



# 2019 District Attorney Questionnaire

## Contact Information

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## Campaign Information

Candidate Name	Anticipated campaign budget (total)	Funds raised to date	Percentage of funds raised to date that are from donations of \$100 or less (per person)
Leif Dautch	\$400,000	\$240,000	64%
Chesa Boudin	\$750,000	\$382,000 (June 30 reporting period)	53%
Nancy Tung	\$250,000	\$91,121	30%
Suzy Loftus	Our complete financial records will be available after the July 31 filing deadline		



## **Why are you running and why should Potrero Hill residents vote for you?**

### **Leif Dautch**

I'm running for District Attorney to fix our broken criminal justice system. We lock up too many people, yet don't keep our communities safe. We spend hundreds of millions of dollars, yet have some of the highest recidivism rates in the country. We talk about reform, yet perpetuate racial inequities in the justice system. All the while, a humanitarian and public health crisis plays out on our streets with the homeless population—a crisis that has expanded to reach neighborhoods throughout San Francisco, including Potrero Hill.

I'm running for District Attorney because I know there is a better way. A model grounded in compassion and progressive values, but that keeps our streets safe and clean. A model that ensures victims of crime get the justice they deserve, while defendants get the help they need to address the root causes of crime. A model that listens to communities and recognizes that what works in the Sunset may not work in Potrero Hill. A model that will make us proud to live in an equitable and safe San Francisco.

### **Chesa Boudin**

I am running for District Attorney because the justice system should not treat people differently depending on the color of their skin, their job title, the size of their wallet, or where they live. My whole life I've had to go through metal detectors and steel gates just to give my parents a hug. Visiting prisons and working as a public defender has taught me that our criminal justice system is broken. I'm running for DA to fix it.



## **Why are you running and why should Potrero Hill residents vote for you? (continued)**

### **Nancy Tung**

As a Deputy DA, 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. I believe our DA is responsible for protecting all San Franciscans, and I'm ready to do that on day one.

Today, we see on San Francisco's streets that things are not working. I know where the problems are in our DA's Office and our justice system, and how we can fix them because I've been a prosecutor for the last 18 years, 11 of them right here in San Francisco.

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'm running because we need an experienced, independent District Attorney to protect our community and to be unconditionally accountable to the People of this City, not politicians and outside interest groups.

### **Suzy Loftus**

I am running for District Attorney of San Francisco because I believe that our City can and will be the most safe and just City in America. I have worked in public safety for the last 15 years and I have the experience to deliver shared safety in all of our neighborhoods while we reform what we know to be a broken criminal justice system. I have prosecuted domestic violence and elder abuse cases in San Francisco courtrooms and worked to build a non-profit in Bayview Hunters Point to serve children exposed to violence and chronic adversity. From my experience working at the DA's office, the California Department of Justice, the Police Commission and now the Sheriff's Department, I believe we must collaborate across agencies and more effectively work together to deliver safety and justice for our City residents.



## **What sets you apart from your opponents?**

### **Chesa Boudin**

I'm the only candidate who currently works in the Hall of Justice. I've spent more time in San Francisco courts over the last 7 years than all of the other candidates combined. I've handled over 300 felony cases and tried dozens of cases to jury verdict. I'm the only candidate with family members who are incarcerated and who grew up visiting immediate family members in prison. I'm the only candidate who speaks fluent Spanish. I've led the fight against money bail; the other candidates have each used money bail to detain poor people accused of crimes but now, as politicians, claim to support bail reform. I helped launch the public defender's immigration unit and have pledged to create an immigration unit as District Attorney; none of the other candidates have made that pledge. I am immersed in the trial-level work of the criminal justice system as well as system-wide impact litigation. I know what works, and I know what doesn't work—the status quo prosecutorial model does not work, and status quo prosecutors can't fix it.

### **Nancy Tung**

I have the most experience in the courtroom and in our criminal justice system than any other candidate running for this office. 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.

I have concrete ideas and was the first candidate to roll out a robust platform with actual solutions to the problems facing our city. I am committed to making our communities safer and making our criminal justice system fairer. As your District Attorney, I will lead San Francisco into a new era of criminal justice reform that is effective, proactive, transparent, and represents our values. I am also a woman and the only person of color running for office, and believe more people of color should hold positions of leadership to reflect the diversity of our City.



