



**Imperial Beach  
Democratic Club**  
imperialbeachdemocrats.com

Imperial Beach Democratic Club  
2022 San Diego County Sheriff Candidate Consideration Survey

General Information

(please use bold blue font when filling out the questionnaire)

Candidate: **Kelly Martinez**

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Campaign Manager: **Jen Tierney**

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Please provide any website or social media information here:

Website: **<https://kellymartineforsheriff.com>**

Facebook: \_\_\_\_\_

Twitter: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) Have you been registered OTHER than a Democrat?  YES  NO
- 2.) How long have you been registered as a Democrat? **1-year**
- 3.) How long have you been a resident of the district? **Lifetime San Diegan**
- 4.) Have you run for or been elected to public office previously?  
 YES  NO

If "YES", what office did you run for, or previously hold?

5.) Please share how much money your campaign has raised to date, and how much you expect to raise.

6.) Please list your endorsements (or attach the list on a separate page).

**Congressman Juan Vargas, Senate Pro-Tem Toni Atkins, Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, Chairman Nathan Fletcher, Vice Chair Nora Vargas, Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Mayor Todd Gloria, Mayor Mary Salas, Retired Senator Christine Kehoe, The Deputy Sheriff's Association**

### Goals, Issues & Policy Objectives

1.) Why are you running for office?

**I believe the Sheriff of San Diego County is critical to public safety. I have been with the Sheriff's Department for more than 3 decades. I have worked my way through the ranks, and I am currently the Undersheriff. I run the day to day operations of the department. I am the highest-ranking woman ever to achieve this rank and would be the first woman in San Diego's' history to be Sheriff, if elected. Aside from that my experience makes me the most qualified candidate in the race. The Sheriff's Department is undergoing tremendous change, culturally and with our responsibilities and expectations. It is vital that someone with my experience and the trust of the rank and file members lead us through this change. I have the support and working relationships with the Board of Supervisors and that will be crucial to achieving real-sustained change in law enforcement in the region and as a department. There is nothing more important to me than safe communities and fair and equitable policing for every resident.**

2.) Why are you seeking endorsement from the Imperial Beach Democratic Club?

**The Sheriff's Department is responsible for public safety services in Imperial Beach. Imperial Beach has become a model of how to build safe communities that bring value to neighborhoods and residents. I would be proud to be endorsed by the Imperial Beach Democratic Club.**

3.) List your top three policy agenda goals for your campaign:

**Health Care in the Jails: I am already working to increase the quality of health care in the jails. This will be achieved by hiring more medical and mental health care workers, adding mental health clinicians at intake, creating a primary care model in the facilities and continuum of care for individuals in-custody, that includes addiction treatment.**

**Hiring and Retention of high-quality employees: To accomplish my goals and priorities, we must hire and retain high-quality employees. There is a national hiring crisis in every industry right now. That is true of law enforcement and nursing. We are finding ways to recruit for these classifications that include broader outreach, incentives, and competitive work environments.**

**Alternatives to custody and non-law enforcement response to quality of life issues: Law enforcement has become the catch all response to every societal problem. Alternatives to law enforcement response will require more community-based alternatives. I have been working with the Board of Supervisors, Behavioral Health and Health and Human Services to develop data and evidence-based analysis of where, how and what services can replace this approach.**

4.) Imperial Beach is ever increasingly under greater threat of sea level rise, high-tide flooding, coastal erosion, and higher storm surge.

a) Do you believe the science that says climate change is real?

YES [ ] NO [ ] Requires further explanation:

b) Do you believe that climate change can be mitigated or reversed?

YES [ ] NO [ ] Requires further explanation:

c) If elected, how do you think the Sheriff's office can contribute to sustainability and climate resilience?

**Yes. We are already working on green approaches to the way we do business. This year, I assigned a lieutenant to sustainability and looking at innovative ways that we can approach reducing our carbon footprint. We have increased hybrid and electric cars in our fleet. We have charging stations at our headquarters and other facilities; we compost at the jails. We use solar power at many of our facilities. We are reducing business cards and recruiting materials, using QR and RFID technology. We have reduced paper products use. We are going to a cloud-based computer aided dispatch system which will allow us to dispatch at locations that are closer to employee's homes, reducing their time in cars and on the roads. We have moved some of our work units to teleworking to further reduce carbon footprint.**

5.) Describe your involvement in the community.

**I volunteer for meals on wheels, delivering meals to downtown residents and on Imperial Avenue. I volunteer with the San Diego Foodbank. I believe food insecurity is an important issue and volunteers are needed to help with these efforts. My job requires long**

days so, my availability to volunteer is impacted by that but, I give money to several charities, including Second Chance.

6.) What do you think the relationship between ICE and the Sheriff's department should be?

**Local and State law enforcement should not be involved in federal immigration efforts. It impacts immigrant communities and instills distrust between law enforcement and victims/witnesses who need our help. Enforcing cross border violence, bi-national organized crime, human and drug smuggling, requires cooperation between law enforcement agencies. To safeguard victims and the community, it is necessary for the sheriff's Department and federal law enforcement to work together but, the work must be specific to state law violations and not involve any immigration enforcement.**

7.) Inmate mortality rates in San Diego County jails are among the highest in the State of California. Why do you think this is and what would you do to change this trajectory?

**We need to make changes. Staffing medical and mental health care professionals is the highest priority. We must add mental health clinicians at intake, we must have substantive medical and mental health care exams that are timely. We must implement recommendations of audits. We need to increase training and clinical recommendations. I am working on all these things.**

8.) Data shows that between fiscal years 2019 and 2021, the Sheriff's contract grew by 14 percent while Imperial Beach City revenues only grew by 4.5 percent. In order to fully fund law enforcement, Imperial Beach has had to cut back on community services and even decrease the Fire Department's budget. What are your thoughts on this?

**I will bring the new contract cities contract proposal to the Board of Supervisors in January for approval. I cannot discuss it before it is brought before the board but, I support cities being able to use vital tax dollars to improve community services. Parks and high-quality roads and other services contribute to safer communities. Those improvements reduce the need for law enforcement. It is a win-win for cities to use their tax dollars for community needs.**

Signed:



Date:

12/1/21