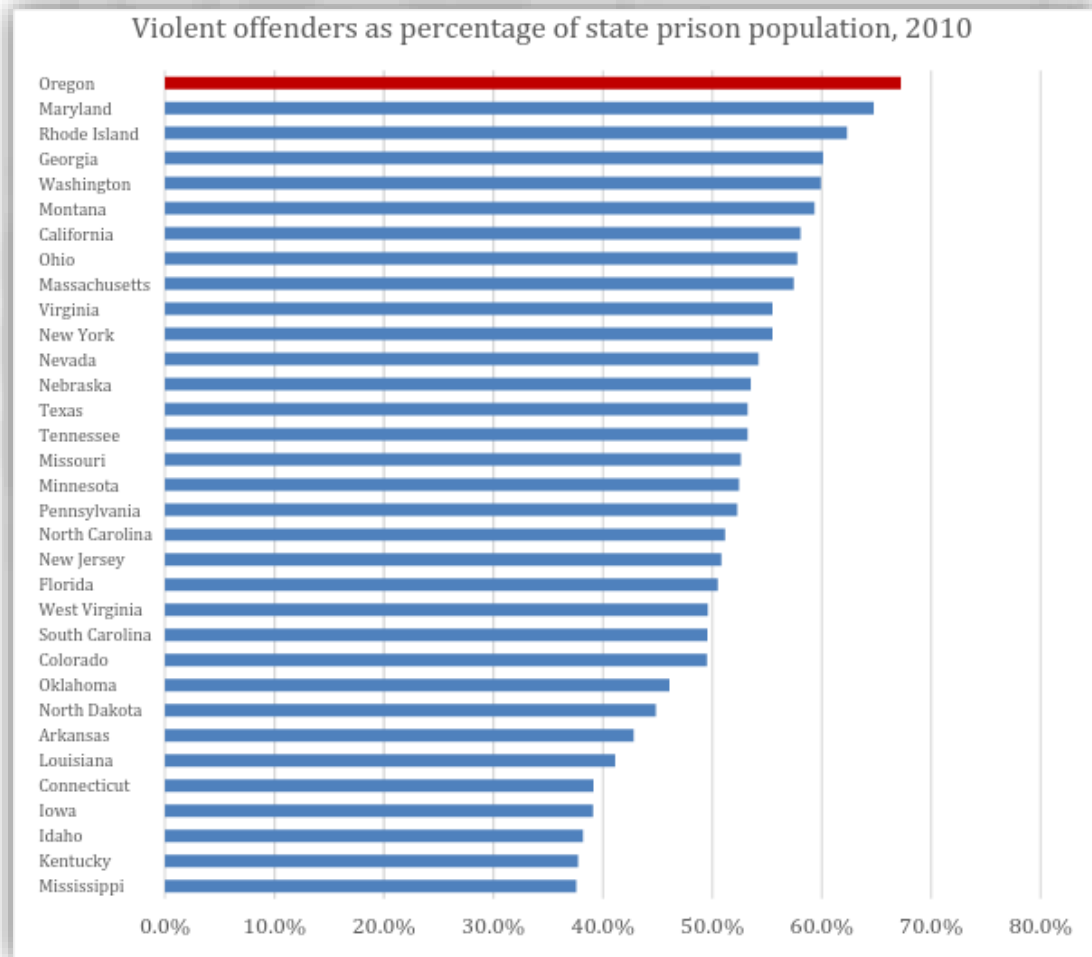
# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys



- Only 24% of all felons go to prison;
- Most are on probation and a handful are in local jails.



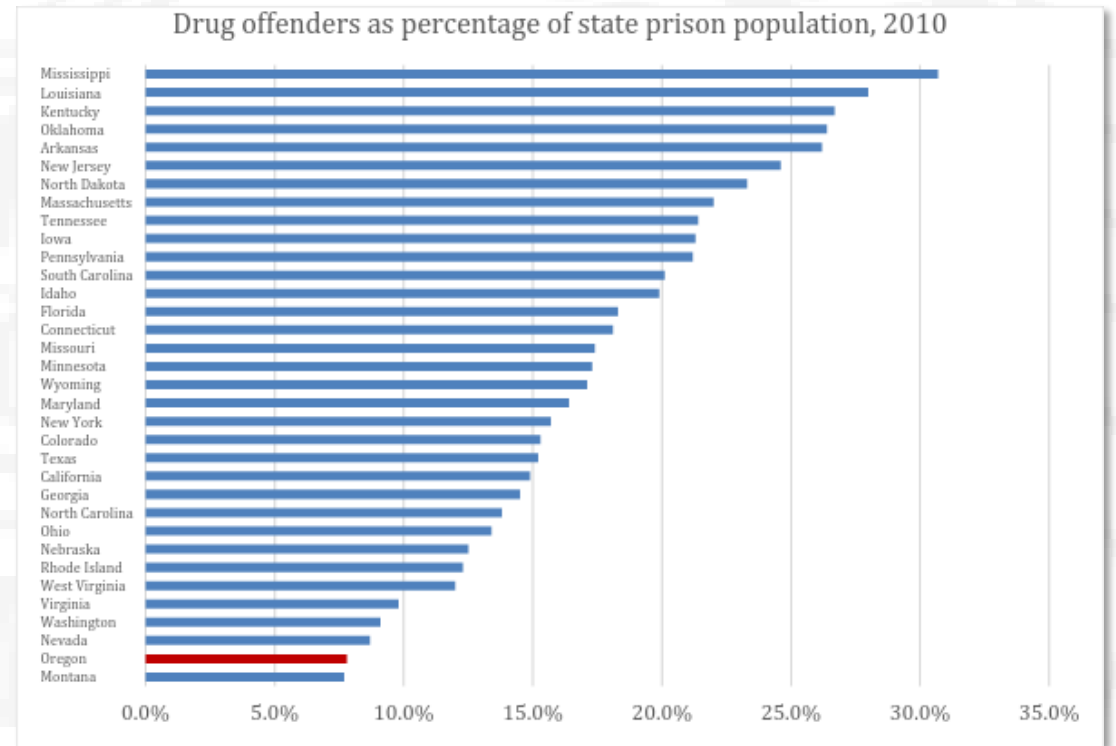
# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys



- Oregon's district attorneys place their highest priority on cases involving violence.
- Oregon leads the nation in the percentage of offenders incarcerated for violent crimes.

# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

- As a result, Oregon is among the states with the lowest percentage of drug offenders in prison.



# Overview of Oregon's District Attorneys

## Oregon District Attorneys Association

- Private non-profit association supported by members dues;
- Centralized training for deputy district attorneys, child abuse case workers, child support specialists, victims advocates and others;
- Advocacy on criminal justice issues;
- Coordination between law enforcement partners and state and local agencies;
- Identify and pursue grant opportunities related to criminal justice matters;
- One of the smallest prosecutor associations in the nation.