



**Latino Democratic Club Questionnaire**  
**November 2019 Candidate Endorsements**

**1.) Why are you running for this position?**

As a Deputy District Attorney, every time I walk into court, I am a representative For the People. The job of a prosecutor is a public trust, and I never forget that. That's why I am running for District Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco. I believe our District Attorney is responsible for protecting all San Franciscans, and I'm ready to do that on day one. For 18 years, I've been a prosecutor in San Francisco and Alameda Counties, and for the Attorney General of the State of California. I've handled thousands of cases in State and Federal courts, from domestic violence to public corruption to police misconduct.

Today, we see on San Francisco's streets that things are not working. I know where the problems are in our D.A.'s Office and our justice system, and how we can fix them. We do not need to accept the false choice between protecting our community and honoring our progressive values. I know we can do both, and my community-centered approach to criminal justice will get us there. I know how to fix the DA's office because I've worked there and experienced first-hand what is and is not working.

I have the most courtroom experience of any candidate for District Attorney. I worked as a prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for over a decade, prosecuting domestic violence cases, protecting consumers, and upholding public integrity by prosecuting police misconduct, fraud, and embezzlement. I also mentored dozens of San Francisco prosecutors, and I am a statewide leader on legal ethics and consumer protection issues. Today, I lead statewide teams of attorneys in complex investigations and prosecutions, including whistleblower cases and large multi-national companies in technology, energy, and pharmaceutical sectors.

I've lived in San Francisco for as long as I've been a public servant. As a San Francisco mother and a person deeply involved in our community, I know we can shape our criminal justice system to be fairer without sacrificing public safety. I have always been a civic-minded person, and never seriously thought about running for public office until recently. "Politics as usual" has done much to undermine people's trust in our government and to keep independent-minded candidates out of elected office. I'm running because we need an experienced, independent District Attorney to protect our community, to rebuild relationships between the Office and law

enforcement partners, and to unconditionally be accountable to only the People of this City, not politicians and outside interest groups.

**2.) What are you going to do for the Latino Community as an elected official?**

I am committed to making San Francisco a more equitable place for everyone, especially people of color and disenfranchised communities. I will:

- Prioritize creating and improving language access resources across our criminal justice system, including more Spanish-speaking and other languages 9-1-1 operators
- Uphold our sanctuary city status so no one, irrespective of immigration status, is afraid to come to law enforcement for help if they fall victim to crime or if they witness crime.
- Commit to hiring talented attorneys of color in the District Attorney's Office to better represent our diverse community in San Francisco.
- Improve public safety in our underserved neighborhoods and communities, many which are severely impacted by property crimes, car break-ins, and crimes stemming from addiction.

**Housing:**

**3.) Can you tell us your position on SB 50 and your reason for that position?**

The District Attorney does not have jurisdiction over this type of legislation. That said, we have a housing crisis in San Francisco and we must do something about it and I support all efforts to provide secure housing for our residents.

**4.) Do you support sustaining the shelter for students and their families at Buena Vista Horace Mann? What should we do to expand this program city wide?**

The District Attorney does not have the authority to expand the Buena Vista Horace Mann program, but I support using city resources where we can to help shelter our housing-insecure families with school age children.

**5.) Should the Affordable Housing Bond be \$500 million or \$1 Billion in the next upcoming San Francisco election? Why do you support that amount over the other?**

The District Attorney does not have the power to pass legislation on housing in San Francisco. However, I believe the Bond should be as large as legally possible and fiscally rational, because we must build more housing to keep families from being priced out of their homes.

**6.) Do you oppose the Monster in the Mission? Do you support the Marvel in the Mission?**

The District Attorney does not have the authority to approve or reject housing proposals in San Francisco. That having been said, I believe that housing people will begin to take pressure off of our streets in terms of many quality of life issues. I support measures to help retain the character and culture of our historic neighborhoods.

### **Education:**

**7.) About 50 non-citizen parents voted for school board in 2018. What can you do to expand the access and security for Immigrant Parent Voting (Prop N 2016) for the 2020 School Board Election?**

The District Attorney does not have the power to introduce or pass legislation regarding elections in San Francisco. I supported Prop N in 2016, and believe it is critical that we protect our Sanctuary City law and stand up to the Trump administration. As District Attorney and daughter of immigrants, I will work every day to let immigrant parents know that we value immigrant voices and will protect documented and undocumented immigrants against outside forces trying to silence them. Given that many non-citizen parents have children in our school system, I think it is important that they have a voice in school matters and hope that the Department of Elections continues to educate this constituency of their right to vote in this area.