## **What sets you apart from your opponents? (Continued)**

### **Suzy Loftus**

San Francisco needs the right leader to deepen our approach to reform and deliver real change for communities most impacted by the criminal justice system. I am the only candidate with a broad range of personal and professional experiences that allow me to bring partners to the table to develop comprehensive, meaningful change for all San Franciscans. From partnering with community leaders in the Western Addition to curb gun violence, to mentoring my daughter's soccer team to advocate for safer streets after the tragic death of their teammate, no other candidate has as many deep roots or the broad experience with the community to lead the change we all need. I left prosecuting cases and launched the Center for Youth Wellness in Bayview Hunters Point because I believe that one of the most effective ways to serve justice is when we build shared safety and start earlier to invest in children, families and communities most impacted by violence and trauma. I am proud to be a leader who has united many diverse and divergent voices behind our vision for a safer San Francisco while remaining committed to deepening our reform efforts to dismantle racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

### **Leif Dautch**

I am the only candidate who is both a prosecutor and who manages a team of prosecutors—a critical combination for the management position of DA. I also bring a lifelong passion for criminal justice to the role, a passion that traces to my mom's work as a nurse at a juvenile hall along the central coast of California. Through my mom's work, and my family fostering and adopting children, I saw firsthand the cycles of crime that can stack the deck against you from day one. But I also saw amazing people like my mom working to transform the criminal justice system from the inside.

My childhood exposure to the justice system set me on this path, taking me from an organic farm in rural California to Yale, to Harvard Law School, to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, to President Obama's campaign, to the Presidency of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission, and for the past 7 years, to the California Attorney General's Office. I believe that experience, and the inspiration I still draw from people like my mom working inside the justice system, make me the right person for the job.



**What do you view as the top three issues facing the San Francisco District Attorney's office? Please describe your solutions for those issues.**

**Nancy Tung**

(1) Ignoring crime: Right now, San Francisco is failing to address a range of street level crimes, including property crimes, drug dealing, and car break ins on the mistaken theory that they are minor offenses. But ignoring these crimes means we can't step in to help victims or prevent them from happening again.

(2) Failing to intervene early: SF is failing to intervene early to divert people out of the criminal justice system. The DA regularly fails to prosecute property and drug crimes, not only diminishing our quality of life, but also missing an opportunity for positive intervention. We must prosecute these 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 District Attorney's Office is broken and public trust in the office has been diminished. The San Francisco 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. It is time for a renewed commitment to recruiting, training, and retaining professionals who reflect the diversity of San Francisco.



**What do you view as the top three issues facing the San Francisco District Attorney's office? Please describe your solutions for those issues. (continued)**

**Suzy Loftus**

My approach to solving our most pressing challenges in the justice system has always been rooted in community. I firmly believe that if we want people to trust those in power, we need to be clear through our actions that those who hold the public trust will be held to a higher standard and will be held accountable for any abuse or misuse of their authority.

My priorities include:

- Establish the first-ever [Civil Rights Unit](#) within the office of the San Francisco District Attorney. Staffed with experienced civil rights lawyers, prosecutors, and policy and research experts, the mission of the Civil Rights Unit will be to protect and advance the rights of all San Franciscans. The staff will be charged with instituting solutions to eliminate disparities in our criminal justice system starting with the current practices of the District Attorney's Office.
- Fundamentally change our justice system to have a victim-centered approach to holding people accountable for violent crimes. We must focus our restorative justice efforts to help bring recovery and healing to the victims and survivors.
- Invest in Neighborhood Prosecutors who will work collaboratively with community members and law enforcement to address crimes that erode our collective sense of safety in each community.



**What do you view as the top three issues facing the San Francisco District Attorney's office? Please describe your solutions for those issues. (continued)**

**Leif Dautch**

**Homelessness:** I believe that every elected official in San Francisco, including the DA, should prioritize our homelessness and mental health crisis. As DA, there are two steps I will take to address the crisis: preventing people from becoming homeless by prosecuting landlords who fraudulently evict tenants, and converting our nearly-empty Juvenile Hall into a Mental Health Justice Center for those on the streets and in our jails battling mental illness.

