



## Nathan Vasquez, Multnomah County District Attorney

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1200 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 5200, Portland, OR 97204-1193  
P: (503) 988-3162 | F: (503) 988-3643 | [www.mcda.us](http://www.mcda.us)

**To:** Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council  
**From:** Nathan Vasquez, District Attorney  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Subject:** FY 2027 Adopted Budget – Program Impacts and Budget Notes

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The FY 2027 Adopted budget for the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) cuts approximately \$3.5 million and 19.00 FTE from the current service level, with \$2.0 million and 10.00 FTE coming from the General Fund and \$1.5 million and 9.00 FTE coming from Other Funds.

As part of budget adoption, the Board of County Commissioners restored \$0.7 million in amendments to fund the Civil Commitment Deputy District Attorney (\$0.2 million) and limited capacity to continue Strategic Prosecution activities (\$0.5 million). It also passed two budget notes that will involve engagement and/or action items from MCDA.

### Notable Program Impacts

- **Strategic Prosecution Unit:**

- **MCDA Access Attorney Program – \$1.0 million and 3.00 FTE –** This reduction eliminates the MCDA Access Attorney Program, including the East County Deputy District Attorney (DDA) 3, the Central DDA 3, and their supervising DDA 4. These positions provided neighborhood-based prosecution, allowing attorneys to work directly with law enforcement, businesses, and community members on local crime and livability concerns. East County and Central neighborhoods experience disproportionately high rates of crime. With this reduction, MCDA no longer has dedicated prosecutorial capacity assigned to that work. The office's ability to engage proactively with communities and law enforcement on emerging issues will be reduced, with the greatest impact likely felt in historically underserved neighborhoods and by small businesses affected by crime.
- **Organized Retail & Auto Theft Task Forces - \$0.9 million and 5.00 FTE –** The City of Portland and Multnomah County ended their respective contributions to the joint City/County Organized Retail Theft and Auto Theft Task Forces, ending a partnership that had been funded by both agencies on

one-time-only basis from FY 2024 through FY 2026. The partnership funded 5.00 FTE across the Investigations Unit and Strategic Prosecution Unit.

Two developments will sustain part of this work in FY 2027:

- 1.00 FTE DDA 3 and 1.00 DA Investigator focused on organized retail theft will continue, funded by a state grant.
- The Board separately approved one-time-only funding to continue 1.00 FTE DDA 3 and 1.00 FTE DA Investigator for general strategic prosecution work, addressing part of the gap left by the task forces ending.

At this lower staffing level, MCDA will prioritize sustaining existing partnerships and directing resources toward the highest-impact opportunities within available staffing, but, overall, Strategic Prosecution Unit activities will be significantly reduced in FY 2027 relative to prior years.

- **Transit-focused Activities (TriMet) - \$0.8 million and 4.00 FTE** – TriMet has ended funding for four of the six positions supported under its Neighborhood-Based Prosecution Project agreement: 2.00 DA Investigators, 1.00 Victim Advocate, and 1.00 Legal Assistant 2. These positions investigated and prepared transit-related cases for prosecution, coordinated with TriMet Safety and Security and the Transit Police Division, conducted follow-up investigations to free up uniformed transit officers for patrol, reviewed the heavy amounts of video that accompany transit cases, and provided trauma-informed victim support and case preparation specific to the transit system. The agreement's two attorney positions — 1.00 Felony DDA 3 and 1.00 Misdemeanor DDA 2 — will continue focused prosecution of transit-related cases, but without the dedicated investigative, advocacy, and legal assistant support.
- **Justice Integrity Unit - \$0.4 million and 3.00 FTE** – The Justice Integrity Unit loses 1.00 DDA 3, funded through the General Fund, and 2.00 FTE legal administrative staff, funded through an expiring expungement grant. The DDA supports work beyond core prosecution, including SB 819 conviction set-aside petitions, clemency applications, and expungement and warrant clinics. The administrative positions process expungement motions, keeping expungement backlogs and case resolution times down. Together, these cuts will slow review of expungement and clemency requests and reduce the unit's community-based work — delays that fall hardest on people trying to clear convictions to access housing and employment.

- **Property & Narcotics Unit - \$0.2 million and 1.00 FTE** – This reduction eliminates 1.00 DDA 2, requiring redistribution of approximately 120 active felony cases among remaining deputies and increasing individual caseloads. MCDA prioritized preserving capacity in units handling the most complex person-crime prosecutions, but any reduction creates workload pressure across the office. With less time for thorough case preparation, the unit's ability to pursue individualized resolutions — including prison diversion and connecting defendants to underlying-cause resources — will decline, increasing reliance on default statutory outcomes and, ultimately, incarceration.

### **Budget Notes**

- **Strategic Prosecution** – The Board has requested MCDA to provide quarterly updates to the Board of County Commissioners and the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council on strategic prosecution activities, emerging crime trends, and cross-agency coordination, including outcomes on high-impact offenses such as auto theft, burglary, and robbery. The reporting is intended to support transparency and keep strategic prosecution efforts responsive to changing crime trends, complementing LPSCC's existing data work. MCDA anticipates reported program activities to be limited considering the lower funding level provided for this work in FY 2027.
- **Restorative Justice** – The Board has directed exploration of community-based restorative justice programs countywide, to be led by a workgroup convened by the Department of Community Justice and including representatives from MCDA, City police, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, victims, advocates, and community partners. The workgroup will recommend an implementation plan and estimated utilization and population for an effective restorative justice program, with recommendations due to the Board by November 15, 2026. MCDA is reevaluating participation and available organizational capacity as part of this process.