

District Attorney | League of Pissed Off Voters November 2019 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by midnight on Friday, July 19th if you wish to be considered for a League endorsement. Please use THIS FORM rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

Candidate Info

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Office Sought *

District Attorney

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When did you first fall in love with San Francisco?

In August 1993, I moved to Norton Hall at UC Berkeley for college. I lived on the 6th floor, and I remember my roommate and I snuck out on the fire escape to take in the view one night. We gazed across the Bay at the sparkling jewel of San Francisco glittering in the night. Having come from a very suburban childhood, I was enthralled by the City, and vowed one day to be a young professional working and living in San Francisco. I've always loved the hustle and bustle of San Francisco, the neighborhoods, the special little stores or restaurants I still come across from time to time. In 2001, I got a job offer in San Francisco and decided there was only one answer... YES, to living the dream!

Priorities

Please list the 3 endorsements you are most proud of

One of the most important functions of the District Attorney is to maintain the integrity of our government and root out political corruption. I have worked on election fraud and public integrity cases and understand the significance of this role. I believe in the importance of an independent District Attorney. I do not have political endorsements. I have endorsements from community leaders, lawyers (both prosecutors and defense attorneys), individuals in law enforcement, and others. I am most proud of my endorsements from Alameda District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and renowned forensic scientist Dr. Henry Lee. I am also proud of my endorsements from Harry Stern and Peter Furst, two experienced defense attorneys who I have opposed in very emotionally charged trials, both of which I got guilty verdicts.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner? (1250 character limit)

- (1) The DA's office is ignoring crime. As District Attorney I will immediately address quality of life crimes and begin making victims services more robust and comprehensive.
 - (2) Failing to divert people out of the criminal justice system. As District Attorney I will prosecute crimes through the lens of criminal justice reform, as an entry point for intervention and rehabilitation, to stop repeat offenses, and as a barrier against falling deeper into the system.
 - (3) The DA's office is broken. The DA'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. I will commit to recruiting, training, and retaining professionals who reflect the diversity of San Francisco.
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What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

I'm an active member of Moms Demand Action, and Stop Crime SF, a local group dedicated to protecting victims. I have also been a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and I lead an informal group of EMILY's List graduates, which trains and supports women who run for public office. I have also served on the boards of local Democratic clubs.

What local and state commissions and policy bodies have you served on -- currently or in the past?

None.

Local Issues

Some of the things pissed-off voters are watching right now!

Did you support the local implementation of SB 1045, mental health conservatorship?

Yes

No

Do you support the police use of force legislation, Assembly Bill 392?

Yes

No

Do you support the closure of Juvenile Hall?

Yes

No

Do you support the closure of 850 Bryant, jails #3 and #4?

Yes

No

Do you support opening supervised consumption services in San Francisco?

Yes

No

If so, what would you do to protect them from Federal interference?

In concept, I do support opening supervised consumption services, though the reality is that without sign-off (or apathy) from the federal government, it is not likely to come to fruition in San Francisco. In the meanwhile, I think we should invest more in social workers making contact with individuals openly using drugs on the street to intervene. If the federal government, whether through an agency like the IRS or the US Attorney's Office, sought to seize property of a non-profit or threaten the tax exempt status of a non-profit hosting a safe consumption site, the DA's Office would not have standing to intervene. If it was the City's property, it would be the province of the City Attorney to defend against such an action.

As DA, what would you do to repair the harm done by the war on drugs?

The DA's office is mass expunging marijuana convictions, which should begin to undo some harms. But I would lobby for programs to make it easier for communities disproportionately affected by marijuana policy to enter into legitimate businesses.

Do you support decriminalizing all drugs, why or why not, and if so, what steps would you take to accomplish that?

No. Some illicit drugs are so addictive and the consequences severe that we should continue to outlaw it.

How would you reduce the SF jail population, including reducing the extreme racial disparity in the jail now?

