

Elect Tonya Duffy for Barnes County State's Attorney

1140 3rd Street Southeast, Valley City, ND 58072

Phone: 701-840-8046

Email: tonya_lorenz@yahoo.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hello! Just thought I would introduce myself. I'm Tonya Duffy, and I am running to be your State's Attorney this November. I'm currently the elected State's Attorney in LaMoure County, and have served in this position since 2014. Prior to being elected in LaMoure County, I was the Assistant State's Attorney in Barnes County for a year.

I'm married to Benjamin Duffy and we have 3 kids, ages 13, 11, and 2. It's safe to say they keep us more than busy. Beyond that, we enjoy traveling, being outside and spending time at the lake. I'm originally from Valley City, and was raised there with my dad, Dick Lorenz. We spent our weekends in Dazey, with our mom, Sherry Lorenz. My brother, Ryan Lorenz, is a Physical Therapist in Valley City. My sister, Kierstin Lorenz, is in dental school in Minneapolis. I graduated from Valley City High School in 2004, and then from Valley City State University in 2008. I went to law school at the UND School of Law, and graduated from there in 2012.

Over the last 3+ years of this term, I've realized several things. First, I thoroughly enjoy being a State's Attorney. It's a humbling experience to be entrusted to pursue justice as the State's Attorney, through a vote of the people.

Next, I've realized this job can be a tough one. I was talking to an individual a few months back about the election, and through the course of this conversation, he mentioned that I must enjoy torturing myself. Although I can understand why one would have that perception, I actually really enjoy my job. Cases are ever changing, the law is ever evolving, and the tools for solutions are also continuously varying. I enjoy seeking justice each day when I come to work because it's a lot more than just putting people in jail and expecting perfection when that person is released. People are human; humans aren't perfect. I've also found that treating people both respectfully, as well as equally under the law, rather than based on who they are or what their last name is, is vital to keeping the justice system what it's meant to be: as fair and just as possible. This has not been a popular approach, but it's one that I stand firmly behind.

Our justice system, I will always be the first to say, is far from perfect. I strive to seek justice, in conjunction with finding solutions that fit the crime that has occurred. Sometimes justice means that a person needs to go to jail or prison; however, more often than not, sometimes justice means a myriad of other things... maybe this person needs to seek counseling for an addiction, or for an anger issue, or for trauma that they experienced years back and never had the opportunity to deal with. The justice system I have found, is very capable of being creative in the process of seeking justice, and I've also found that the best solutions are often found when thinking creatively instead of just doing what has always been done. Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. It's time to stop the insanity and try

something new. I've been doing that over the course of this last term, and although it's not always successful, I find that it is absolutely worth it, in each and every case.

Finally, I've realized that in smaller counties, potential treatment solutions available to people are sometimes very limited. When the solutions or programs involved in a case involve travel, that can open up another burden to someone who may already be in a tough situation. The drug epidemic has hit Barnes County, and it's hit it in full force. As a result of this, I'd like to develop a system of programs that make treatment solutions available closer to home. Treatment for addiction shouldn't be a possibility that's only available to people in larger cities; it should be available to rural residents, and residents of smaller counties as well, without the requirement of extensive travel to obtain it. I'd like to change that and am looking forward to the implementation of this in the future.

I appreciate the support I've received thus far and would appreciate your vote this election. Thank you.

Tonya Duffy