

# Attorney General Candidate Larkin Proposes Crime Relief Support for Local Prosecutors

Attorneys in the Washington's Attorney General's Office should be on the front lines supporting local police, prosecutors and judges across Washington State, instead of working on 55 lawsuits against the federal government and advocating favored causes. Attorney General candidate Matt Larkin would work with local prosecutors on legislation to ease the caseload of county and city prosecutors by enabling the Attorney General's Criminal Justice Division to help prosecute offenders in hard hit areas of Washington State.

“While Bob Ferguson is focused on the wrong Washington, crime in Washington State is growing because local prosecutors are stretched too thin,” said former prosecutor and candidate for Washington Attorney General Matt Larkin.

Since Bob Ferguson became Attorney General in 2012, Washington's Attorney General's Office has grown to become the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the U.S. with more than 1,000 employees. Yet data collected by the FBI (2013-2018) in the greater Seattle area alone reveals a 21.7% increase in violent crime, including a 67.9% increase in murder/non-negligent manslaughter, 38.6% increase in aggravated assault, 29.7% increase in aggravated assault, and 38.6% increase in rape.

As Washington Attorney General Larkin proposes:

1. Redirect resources from the Attorney General's Criminal Justice Division to support local law enforcement and prosecutors with trained state prosecutors to help enforce the law and make our communities safer.
2. The law currently allows the Attorney General to help prosecute county cases only at the request of county prosecutors and/or the Governor, primarily for large cases. Larkin would work with prosecutors on legislation to allow cities to also petition for help under existing state law (RCW 43.10.232(1)).

“Changing the law will enable the Attorney General to ease the caseload of local prosecutors, speed up trials, and detain those who violate the law,” he said. “Washington State would join a majority of states where the Attorney General has the discretion to support local criminal prosecutions from capital offenses to shoplifting, gangs and repeat offenders.”

As an example, Larkin cited Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes who [told the Seattle Times](#) that he welcomes developing strategies to consider all cases for filing, and said it would take an

additional \$2 million per year to hire enough prosecutors and staff. “These important reforms would give prosecutors and law enforcement the support they desperately need,” Larkin said.

Larkin would refocus resources from the Attorney General’s Office from federal lawsuits and favored causes to help local prosecutors enforce the law and make our communities safer. The revised state law would allow the Attorney General to step in and help prosecute crimes to make this Washington safer. Bob Ferguson’s focus is on his political aspirations and the wrong Washington.

Republican Matt Larkin announced his candidacy to become Washington State’s 19th Attorney General in December. Matt is a veteran attorney specializing in Litigation and Dispute Resolution -- licensed to practice law in Washington and Oregon. He has worked in private practice and as a prosecutor. He is now chief counsel for Romac Industries where he works with municipalities worldwide to provide piping products for clean water. He lives in Woodinville with his wife, Shelly, and four children. Matt is engaged with his community including charities supporting our first responders, the homeless and victims of domestic violence. <https://www.mattlarkinforag.com/>