To reduce the SF jail population, 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, and ensure San Francisco jobs programs are a part of rehabilitation and available to those who commit minor offenses upon reentry. Actually prosecuting drug crimes and getting drug dealers off the street and into programs to prevent repeat offenses will positively impact our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

San Francisco sends the second lowest number of people to state prison out of the 58 counties in California. A reduction in racial disparities now in the state prison system requires a comprehensive look at where those disparities are most pronounced. In San Francisco, we need to have greater investment at the very basic levels of our society to ensure children are housed, fed, educated, and enriched; that people have employment opportunities and job training along with jobs that have living wages; and that people who commit crimes are given opportunities to be diverted out of the criminal justice system or have a chance to show rehabilitation.

What role, if any, should the criminal justice system have in addressing homelessness in SF?

The criminal justice system can address homelessness by better screening and protecting victims of crimes from the collateral consequences of being a victim of crime. In the last point in time survey, 31% of all respondents reported experiencing domestic violence sometime in their lifetime. There was no question regarding other types of violent crime or property crime, but based on the domestic violence statistic alone, there could be some gains in greater victim services around housing.

Did you support 2012's Prop 35, the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act Initiative?

Yes

No

If elected DA, will you abstain from filing charges against sex workers or their clients for consensual acts of prostitution among adults?

Yes

No

In detail, describe how you would investigate a fatal officer involved shooting. Would you set a timeline to have investigations completed?

As with all other homicides, a prosecutor must consider the facts and evidence, along with any legal defenses, to determine whether a case is provable beyond a reasonable doubt in order to charge. I will complete all Officer-Involved Shooting investigations within six months. For cases not completed within six months, provide public updates on a monthly basis.

November 2019 Election

Do you support the Juul ballot measure that would override the vapor products ban ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors and add restrictions on the sale?

Yes

No

Other:

Do you support the ballot measure “Sunlight on Dark Monday Initiative”?

Yes

No

Do you support the proposed tax on net rider fares of TNCs, autonomous vehicles and private transit services vehicles?

Yes

No

Do you support the proposed additional tax on businesses with disproportionate executive pay?

Yes

No

Who are you supporting for Mayor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| London Breed | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Robert Jordan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Wilma Pang | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Paul Y. Robertson | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Joel Ventresca | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ellen Lee Zhou | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for D5 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Vallie Brown | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ryan Lam | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nomvula O'Meara | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Dean Preston | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for City Attorney?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dennis Herrera | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for District Attorney?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Chesa Boudin | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Leif Dautch | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Suzy Loftus | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nancy H. Tung | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for Public Defender?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Manohar Raju | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for Sheriff?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Paul Miyamoto | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ronald Terry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for Treasurer?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| José M. Cisneros | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| William Carduner | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Jenny Lam | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Yi Quan Guo | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ivy Lee | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Past Elections

Did you support 2018's Prop C "Our City, Our Home" tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services?

Yes

No

Who did you support for Mayor in June 2018?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Angela Alioto | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Michelle Bravo | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| London Breed | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Richie Greenburg | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Jane Kim | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mark Leno | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Amy Farrah Weiss | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ellen Lee Zhou | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who did you support for D2 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Catherine Stefani | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Nick Josefowitz | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Schuyler Hudak | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| John Dennis | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who did you support for D4 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Gordon Mar | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Jessica Ho | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Trevor McNeil | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Arthur Tom | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lou Ann Bassan | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mike Murphy | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tuan Nguyen | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adam Kim | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who did you support for D6 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Matt Haney | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Christine Johnson | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sonja Trauss | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who did you support for D8 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Rafael Mandelman | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lawrence "Stark" Dagesse | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Who did you support for D10 Supervisor?

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Unranked endorsement |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Shamann Walton | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tony Kelly | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Theo Ellington | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Uzuri Pease-Greene | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gloria Berry | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Asale Chandler | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Final Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us? (3000 character limit)

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.

Google Forms