



Rusty Anchor Marina Club
Campaign Headquarters, 2nd Floor

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BARBALUNGA FOR SHERIFF

Press Release: 7/11/22

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Justice that Works

BERKSHIRE COUNTY—"Jails are not warehouses," says Alf Barbalunga. "They are an opportunity to change the course of people's lives for the better."

Barbalunga has spent his entire career rebuilding lives. He's been a chief probation officer with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court Probation Service since 2004. He currently supervises the Southern Berkshire District, which is the second-largest district jurisdiction along the Connecticut and New York state borders.

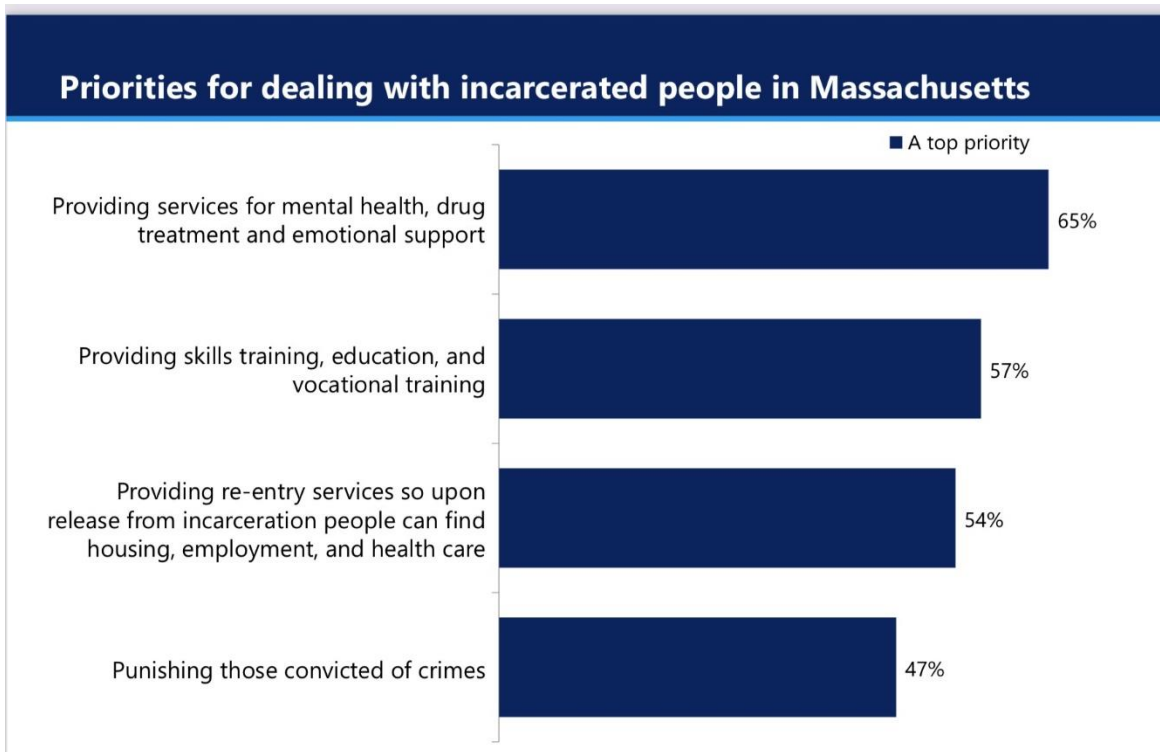
"The warehouse mentality says that jails are only holding places for inmates, who are primarily to be punished. This is the legacy of the Berkshire House of Correction for the past 12 years."

But according to Barbalunga, this is not what the public wants. He points to a survey conducted with Massachusetts voters six months ago by Beacon Research, which showed the top priorities for dealing with incarcerated people in the Commonwealth are providing services for mental health, drug treatment, and emotional support (65% of voters) and providing services for skills training, education, and vocational training:



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Source: *Know Your Sheriff Campaign*, Beacon Research, Jan. 2022.

“The lowest priority, at 47%, was punishing those convicted of crimes,” Barbalunga notes. “The public understands that people inside jails are coming back out in the short-term, and our job in Corrections is to set the stage for successful re-integration. We don’t want to see these people coming back to this address.” Before becoming a chief Probation officer, Barbalunga was an acting chief, an officer-in-charge, a juvenile probation officer, an adult probation officer, and a courthouse intern. He began his career in public safety in 1991 as a correctional officer and deputy sheriff with the Berkshire County Sheriff’s Department in Pittsfield. “Skills training, drug treatment, and behavioral health services are what my career has been all about,” Barbalunga said. “The current Sheriff dismissed the value of these concepts for years. Berkshire County deserves a Justice system that works.”



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Barbalunga says the same survey from January of 2022 showed that when voters were asked “*Who is the Sheriff of your County?*” only 10% of the people in Berkshire County knew the correct answer. “We’re going to raise the visibility of the Sheriff’s office,” Barbalunga said. “We’re going to be more accountable and transparent to voters. We’re going to show that “Justice Works,” and that we are not just warehousing people until their release date.

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