**8.) Spanish speakers comprise almost half of English Learners (ELs) in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), yet only 8% were re-classified in the 2015-16 school year. This is only halfway to the goal and outcomes for other English Learners. How can you support bridging this disparity?**

While this topic does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the District Attorney, as the daughter of immigrants who came here speaking little to no English, I am 100% committed to advocating for language resources in San Francisco.

**9.) Latinos went without an elected school board member from 2004 to 2016 (12 years), yet comprise the second largest SFUSD population at 27%. Do you believe district elections for school board elections can bring more equitable representation to latino parents?**

If district elections would bring more equitable representation to our school board, then I absolutely believe that we should have them. I know the challenges of running for office as a minority and striving to represent not just Chinese-Americans, but all Asians, Latinos, and African Americans. When our elected officials do not reflect the people of San Francisco we have a problem that must be fixed.

### **Immigration:**

**10.) Asylum seekers at California border ballooned from 17,284 in fiscal 2017 to 38,269 in fiscal 2018. A backlog has grown to more than 820,000 CA immigration cases, each takes several months to process. San Francisco has done a great job supporting legal defense for asylum seekers. What should San Francisco's role be to provide social services to asylum seekers while awaiting justice?**

While the District Attorney does not have the power to provide social services, the DA can help in other ways. I am committed to upholding our Sanctuary City status in San Francisco so those who are seeking asylum can come without fear of being torn from their families. I also am committed to providing language access services across our criminal justice system (including

9-1-1) to ensure asylum seekers feel safe coming to law enforcement if they need help or are victims of a crime.

**11.) Would you have advocated for a Clean Dream Act that includes TPS recipients?**

Yes. Children brought here as children know the United States as their home, and should have a clear path to citizenship to stay with their families and communities.

**12.) Do you have any plans to advance the rights for undocumented immigrants to receive housing services?**

I will investigate and prosecute criminal conduct of landlords, including those regarding housing bias. If there are other structural barriers in place that prevent undocumented immigrants from receiving housing services, I will advocate to change them.

**Criminal Justice:**

**13.) Are you for or against tasers for use in San Francisco?**

As District Attorney I will work with the SFPD and Police Commission to emphasize de-escalation methods of engagement and non-lethal alternatives to firearms, including tasers. It is the District Attorney's job to hold the police accountable for their actions and reduce officer-involved shootings — to restore the public's trust in the system.

**14.) What is your plan to add supportive services and reduce revisitation?**

I am committed to diverting people out of the criminal justice system, especially those who commit low-level offenses, and providing programs for rehabilitation to prevent re-entry into our criminal justice system. I will:

- Prioritize early intervention for first-time offenses by offering diversions out of the criminal justice system.
- Stop repeat offenses with deterrent sentencing and intensive monitoring on probation.
- Divert misdemeanor cases out of the courtroom when possible to provide effective rehabilitation.
- Ensure San Francisco jobs programs are a part of rehabilitation and available to those who commit minor offenses upon reentry.
- Advocate for reform of correctional facilities that create obstacles to reentry or unfairly isolate or exploit the incarcerated.

**Equity:**

**15.) How would you support cannabis and alcohol parity for the Mission and Excelsior with other San Francisco neighborhoods?**

Cannabis policy would be the province of the Department of Cannabis, but I believe that there should be some policies put in place to provide equity to marginalized communities in this growing industry. The way the DA's Office can lend support is by investigating and filing civil law

enforcement actions against corporate players that are not abiding by rules or regulations promulgated by the City or State to make sure all companies are on equal footing.

**16.) How would you and how have you supported Latinx parity for Commissioners, Elected Officials, and Legislative Staff?**

The San Francisco District Attorney's Office has a proud history of recruiting and retaining a diverse staff. Yet in recent years, women, people of color, and other talented attorneys have left the Office. As District Attorney I will be committed to recruiting and retaining professionals who reflect the diversity of San Francisco, including Latinx, Asian and African American attorneys and staff, including those with secondary language fluency and diverse cultural backgrounds.

**17.) How do you measure the Latinx community receiving equity of San Francisco resources? How would you ally to help the Latinx receive equity?**

There are not enough language access resources in our city, and as District Attorney I am committed to creating and improving language access resources – including Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, and other frequently spoken languages – across our criminal justice system, including bilingual 9-1-1 operators, first responders, and other professionals that reflect our diverse community, including Latinxs.