



A California Non-Profit Political Action Committee

**PDA-CA CANDIDATE  
QUESTIONNAIRE for the SAN  
FRANCISCO  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACE**

**NAME OF CANDIDATE**      **Suzy Loftus**

**CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 268 Bush St., #2712, San Francisco, CA 94104**

E-mail Address:              lauren@votesuzyloftus.com

Date of the Election:        November 5, 2019

Campaign Manager: Lauren Feuerborn

Phone: 628-212-2587              Fax: N/A

PDA-CA is non-profit political action committee newly formed by grassroots progressives in California. The primary objective of PDA-CA is to identify highly progressive Democratic Candidates within the state for statewide offices including, but not limited to, Governor, for State Assembly and Senate Offices, and for offices at the county and municipal levels. Candidates may be invited to apply for the Endorsement of PDA-CA. If that occurs, the candidate may enjoy grassroots help from the activists within PDA-CA to include walking precincts, phone banking and other activities, to assist that candidate to win election to the office sought.

We ask that the candidate observe the format of this questionnaire, and have it back to the requestor in PDF by the time designated in the cover letter, in order to be eligible for endorsement.

NOTICE: YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE PDA-CA WEBSITE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AND USE.



## 1. Why are you running for District Attorney?

*I am running for District Attorney of San Francisco because I believe that our City can and should be the most safe and just city in America. By delivering on our progressive values, we can create shared safety in all of our neighborhoods while we reform what we know to be a broken criminal justice system. From my experience as an Assistant District Attorney, to my experience as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the California Attorney General and then as President of the San Francisco Police Commission, 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. I am committed to balancing accountability with opportunity for all of San Francisco's residents.*

## 2. What makes you the best candidate for this position?

*San Francisco needs the right leader to deepen our approach to reform and deliver real change for communities most impacted by our 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. I am proud to be a leader who has united many diverse voices behind our vision and I am committed to deepening our reform efforts and refusing to step backward to a tough on crime strategy.*

*Our next District Attorney must have the credentials and experience to lead sweeping reforms and take a problem-solving approach to neighborhood issues and property crime. The only way out of a place of frustration that many San Franciscans feel right now is through it. We have to demonstrate -- sometimes block by block - that investing in smarter approaches to building shared safety works. We have to demonstrate that when we prioritize the needs of survivors, when we divert people out of our criminal justice system, invest in addressing intergenerational poverty and trauma, cut bureaucracy and help people in need, successfully cycle people out of our system and transition offenders through smart and effective re-entry, San Francisco will be more safe and our systems will be more just.*

*The prosecutor's charge is to do justice. I left prosecuting cases and launched the Center for Youth Wellness 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. This wasn't a typical path for someone who served as a prosecutor but it reflects what I believe -- when we are smart about the investments we make in education and public health, we can begin to build shared safety and deliver justice.*

*I have been a law enforcement leader for nearly 15 years, I've taken on tough fights and I've won because I know how to build a coalition and I know how to make culture change. It takes a vision, it takes experience and it takes leadership. As the saying goes, culture eats policy for breakfast. To make true, sustained and bold change in our system, we need to have leaders who can change the approach from within while transforming the office to be more accountable to the community.*

*I am the leader who can make San Francisco a model of reform and safety for the rest of the country. I will work towards it every day. I would be tremendously honored to have your endorsement and your support as we deepen our approach to delivering justice in San Francisco.*

3. What are the most important issues in criminal justice and how do you intend to solve them?

*We need to work together, in every community, and have honest conversations about what it will take for everyone in our City to be safe. We need to stand up for the radical notion that safety belongs to all of us – not the province of the few, designated by zip code. But, we must also acknowledge the failed criminal justice policies of the past that equated safety with incarceration rates. Safety does not mean we lock everyone up, build more prisons, separate families, and throw people away. True safety lies beyond arrests and prosecutions -- it is where we are able to work, play and live in our City. As District Attorney, I will bring together women, families, LGBTQ stakeholders, community organizations, law enforcement, city agencies and more to collectively build a San Francisco that will actually make us safer. When we listen to the wisdom of all stakeholders, collaborate around tough choices, and build coalitions in the face of uncertainty, we achieve unprecedented policy breakthroughs that make our city more just.*

*My approach to solving our most pressing challenges in the justice system has always been rooted in community. To encourage communication between communities and the DA's office, I will also work to rebuild trust. 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. I look forward to overseeing a District Attorney's office that is fully transparent when it comes to making and enacting policy.*

*My priorities include:*

- **Investing 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. We need to end the finger-pointing of government agencies blaming one another and instead adopt a problem-solving approach to issues facing our neighborhoods. In order to do that, the DA needs to be grounded in the experience of people living in our city. In my first year of office, I will join our Neighborhood Prosecutor and attend at least one community meeting in each district across the City.
- **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.
- **Partnering with community members, community-based organizations, and city agencies to invest in crime prevention strategies** proven to work and implement innovative community-led solutions to address the root causes of crime. The best way to address crime and violence is to prevent it in the first place.
- **Ending the incarceration of children** as we know it, including: repurposing the more than \$750 million in state funds sent to county probation departments to community-based, trauma-informed care, youth development and education programs for juvenile justice; replacing DJJ; ending the transfer of children to the adult system; a major expansion of youth diversion across the state; gender and identity-specific programs for youth; ending all incarceration of youth for anything less than the most serious offenses and establishing local or

regional programs for those few youth who need a “time out” in lieu of the 124 currently incarcerated, damaging youth lock ups across the state.

- **Eliminating the barriers to victim services for people** and massively overhauling and expanding victim support. The DA’s office must expand the support and communications with victims and survivors and be a meaningful opportunity for a connection to services. I commit to cutting bureaucracy and expanding community partnerships to create a web of services designed with the victim and his or her family at its center. I will also advocate for local and statewide reform to significantly expand the menu of support available for survivors of crime and their families. What is currently available is grossly inadequate to help people address trauma and rebuild their lives. We have the community’s support to advance this approach and can serve as a model for the rest of the state of California.
- Minimizing our reliance on adult prisons in California and reinvesting the savings in smart, community-based mental health, behavioral health, and substance abuse treatment, jobs programs, education, and crime prevention approaches that are grounded in community strength and shared safety.

#### 4. Please describe your courtroom experience?

*When I was a line prosecutor I worked with neighborhood safety advocates to protect survivors and deliver justice. When I worked in the California State Attorney General's office, I worked with domestic violence and elder advocates to advance the safety of our most vulnerable communities. Regardless of the role that I am in, I always bring the same sense of integrity for delivering justice and have earned a reputation for being an [advocate for victims and survivors](#).*

*When I served on the San Francisco Police Commission, I worked hand in hand to advance key reforms in the use of force, prevented anyone with a history of domestic violence from joining the ranks, worked with community leaders to redraw police station boundaries that responded to neighborhood needs and centered the voices of youth and elders. Throughout every role, I earn the respect of judges, prosecutors, opposing counsel and law enforcement officials for being fair, driven by data analysis and facts of the case, transparency and collaboration for outcomes that advanced equity, integrity and the rights of impacted individuals and their families. My record in the legal and reform communities would allow me to, from Day 1, build a world class law firm that would deliver justice and safety to all of San Francisco.*

*My campaign has already engaged numerous community and civil rights leaders in policy and in organizing and I will continue to welcome their expertise to develop solutions that deliver on our shared values.*