

Q1

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Q2

*What are your qualifications for District Attorney?*

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 am uniquely qualified to lead an office that will deliver both a safe City and just outcomes. 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 all.

Q3

*Would you support creation of Environmental Justice Unit at the DA's Office to investigate and prosecute cases related to pollution or contamination? Please describe the reasons for your answer below.*

As District Attorney, I will establish a Civil Rights Unit within the office so we can hold accountable the corporations that harm our city. A pillar of this unit will be Environmental Justice - enforcing laws and holding corporations accountable for doing damage to our City's natural environment. I want to reimagine the role of the prosecutor as the people's lawyer who can protect our communities from the abuses of the most powerful. We know the disproportionate impact environmental injustice has on low-income communities and communities of color. I believe the District Attorney has a responsibility to work closely with state and federal partners to protect every member of the community, especially in parts of our city too often forgotten or left behind. The District Attorney can and should play a more proactive role in jointly enforcing environmental protections for all residents of our City.

Q4

*What would your priorities for an Environmental Justice Unit at the DA's Office if one existed be? How would you identify cases?*

I will hold toxic polluters accountable, enforce our environmental protection laws, and partner with state and local agencies to protect our City from the harmful effects of pollution. We will focus on the areas most impacted by pollution, hazardous waste and toxic materials. The Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhood in the southeast sector of the City is home to most of the industrial and hazardous materials facilities in San Francisco. I will work in partnership with other enforcement and regulatory agencies to coordinate inspections and pursue the appropriate penalties when these facilities are found to have broken the law.

Q5

*What types of remedies would you seek if you were to create Environmental Justice Unit, e.g., probation, fines, jail time?*

Criminal prosecutions are part of a strategy to hold the powerful accountable when they harm our communities. We are able to prevent future harm by demonstrating our collective ability to build cases and hold power to account. By building and prosecuting cases, both corporations and individual actors will understand there are consequences to violating our environmental laws. We will pursue sentences that are commensurate with the crime, the defendant's past criminal history and will be designed with the goal of preventing recidivism. We must also educate the public about environmental crimes and coordinate the work of various other agencies to deliver justice to communities that are most impacted.

Q6

*Would you work with the City Attorney's Office to pursue cases through an Environmental Justice Unit from both a criminal and civil perspective? Please describe your reasons for your answer below.*

I will partner closely with the City Attorney's Office to identify civil remedies and share information to ensure that we have leveraged every tool at our disposal to investigate and address environmental injustice. We must work collaboratively amongst all government agencies and advocacy groups to protect our environment.

Q7

*Would you work with local environmental groups to coordinate on citizen enforcement actions and criminal prosecution through an Environmental Justice Unit from both a criminal and civil perspective?*

Yes. I believe that collaboration, where possible, helps us better enforce our environmental protection laws. Strengthening these partnerships is a vital piece of the process to build a community that stands up for environmental justice.

Q8

*Why should SFLCV endorse you?*

Our justice system must stop the powerful forces that seek to harm our environment. We need to hold them accountable through our enforcement actions and successful prosecutions. I am committed to environmental justice, and as the next District Attorney would hold corporations and individuals accountable for harming our environment and our communities. Together we can preserve our environment for future generations, in all communities, across our City. I am the only candidate in this race who has the experience, track record and vision to rebuild the San Francisco District Attorney's office ability to protect our environment. I would be honored by your support and partnership.