**Police Accountability:** To rebuild faith in the criminal justice system, holding police officers accountable for misconduct is essential. I vow to complete my investigation of any officer-involved shooting within 6 months and hold a town hall explaining my decision to charge, or not charge, an officer. I will also explore all possible charges (including, but not limited to, homicide) to ensure victims and their families get justice.

**Environmental Justice:** I will resurrect the Environmental Justice Unit that Kamala Harris launched back in 2005 (while I was interning for her). We must demand accountability if there is an oil spill in the Bay or if a company falsifies soil records (like at the Hunters Point Shipyard). San Francisco should be a leader, not a follower, on this issue.





**What do you view as the top three issues facing the San Francisco District Attorney's office? Please describe your solutions for those issues. (continued)**

**Chesa Boudin**

I want to make San Francisco safer and more just for everyone. There are more than 3 major issues we need to tackle, but here are three ways I'll tackle some core issues:

First, we need to break the cycle of recidivism and treat the causes of crime at the roots. More than 2/3 of people arrested and prosecuted reenter the system within three years. 85% of county jail bookings are a person suffering from serious drug addiction, mental illness or both. By treating the root causes of crime and prioritizing treatment over convictions, we'll reduce crime and make our city safer.

Second, we need to enforce the law equally. We must end the racism that plagues every step of the process today. And we can't have small, privileged groups—whether politicians, police officers, landlords, or corporations—operate above the law. The consequences for breaking the law shouldn't depend on skin color, our job title, or the size of our wallet.

Third, we need to prioritize victims. That means promoting restorative justice opportunities as often as possible and ensuring that every victim of every crime in this city can participate in the process and have their voice heard.



**What are some specific public safety strategies currently being implemented in San Francisco that you agree or disagree with? With these strategies in mind, what do you intend to do about public safety if elected District Attorney?**

### **Suzy Loftus**

I believe that our justice system is not working enough for anyone right now. [We are particularly failing survivors of sexual assault.](#) We aren't doing what we need to do to prosecute rapists, protect survivors, and get them the resources needed to heal. As District Attorney, I will prioritize cases involving sexual violence. In my first 100 days, I will convene a team to re-examine every eligible rape case that was discharged for lack of evidence. I will assign special investigators to identify if there is additional evidence, and skilled prosecutors to build effective cases for prosecution in light of new discoveries. I will recruit and train the best prosecutors to handle these cases. We must train all law enforcement officials to effectively build cases through multi-disciplinary forensics teams that reduce the burden of justice on victims and collect as much evidence, forensic and circumstantial, as possible. I will focus our resources on working to hold those who commit sexual violence accountable. We have to build a world-class law office able to investigate and prosecute rapists, expand access to Trauma Recovery Centers, devote resources to support and expand reporting systems that protect the safety of the survivor.

### **Leif Dautch**

As District Attorney, I will never make a decision that jeopardizes public safety. We are fortunate to be living through an era of relatively low violent crimes, particularly murders. However, the current DA's handling of sexual assault investigations and prosecutions has generated much-needed scrutiny and criticism. Recent research shows that out of 757 reported sexual assault in 2016, only 1% resulted in guilty verdicts after trial. That is inexcusable in any city in any era, but particularly in San Francisco at the height of the #MeToo Movement. We need a District Attorney who believes survivors and will adopt survivor-centric policies. I will be that type of DA. I have already proposed a rape kit tracking system that will allow survivors of sexual assault to track online the status and results of their rape kit. I will also ensure that investigators and prosecutors receive training on trauma-informed interview practices, and I will personally handle a sexual assault case within my first year in office to lead by example.



**What are some specific public safety strategies currently being implemented in San Francisco that you agree or disagree with? With these strategies in mind, what do you intend to do about public safety if elected District Attorney? (continued)**

**Chesa Boudin**

We need a targeted approach to public safety. 25% of our jail population is there because they are too poor to pay bail. That's not about safety. I'll prohibit staff from requesting money bail for indigent defendants.

Right now victims are cut out of the process. I'll expand the victims' services division and launch a restorative justice program.

Racial biases pervade the system. I'll publish data online to increase transparency and ensure we do everything possible to root out racism.

We must address the root causes of crime, rather than spending so much time and money dealing with fallout from crime. One example: car break-ins are incredibly frustrating and leave victims feeling powerless. Less than 2% of violators are arrested, so it's not an issue we can solve with harsher penalties.

