

# Mendocino County District Attorney Election History

Year	Incumbent	Challenger	Challenger	Challenger	Challenger	Unopposed	Elected
2022							
Primary	Eyster					☒	C. David Eyster
2018							
Primary	Eyster					☒	C. David Eyster
2014							
Primary	Eyster					☒	C. David Eyster
2010	Lintott	Eyster	Finnegan				
General	46.1	53.5					C. David Eyster
Primary	37.9	32.6	29.2				
2006	Vroman	Lintott	Sawicki	Faulder	Schlosser		
Special	x	46.1		40.23	13.48		Meredith J. Lintott
General	x	x					Results Sealed
Primary	36.1	42.0	21.8				
2002	Vroman	Massini	Kubanis				
Primary	52.1	30.5	17.3				Norman L. Vroman
1998	Massini	Vroman	Kubanis				
General	48.2	51.7					Norman L. Vroman
Primary	44.1	30.5	25.1				
1994							
Primary	Massini					☒	Susan B. Massini

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1990							
Primary	Massini					☒	Susan B. Massini
1986	Rackauckas	Massini	Kubanis				
Primary	29.0	50.9	19.9				Susan B. Massini
1982		Rackauckas	McClure	Kubanis			
General		53.4	46.6				Vivian L. Rackauckas
Primary		32.9	38.0	29.0			
1978	James	Allen					
Primary	44.5	55.5					Joseph D. Allen
1974							
Primary	James					☒	Duncan M. James
1970							
Primary	James					☒	Duncan M. James
1968							
Appointed	James					⊙	Duncan M. James
1966							
Primary		Broaddus				☒	Arthur B. Broaddus
1962							
Primary		Cleland				☒	Thomas F. Cleland

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1960							
Appointed		Petersen				⊙	Frank S. Petersen
1954		Orchard	Cleland				
Primary		64.2	35.7				Merle P. Orchard <sup>1</sup>
1950							
Primary	Busch					☒	James E. Busch
1946							
Primary	Busch					☒	James E. Busch
1942							
Primary	Busch					☒	James E. Busch

<sup>1</sup> The Ukiah Daily Journal, Friday, December 11, 1992: "A Memorial Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m., at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 640 S. Orchard St., for former Mendocino County District Attorney Merle P. Orchard. Mr. Orchard, 72, who served two terms as district attorney between 1954 and 1960, died at his home in Ukiah Wednesday, Dec. 9, after a lengthy illness. Mr. Orchard was a native of Lake Oswego, Ore., but grew up in Twin Falls, Idaho, and while attending Brigham Young University entered the United States Army before Pearl Harbor. He had attempted to join the Lincoln Brigade in Spain, but was rejected as too young at the age of 17. Mr. Orchard served from 1941-45 in World War II and rose from private to lieutenant, and continued as a member of the Army Reserve, before resigning as a captain when the press of his law business became too heavy. A graduate of the Stanford University Law School, with the first class of WWII vets, Mr. Orchard joined the staff of Ukiah attorney and later Senator Jim Busch, and in 1954 won a close election against the late Tom Cleland to become Mendocino County District Attorney and County Counsel. He later helped set up the Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation District. He was recognized by his colleagues as an expert in water law. In 1960 he resigned to enter private practice, but later returned to governmental service as acting City Attorney for Willits and Ukiah. A skilled boxer in college, Mr. Orchard was interested in sports and music, serving as South Ukiah Little League president, in addition to being president of the Mendocino Bar Association, Ukiah Rotary, serving as chairman of Ukiah Community Congress, the Ukiah Unified District Master Plan Committee, and working to help form not only water districts but the Mendocino-Lake Community College District. He also was a long-time leader in Ukiah and Mendocino County Democratic circles, and recently was honored with a California Senate Resolution authored by Sen. Barry Keen and Assemblyman Dan Hauser. He is survived by Ruth, his wife of over 40 years; daughters Mrs. Anne Hurley, Berkeley, and Janet Orchard, Oakland; son David Orchard, Houston, Texas, and wife Marie, and their three children, Emily Phillip, and Ellen. Memorial services will be conducted by The Rev. Edgar E. Shippey. Interment will be in Ukiah Cemetery, with services arranged by Eversole Mortuary."

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1938	Busch	Burke	Faraday				
General							James E. Busch <sup>2</sup>
Primary	40.9	34.3	24.7				
1936							
Appointed	Busch					⊙	James E. Busch
1934							
Primary	Gibson					☒	Lilburn I. Gibson
1930							
Primary	Gibson					☒	Lilburn I. Gibson
1926	Hurley	Gibson					
Primary	37.2	62.7					Lilburn I. Gibson
1922	Gibson	Hurley					
Primary	43.6	56.4					James C. Hurley

<sup>2</sup> The Ukiah Daily Journal, Wednesday, November 9, 1938: "Busch Leads W.P. Burke 1000 Votes. Mendocino county confirmed the appointment of James E. Busch as district attorney of the county by returning him to the office by the vote of the people. Two prominent young attorneys, James E. Busch and Wayne P. Burke, contended strongly for the position of district attorney, to which Busch was appointed by the board of supervisors on the resignation of former district attorney Lilburn Gibson. Busch, tied down to the duties of the office but successful in winning two prominent cases in the last lap of the campaign, and Burke, free to make an intensive campaign of the county with substantial political backing, formed one of the most exciting angles of a very intense campaign in the county. Both men belong to well established, old families and have many friends throughout the county who worked for their interests. Busch's majority approximates 1000 votes."

