

Q1

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Q2

What are your qualifications for District Attorney?

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

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.

Across the state, many district attorney's offices combine consumer protection and environmental protection into one unit. The consumer/environmental grouping works well because both types of prosecutors prosecute criminal actions, in addition to using civil law enforcement tools to hold bad corporate actors accountable for their actions. In other words, by grouping these prosecutors together, the unit is larger, stronger, and better able to prosecute environmental justice cases. I served in the Special Prosecutions Unit (SPU) in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office from 2012 to 2017. SPU then (and through today) is responsible for prosecuting white collar crime, public integrity crimes, along with consumer protection and environmental crimes. As the only candidate in this race to have actually served in the Special Prosecutions Unit, I am committed to ensuring that San Francisco's District Attorney's Office aggressively prosecutes cases related to pollution and contamination. Just last month, I taught a seminar for environmental prosecutors from across the state regarding investigational ethics at the annual California District Attorneys Association conference on advanced topics in environmental protection. There has always been a 100% dedicated environmental prosecutor in the SPU, along with a 100% dedicated environmental investigator, that work on San Francisco specific issues and with other counties if there is a multi-jurisdictional environmental issue. Over the years, I have seen my colleagues work on illegal dumping cases, environmental contamination, and cases that affect our natural ecosystems. The work is tremendously important, and I am committed to making sure the DA's Office continues to allocate at least one full-time attorney and investigator to continue working on these issues. Since consumer protection attorneys are also steeped in the same types of civil enforcement mechanisms as environmental prosecutors, this approach also increases the flexibility and ability to cross-assign additional

prosecutors as the need arises. If it becomes clear that more environmental prosecutors are needed, I would definitely add additional dedicated environmental prosecutors within the unit.

Q4

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

My priorities for environmental prosecutors would be to investigate and prosecute (1) corporations for illegal release of hazardous waste or contamination; and (2) businesses and individuals who illegally dump garbage and abandon vehicles on the streets of San Francisco. We must recognize that environmental crimes are rarely committed within the confines of arbitrary government borders. We have waterways and lands that cross county lines in addition to bad corporate actors that operate throughout the State. Luckily, there is a very developed network of environmental prosecutors throughout California, including San Francisco, that work cooperatively on multi-jurisdictional cases when a single company violates state and local environmental regulations. The San Francisco District Attorney regularly joins these actions, and I would direct our environmental prosecutor to take an active leadership role in these statewide cases. An example of one of these cases is a recent judgment against Autozone for \$11 million for illegal dumping of hazardous waste at its retail outlets. The judgment provides for civil penalties and remediation, and includes injunctive relief to ensure that the company must comply or face additional punitive measures. On a more local level, under my leadership environmental investigators and prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office will work hand-in-hand with state regulators and local code enforcement agencies to discuss companies that are potential enforcement targets and follow up on leads as to polluters and dumpers within the county. Much of my philosophy about how a prosecutor should approach problems revolves around community input and cooperation, or I like to say, community-centered justice. In neighborhoods that are particularly suffering from high volume, illegal dumping, I would open investigations with surveillance on known dumping areas, particularly if they are areas of environmental sensitivity or communities that have traditionally been ignored such as Bayview-Hunters Point or other environmentally underserved communities.

Q5

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

Remedies clearly depend on the type of enforcement action taken against a target, the degree of culpability of the target, and the persistence of the conduct. In a civil action against a corporation, many times a significant financial penalty and a judgment prohibiting bad conduct in the future has a better deterrent effect than a token criminal conviction. That having been said, I have no qualms about prosecuting a criminal case against individual executives whose knowledge of and intentional conduct caused grave environmental harm.

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.

While the District Attorney's Office has both civil and criminal jurisdiction, the City Attorney's Office only has civil enforcement authority. When it makes sense to work with the City Attorney's Office on a case where they have expertise that SFDA does not or where there are additional considerations, such a partnership could be productive. Specifically, there are instances when the timing of a case requires that a criminal investigation and a civil investigation proceed at the same time which creates some ethical issues that may require that they not

reside within a single agency. If that were the case, I would ask either the City Attorney's Office or the Attorney General's Office to conduct the civil investigation.

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?

Participation from the community is vitally important, particularly to identify and prioritize issues within a specialized field like environmental justice. I am a strong advocate for bringing the people in the community who are affected by crime into the process, to represent the community and give voice to those harmed. I welcome input and participation from environmental groups to coordinate actions to maximize the benefit to the People and punish and deter individuals and corporations from committing environmental crimes.

Q8

Why should SFLCV endorse you?

I am from outside the political establishment, have the most courtroom experience, have worked in both the San Francisco and Alameda County District Attorney's Offices for the last two decades, and have a real plan to make our criminal justice system fairer for all. As District Attorney, I will address all that is broken in our criminal justice system: protecting our most vulnerable communities, diverting low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system, preventing violent crime, including gun violence, restoring the public's trust in our criminal justice system, and fixing the DA's office. My plan will turn our progressive ideals into effective action, and will not leave anyone in our community behind. Furthermore, my experience working with agencies statewide and my deep understanding of both civil and criminal enforcement strategies puts me in a completely different category than my competitors, especially when it comes to environmental justice prosecutions. In addition to my years of criminal litigation experience, I have seven years of experience in complex civil investigations and litigation against Fortune 500 companies. I have a sophisticated understanding about how to approach these types of enforcement cases in a strategic way to maximize results. Our District Attorney should be someone the public trusts to protect them, and I am that person.