Auto burglars fall into two categories: First, organized criminal networks with fencing operations across the state and beyond; second, homeless and impoverished people committing crimes of desperation. We must approach these groups differently. For the first, we need sophisticated policing and prosecution strategies. For the second, we need to address the homelessness and addiction that are so prevalent. We need drug treatment, mental health beds, and job training.



**What are some specific public safety strategies currently being implemented in San Francisco that you agree or disagree with? With these strategies in mind, what do you intend to do about public safety if elected District Attorney? (continued)**

**Nancy Tung**

I disagree with the approach taken regarding "quality of life" crimes such as auto burglary and drug trafficking. These crimes have a distinct and detrimental impact on communities. Auto burglaries are so pervasive that some people have stopped reporting them. Up to 80% of auto burglaries are committed by organized crime. I will also prioritize drug trafficking investigations to stop open-air drug dealing in neighborhoods like the Tenderloin. I worked as a narcotics prosecutor from 2008 to 2010, and have only seen the situation get worse. The Tenderloin has the highest concentration of children in the City, and yet drug dealers continue to be emboldened by the lack of real enforcement. For both of these priorities, I intend to work with partner law enforcement agencies to attack these problems strategically to discourage criminals who think San Francisco is an easy target, while also creating pathways out of the criminal justice system to lower level offenders.



**Is the relationship between the District Attorney’s office and the San Francisco Police Department broken? What is the appropriate relationship between the DA’s office and the SFPD, and how will you go about achieving it?**

**Leif Dautch**

It is important to have a strong, independent District Attorney who will hold police officers accountable if they engage in provable misconduct. I will do so. It’s also important in the 99.9% of cases that do not involve police shootings for the District Attorney to be able to maintain a collaborative working relationship with law enforcement. The big issues facing San Francisco—from our homeless and mental health crisis to the explosion of property crime and sky-high recidivism rates—will not be solved by any one agency operating in a silo. Instead, we need to work with our public safety partners to develop and implement a common strategy. I will play that convening role as District Attorney and work to increase transparency, restore trust between citizens and law enforcement, and better serve all San Franciscans. Given that I have the support of our Firefighters and Deputy Sheriffs, I believe I’m best positioned to play that leadership role from Day One.

**Chesa Boudin**

No, but the relationship between the Police Officer’s Association and the District Attorney is broken, and the blame for that lies squarely with the POA, which has fought every attempt by the current DA administration to reform our criminal justice system, including attempts to increase transparency, to strengthen use-of-force standards, and to roll back draconian sentencing regimes from the 1980s and 1990s. The POA’s hardline stances are not representative of SFPD as a whole (as indicated by the existence of alternative organizations such as Officers for Justice).

As District Attorney, I will maintain a good, professional relationship with the SFPD, to facilitate bringing promoting public safety and proving cases in court, while maintaining independence and using my prosecutorial discretion to guide which cases my office takes, and which issues we prioritize. For example, if SFPD chooses to continue to arrest low-level drug offenders, that will not affect my decision to decline to squander our resources charging those cases. I will prioritize transparency so the community knows what decisions are being made and why. When the police violate the law with impunity, it undermines the integrity of the entire system. I intend to vigorously investigate and prosecute police misconduct.



**Is the relationship between the District Attorney's office and the San Francisco Police Department broken? What is the appropriate relationship between the DA's office and the SFPD, and how will you go about achieving it? (continued)**

**Nancy Tung**

The relationship between the DA's Office and SFPD is broken, but not beyond repair. I have heard many times that street-level officers do not believe that the DA's Office will prosecute cases that they investigate. First, the DA's Office cannot fulfill its mission of public safety without the partnership of the Police Department. We must work together to solve and prosecute cases and are more effective when we coordinate efforts. I have worked with police officers on not just trials, but even the original investigation of cases. A good partnership between the prosecutor and police officers almost always yields better results in a case. At the same time, it is important that for cases that involve police officers as defendants, whether in their on-duty or off-duty capacity, that the DA's Office maintains a level of independence and objectivity, separate and apart from public opinion or any sort of political influence. I'm the only candidate that has investigated and tried cases against law enforcement officers. In 2010, I was the only attorney to refused to prosecute cases that had tainted test results from the police crime lab. I will continue safeguard the integrity of our system and hold officers accountable.