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1921							
Appointed	Gibson					⊙	Lilburn I. Gibson <sup>3</sup>
1918	McCowen						
Primary							Hale McCowen, Jr.
1914		McCowen	Kasch				
Primary							Hale McCowen, Jr. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> The Ukiah Dispatch Democrat, Friday, September 16, 1921, page 1: "NEW APPOINTEE ASSUMES PLACE AS DIST. ATTY. Retiring Official Highly Lauded in Set of Resolutions Adopted by Supervisors. The resignation of Hale McCowen, Jr., as district attorney of Mendocino county was accepted by the board of supervisors last Monday afternoon and Atty. Lilburn Gibson was appointed to the position. While Atty. J.C. Hurley was a candidate for the appointment, he was not placed in nomination and the vote on the first ballot stood four Gibson, Supervisor Frank Reynolds, of Point Arena, casting a complimentary vote for J.W. Kingren, of that city. On the second ballot the vote was made unanimous for Gibson. The new appointee was sworn into office Tuesday after his official bond had been filed. Atty. McCowen will enter the law firm of Thomas & Thomas, and while his friends regret very much to see him resign from the service of the public, nevertheless they realize that he was doing himself an injustice had he retained an office which he had far outgrown. Mr. McCowen is easily one of the most able attorneys in the state, as is proven by his splendid record since he first was elected to the district attorneyship seven years ago. To date, during this, his second term, out of 93 complaints filed by Mr. McCowen, only four have resulted in acquittals, which is surely a splendid record. The new district attorney, like his predecessor, is a Mendocino county boy, and in every measure deserves his good fortune. He was admitted to the bar after hard study and in his six years' practise has made a place that marks him as one of the "comers" among the younger generation of attorneys of the county. That success will continue attend both the retiring district attorney and his successor is the sincere wish of their many friends. The supervisors passed the following resolution of commendation for Mr. McCowen, which will be heartily endorsed by the latter's legion of friends throughout the county: "WHEREAS, Hale McCowen Jr., who has been District Attorney of the County for the past seven years, having tendered his resignation from such office and that resignation having been accepted; and, WHEREAS, throughout that time he has rendered faithful and efficient service to the officers, to the Board of Supervisors and to the people of the county; and WHEREAS, through close association with him, having come to recognize and rely upon his judgment as an advisor and counselor in matters of policy as well as of law, to appreciate his unquestioned honesty and integrity and to know him as a man, and as an official, of honor and ability, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that we witness with profound regret the withdrawal of Mr. McCowen from his official position; that he has the esteem, respect and confidence of the Board and of each of its members; that he carries with him the sincere wishes of the Board for success; that these resolutions be spread at length in the minutes of the Board and that a copy hereof be transmitted to Mr. McCowen."

<sup>4</sup> The Ukiah Dispatch Democrat, Friday, August 28, 1914, page 1: "PRIMARY ELECTION BRINGS MANY STRANGE SURPRISES. Judge White Safe by Decisive Majority. McCowen Wins for District Attorney by About 800. Johnson for Treasurer and Agnew for Recorder Win in Close Fights. Van Dyke, Warren and Porterfield Poll Enormous Votes but Will Likely Have Opposition in Fall Campaign. ... For District Attorney, Hale McCowen, jurnior, has won over Charles Kasch,

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1910							
Primary	Duncan					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Duncan
1906	Duncan	Gonsalves					
Primary	64.3	35.6					Robert Duncan
1902		Duncan	Stingley				
General		51.9	48.0				Robert Duncan <sup>5</sup>
Primary							
1900							
Primary	Poage					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

by a majority estimated at 750. Kasch carried the Ukiah valley, Sanel Valley and Willits precincts, while McCowen won nearly everything on the coast, everything north of Willits, the Anderson Valley section and the Southeastern and southwestern portions of the county.”

<sup>5</sup> The Ukiah Dispatch Democrat, Friday, June 9, 1922, page 6: “The Rousing Campaign of 1902 ... The “Rise” of Robert Duncan, by J.B. Sanford. This might be termed the “rise” of Robert Duncan, of whom the county is very proud. Robert Duncan is a Mendocino county boy. He graduated from Hastings College of the Law and went to Riverside to practice, forming a law partnership with A.A. Caldwell, afterwards state senator. The rush to the gold fields of Alaska came on and Bob was among the crowd that sought fame and riches in the far north. He stayed up there two years and returned to California leaving his gold up there in the ground somewhere. He got back to Ukiah with a copy of the political code in his pocket. He didn’t need any law books in the Klondike. Well, Bob opened up a law office in the Marks building and won his first case and attracted the attention of the lawyers and laymen that attend court. He ran for district attorney against W.G. Poage, the Incumbent of the office, and did some great hustling on the day of the primary, walking over 300 miles (he said) in quest of the elusive voter. He carried Ukiah by a small majority which gave him the nomination. Mendocino county played in luck when Bob Duncan came back from the Klondike. From the moment he took office he showed that he was a district attorney that knew his business and what’s more he knew the law and how to expound it. Without disparaging the efforts of previous district attorneys it is safe to say that Duncan made the best district attorney the county ever had. He is a great lawyer, the greatest in many respects the county has known. He never over tries a case; he quits just as the proper time and never wearies a jury. He had the confidence of the people of Mendocino county to a high degree and could have become judge, but the salary was not sufficient to attract him.”

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1898							
Primary		Poage	Ruddock				W.G. Poage <sup>6</sup>
1896							
1894							

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<sup>6</sup> The Ukiah Republican Press, Friday, September 9, 1898, page 1: “The race between Gus Poage and John Ruddock was won by the former. The latter, however, made a good showing on the coast side.”