



MENDOCINO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

C. DAVID EYSTER • DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SCOTT MCMENOMEY • ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JAMES SCHNITZIUS • CHIEF DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR

COURTHOUSE ► tel. 707.463.4211 • fax 707.463-4687 • Post Office Box 1000 • Ukiah, CA 95482
FORT BRAGG JUSTICE CENTER ► tel. 707.964-5624 • fax 707.961-2429 • 700 S. Franklin St. • Fort Bragg, CA 95437

DATE: June 12, 2026

TO: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James Schnitzius
Chief DA Investigator 

RE: Request to Maintain DA Investigator Status Quo

The District Attorney is prepared to move forward with filling a critical vacancy in the Bureau of Investigations Unit. The District Attorney Investigator positions are essential to the DA meeting his public safety responsibilities and obligations. *This request is not to spend more money, seek expanded staffing, or create a new position.* Instead, this request is simply to preserve the status quo and current operational capacity.

Vacancies, position deletions, and changes in state law have sharply increased the office's public safety obligations while simultaneously reducing available investigative resources. Without maintaining the status quo of current staffing levels, the office's ability to meet legally required responsibilities -- and to protect local communities -- may become close to impossible.

Law, Scope and Policy: DA Investigators are responsible for conducting comprehensive and complex criminal and civil investigations in support of the prosecution of cases within Mendocino County. Specialized DA investigations mandated by law include but are not limited to possible *Brown Act* violations, child abductions, and possible voter/election fraud.

In addition to these responsibilities, DA investigators may, at the discretion of the DA, be tasked with conducting independent investigations involving the use of force by law enforcement personnel.

The duties performed by District Attorney Investigators have a direct and substantial impact on the safety and well-being of victims, witnesses, and all Mendocino County residents. The District Attorney is mandated to rely on a highly trained and adequately staffed investigative unit to effectively fulfill prosecutorial and public safety functions.

The elimination of the DA Investigator position within the Investigations Unit directly and adversely impacts public safety. For the reasons outlined above, the District Attorney Investigator position (formerly Position No. 4661) needs to be reinstated in the DA's position table to allow for the immediate recruitment to fill this essential role.