**Suzy Loftus**

People need to trust that there is accountability in the criminal justice system. No one, even those who hold positions of power, is above the law. When a police officer uses excessive force our justice system calls for a reckoning. However, far too often, those with power are not held to account. And each time our justice system turns a blind eye to an injustice, the trust that people have in the system erodes a little bit more. As your District Attorney, I am committed to reconciling this division and holding power to account in order to rebuild the trust that is required for police officers to be effective partners in solving crime and building safety. We move at the speed of trust to deliver safety and justice for all of San Francisco and when there is less trust, we become less safe. We need to be clear through our actions that those who hold the public trust will be held to - and trained to - a higher standard.

SFPD leaders understand that I'm a reformer, and that I have a deep admiration for the police officers who risk their lives to keep our communities safe.



## **What changes will you make in your office's charging priorities?**

### **Chesa Boudin**

I will prioritize focusing our resources on serious crimes rather than quality of life or victimless crimes that are currently taking up so many of our resources: currently  $\frac{2}{3}$  of jury trials in San Francisco are misdemeanors and half of those are victimless crimes. That is an unacceptable waste of resources. I will focus especially on violent crime. My biggest concern with violent crime is the kind that occurs inside the home - from domestic violence to sexual assault. This type of violence is not only unacceptable, but it can be very dangerous and poses a substantial public safety concern. These are crimes that I will take very seriously as district attorney. We need to ensure we listen to, support, believe, and empower victims. And again, we need to ensure we are focusing on providing victims with the resources necessary to heal, including, most importantly, providing restorative justice processes.

### **Nancy Tung**

I would like to see where we can divert additional misdemeanor cases pre-charging to neighborhood or restorative justice courts, and continue to see if the juvenile corollary, "Make It Right," will generate data to show whether the program can be safely expanded without risking public safety. Low level, non-violent misdemeanors do not need to impact a person's history in a permanent, formal way in order for the community to hold a person accountable.

Additionally, I would like to do an analysis of the office's trial outcomes to see where the office fell short of convincing a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was guilty. From 2014 to 2018, roughly 30% of all trials ended in either a mistrial or acquittal. Looking at the data, I would want to see if the charging mechanisms need to be recalibrated or standardized.



## **What changes will you make in your office's charging priorities? (continued)**

### **Suzy Loftus**

As District attorney, I hope to lead by example with a movement to reform and reimagine the justice system. The prosecutors charge is to deliver justice, I will make our city more just through the implementation of bold new policy changes.

I will make clear my priority is to build safety while we decrease the footprint of the criminal justice system. That requires investing in efforts to build accountability that aren't wholly reliant on incarceration as the primary tool. I will update the current guidelines governing who can be diverted out of our criminal justice system to ensure we are cycling people out of the system on the front end. I will expand pre-charging programs including Neighborhood Courts and Restorative Justice efforts to create spaces for healing and accountability.

As we reimagine what a prosecutor does - we must use the power of the office to hold powerful interests to account. Defending the rights of consumers and protecting the rights of all workers is a fundamental charge of the District Attorney. Right now, the federal government is not a meaningful partner in protecting these rights. The DA plays a critical role in partnering with other law enforcement agencies to enforce laws meant to ensure safe working conditions, keep families safe, and protect the most hardworking among us.

### **Leif Dautch**

As an experienced prosecutor who has handled more than 400 criminal cases, from trials to arguing in the California Supreme Court, I can draw from a deep well of criminal law experience in making charging decisions. Obviously, any charging decision begins with the facts and the law, and I will look to traditional evidentiary sources like body camera footage, eyewitness accounts, forensic evidence, and statements from the officers involved. But in recent months, a new state law has provided prosecutors with another important source of information: thousands of disciplinary records for police officers in the Bay Area. This is a critically important factor in deciding whether or not an officer acted in reasonable fear for their safety or based on another motivation. With the new availability of this information, I will ensure that my prosecutors analyze the disciplinary history of any officer involved in a shooting or claim of excessive force, and consider all available charges, including lesser-included offenses like assault with a deadly weapon and negligent discharge or a firearm.





