

August 9, 2024 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact:

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## BREAKING NEWS - OZAUKEE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY BEN LINDSAY AND DODGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANDREA WILL ENDORSE Depuy District Attorney Mike Thurston for Waukesha County District Attorney

Aggressive, conservative District Attorneys Andrea Will (Dodge County) and Ben Lindsay (Ozaukee County) both endorse Deputy District Attorney Mike Thurston for Waukesha County District Attorney. District Attorney Lindsay worked closely with DDA Thurston in Milwaukee County, and actually took over his felony domestic violence caseload when DDA Thurston was promoted to Milwaukee's Sensitive Crimes Unit in December of 2014. District Attorney Lindsay is personally familiar with how dysfunctional the Milwaukee County Courthouse processes could be; yet, he was also aware that DDA Thurston tried nearly 30 jury trials during his two years in Milwaukee County.

District Attorney Will worked closely with both DDA Boese and DDA Thurston. Because of her extensive knowledge of both candidates, she is in a unique position to evaluate which candidate has the superior experience and leadership abilities for the job. We are humbled by their words and their shared support. We are excited at this opportunity to collaborate and lead with these fellow conservative, crime fighting colleagues across Southeast Wisconsin.

## **Dodge County District Attorney Andrea Will's Endorsement:**

I worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Waukesha County from 2008 through 2023, when I accepted the appointment of Dodge County District Attorney. I have worked with both candidates when they were Assistant District Attorneys and when they became Deputy District Attorneys. I have known Deputy District Attorney Mike Thurston since 2015, when he joined the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office.

While working together as colleagues, I respected Mike's aggressive approach to trials and the compassion that he had for victims. When he became a Deputy District Attorney, I was able to observe his leadership skills. He is a leader who inspires those around him to do better. He mentors young attorneys and teaches them to be strong trial attorneys.

Mike was also able to assist in recruiting and retaining very experienced attorneys. Mike trusts the experienced attorneys that he supervised to exercise their own discretion, while encouraging them to be tough on crime.

Mike understands the importance of work life balance and the challenges of being a working parent. It is this combination of leadership qualities that makes him the superior candidate in the election for Waukesha County District Attorney. As the Dodge County District Attorney, I know first hand the impact that the shortage of prosecutors can have on a District Attorney's Office. I also have seen the impact that an unstable office can have on law enforcement and victims of crime. This is why I am endorsing Mike Thurston for Waukesha County District Attorney and I would encourage the voters of Waukesha County to vote for Mike Thurston on August 13, 2024.

Sincerely, Andrea M Will Dodge County District Attorney<sup>1</sup>

## Ozaukee County District Attorney Ben Lindsay's Endorsement:

Mike Thurston has devoted his entire career to fighting for crime victims. He is a tough, diligent and fair prosecutor who effectively prosecutes hard cases to obtain the best possible outcome for victims and the community.

Mike has also been a leader for prosecutors around the State. His work on the bail constitutional amendment has helped keep violent criminals in jail instead of being released back into our communities. I'm proud to support him for Waukesha County District Attorney.

Sincerely,

Ben Lindsay
Ozaukee County District Attorney<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Waukesha County District Attorney Sue Opper had this to say about newly appointed Dodge County District Attorney Andrea Will: "Andrea Will is an excellent choice to take over the leadership of the Dodge County District Attorney's Office. She has dedicated her entire legal career to public safety and seeking justice for crime victims. She has the judgment, dedication, and experience needed and I have every confidence she will serve the people of Dodge County well." February 1, 2023 press release, Office of the Governor Tony Evers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> According to an Ozaukee County News Graphic article from March 26, 2024, DA Ben Lindsay was a judicial intern for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser, worked for State Senator Alberta Darling during college, and served in the George W. Bush Administration from 2006 to 2008.