## **How will you work with state and federal agencies to enforce the City's Sanctuary City policy? (continued)**

### **Nancy Tung**

I will defend our Sanctuary City policy and make sure that undocumented individuals continue to feel safe to come forward as victims or witnesses of crime. I also will work with non-profits, immigration advocacy groups, faith leaders, and other community stakeholders to make sure that undocumented populations in San Francisco are protected from arbitrary ICE raids either in our courts or state/local government buildings or if they can be directed to places of worship should they need to seek shelter.

### **Suzy Loftus**

We must defend our Sanctuary City status, keep our families intact, and preserve community trust to ensure everyone in our community is respected by our justice system. As your District Attorney, I will train the staff of the office to comprehensively protect our community members from unintended immigration consequences of prosecutorial decisions. I will make sure that community members understand the ways we can protect immigrants. Through increased language access and culturally competent services, I want to make it easier for monolingual residents to access information and understand their rights. I will work to ensure that at every level of the office of the DA, civilian commission appointments and advisory boards, staff are trained to recruit broadly to deliver on our commitment to equitable representation.



## **How will you work with state and federal agencies to enforce the City's Sanctuary City policy? (continued)**

### **Leif Dautch**

I support San Francisco's sanctuary city policy, both because it upholds our immigrant communities and because it promotes public safety. As a Deputy Attorney General, I have seen countless examples of the sanctuary city policy drawing victims and witnesses of crime out of the shadows, knowing that they can help us solve and prevent crime without fearing immigration consequences. My office would not assist federal immigration authorities; that's not our responsibility as city employees. Instead, it is our responsibility to build safe, welcoming, cohesive communities, and our sanctuary city policy furthers that goal.

I will also ensure that my attorneys avoid plea bargains and resolutions whenever possible that would have collateral consequences on the immigration rights and services available to undocumented people. If elected DA, I will make sure every new prosecutor I hire is thoroughly trained on these issues, and that we include data in our annual report on this issue so that the public can hold us accountable (the outgoing DA hasn't issued an annual report of any kind since 2016).

### **Chesa Boudin**

San Francisco is a city of immigrants, and as they do across our nation, immigrants make our city stronger. That's why I helped create the immigration unit at the public defender's office, among the first of its kind. It's why I helped create the precursor to our city's sanctuary city policy, ensuring that the Sheriff would not cooperate with ICE holds on people detained in the county jail. And it's why I've committed to creating an immigration unit at the District Attorney's office. I'm the only candidate who has made that commitment.

When our local government voluntarily cooperates in ICE enforcement, we undermine the trust of vulnerable communities and public safety suffers as a result. When immigrants are victims of crimes we should work to help them obtain U visas. When immigrants are defendants accused of crimes we should work to ensure that they are not punished disparately because of their status. As District Attorney, I will create a presumption that plea offers are "immigration-safe"; that is, they do not carry the added risk of deportation or loss of status for non-citizens.



**Is there any instance in which your office might seek the death penalty?**

**Suzy Loftus**

No, I will never seek it as a sentence.

**Leif Dautch**

If elected District Attorney, I cannot envision a case in which I would seek the death penalty.

**Chesa Boudin**

No.

**Nancy Tung**

No. Governor Newsom recently suspended the Death Penalty in California, and I believe he made the right call. As a career prosecutor, I'm struck by how unworkable and costly the death penalty is for our state. In San Francisco, over 70% of voters wanted to abolish the death penalty in 2016. It would be nearly impossible for any prosecutor in San Francisco to empanel a death penalty jury.



**The Board of Supervisors has decided not to build a new jail facility, and has recently decided to close the City’s Juvenile Hall. Do you agree with these decisions? Please explain your answer in the context of how your office will operate in light of these policy decisions.**

**Leif Dautch**

As the former President of the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission, I was an early supporter of efforts to better utilize our near-empty Juvenile Hall. To meet the growing need for mental health treatment in San Francisco, we should transform Juvenile Hall into a Mental Health Justice Center. The center would offer a range of treatment options, from crisis services to longer-term inpatient treatment.

Critically, the Department of Public Health should be the lead agency, rather than the Sheriff’s Department or Juvenile Probation Department. Treatment, not incarceration, will be the primary objective. A “just transition” retraining and hiring preference program should be established to minimize the disruption for Juvenile Hall employees.

I also believe we can reduce incarceration levels so that no additional facilities are needed. But it is important to let actual crime rates drive that determination, rather than simply blinding ourselves to crime in order to achieve some arbitrary goal. If we invest in rehabilitative programs and address the root causes of crime, we can bring down our stubbornly-high recidivism rates and decrease our need for jails.



**The Board of Supervisors has decided not to build a new jail facility, and has recently decided to close the City’s Juvenile Hall. Do you agree with these decisions? Please explain your answer in the context of how your office will operate in light of these policy decisions. (continued)**

**Chesa Boudin**

I do. I know firsthand how much incarceration can negatively impact children, families, and communities. I grew up visiting my parents in prison. I’ve represented numerous clients who have served time in prison. The current model doesn’t work. I’ll seek alternatives to incarceration whenever possible. I’m committed to substantial reductions in the number of people we incarcerate. Here is how:

1. Expand access to pretrial diversion programs and alternative/collaborative courts;
2. Seek treatment rather than jail to promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism;
3. Do not seek cash bail and work to eliminate it legislatively and through the courts, as I have for years;
4. Decriminalize sex work;
5. Do not seek jail for drug-related offenses;
6. Create restorative and transformative justice practices, which leave victims and the accused better off;
7. Never seek incarceration for technical violations of probation or parole, stop dedicating resources to opposing release on parole;
8. Refuse to call as a witness any officer with a documented history of racial profiling, dishonesty, or excessive force.

Some people will be sent to prison for serious, violent crimes (such as crimes involving loss of life, serious bodily injury, armed robbery, or sexual assault), people who pose a serious public safety concern.



**The Board of Supervisors has decided not to build a new jail facility, and has recently decided to close the City’s Juvenile Hall. Do you agree with these decisions? Please explain your answer in the context of how your office will operate in light of these policy decisions. (continued)**

**Nancy Tung**

We have continued to see declining jail populations since 2015, when the Board of Supervisors rejected a proposal to build a new jail. Though the DA’s Office and the Sheriff have worked to reduce jail populations further, it has been insufficient to be able to close CJ4, which is the oldest and most dilapidated of all the facilities. While ambitious in thought, the reality is without a facility to humanely house the inmates in CJ4, the City should have allocated money for renovation of an existing facility or creation of a new facility. Sending people to out-of-county jails creates undue financial pressure on an inmate’s support networks and isolates inmates from their communities.

For similar reasons, I do not agree with the decision to close juvenile hall. Sometimes it is unavoidable that a minor will need to be confined in juvenile hall. If juvenile hall is completely closed, children will be sent to surrounding counties, away from their families. Juveniles especially need to have access to their support systems at such a critical time, and making families travel to another county to visit or emotionally support a child is inhumane.



**The Board of Supervisors has decided not to build a new jail facility, and has recently decided to close the City’s Juvenile Hall. Do you agree with these decisions? Please explain your answer in the context of how your office will operate in light of these policy decisions. (continued)**

**Suzy Loftus**

I am committed to [ending the incarceration of children as we know it](#). We need to replace youth prisons with a seamless web of restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and positive youth development. To truly build safe and healthy communities, we need to invest much earlier in reaching children and families living with violence and to provide opportunities for healing. We modeled that idea by partnering with Dr. Nadine Burke to build the Center for Youth Wellness. By adapting a trauma stewardship model we can stem the tide of untreated trauma in our community that has become a public health crisis with devastating impact on families, communities and public safety outcomes. I will work hard to bring our communities together to invest in comprehensive prevention strategies, early childhood health programs, and restorative justice practices that strengthen the resiliency of our communities.

And it’s not enough to only end the incarceration of children, we need to commit to doing what it takes to help those kids thrive. This will be one of my top priorities as DA. Children and youth deserve bright futures, not cages. The goal of ending the incarceration of youth will require a major mobilization and redirection of resources from corrections into community based programs.



## **How will your office recruit and retain top-notch attorneys?**

### **Chesa Boudin**

By creating and running the most progressive district attorney's office in the country, we will attract talented attorneys with creative ideas who are frustrated by the status quo of a profession that is in many ways stuck in the 20th century. This is a model we've already seen work with Larry Krasner's office in Philadelphia and Rachael Rollins's office in Suffolk County, MA.

By empowering attorneys to focus on the victims of crime, and how to make them whole, we will offer much more interesting opportunities than offices that simply instruct their line attorneys to charge a defendant with as many crimes as they can find in the book and to seek the harshest sentence possible.

Finally, we will model the professionalism, accountability and best practices we expect from the police and other city agencies within our investigatory purview. I've been a line attorney and I understand how important it is to have an office that actively works to root out sexism, racism and other discrimination in the workplace, rather than simply wait for complaints. I understand how important it is for management to be just as accountable to the rank and file as vice versa.

### **Nancy Tung**

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. I will be committed to recruiting and retaining professionals who reflect the diversity of San Francisco by:

- (1) Recruiting and retaining women, people of color, and people from diverse backgrounds at every level, including prosecutors, investigators, paralegals, and support staff, to more fully represent our community.
- (2) Conducting a top-to-bottom salary review to ensure compliance with the Equal Pay Act.
- (3) Ensuring new attorneys are prepared with adequate training and experience before moving on to more challenging assignments.
- (4) Developing retention programs and clear pathways to advancement that encourage talented attorneys to stay at SFDA throughout their careers.
- (5) Supporting working parents by creating a family-friendly workplace and implementing part-time and job share positions to retain top talent.





## **How will your office recruit and retain top-notch attorneys? (continued)**

### **Suzy Loftus**

We must run a world class law office in San Francisco. I will work with social justice and criminal justice advocates to find the best talent that reflects the diversity of our community, recruit them to the District Attorney's office, and support them in their efforts to bring safety and justice to all San Franciscans.

### **Leif Dautch**

There is a major morale problem at the DA's Office, and I'm glad you asked about it. 21 of 130 attorneys have left in the first half of 2019 alone, and turnover amongst DA Investigators and paralegals is similarly high. Departing employees identify two main problems: crushing caseloads and unsupportive leadership. Attorneys are handling 120 cases at a time (paralegals have 800!), and as a result, they are unprepared for court, they are losing cases, and they are living in fear of missing something and being referred to the State Bar.

This is a disappointing decline for an office considered among the nation's best when I worked there in 2005. To reverse this trend, I plan to reduce caseloads by: (1) getting supervisors back in the courtroom, (2) handling cases myself as the DA, following the lead of the Public Defender's Office, and (3) reassigning some attorneys from the Crime Strategies Unit and Independent Investigations Unit back to trial rotations. I will also start an Honors Program and expand outreach to law schools to ensure that we are recruiting and retaining the best and brightest. These changes will send a strong message to Assistant DAs that leadership cares about their well-being and appreciates their work.



**How will you attorneys get back and forth between 850 Bryant and your new Potrero Hill offices? How can your office mitigate its traffic impact on our neighborhood?**

**Nancy Tung**

The DA's Office currently plans to have a shuttle between the Rhode Island offices and the Hall of Justice. I think a regular shuttle is probably the best option and impacts the neighborhood the least.

**Suzy Loftus**

I will work collaboratively with community members, our staff and SFMTA in support of the city's transit first policy. We will ensure that our office is a community partner and I will work with you to address community concerns.

**Leif Dautch**

Traffic from private vehicles is already a problem in Potrero Hill, and I want to make sure that the temporary relocation of the DA's Office to 350 Rhode Island does not exacerbate that problem. As District Attorney, I will ensure that my attorneys use a shuttle system, Muni (the 19 bus line), and other non-car modes of transportation to cover that one-mile distance. I will meet with community leaders about which routes will minimize traffic in the neighborhood and ensure that case assignments are made with attention to mitigating the number of journeys attorneys have to make each day. I'm also excited to see bike lanes being built and sidewalks being reconfigured on Townsend Street so that community members and our attorneys can access a variety of safe modes of transportation.

**Chesa Boudin**

To start, I will advocate to get our office and all of the court business out of that dangerously unsafe building as soon as possible! That said, I will create policies that encourage our employees to take public transportation (the 10 and 19 lines are pretty convenient from the current office), including transit vouchers. I will also explore the possibility of a shuttle bus during peak times (8:30am, noon, and 4:30pm). We want to be good neighbors!