



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Northern
California

2024 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Response: **Daniel Lurie**

1. WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ENSURE THAT SAN FRANCISCO FOLLOWS ITS OWN POLICY TO OFFER APPROPRIATE SHELTER TO UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO CITING OR ARRESTING PEOPLE?

When I am mayor, no one will need to, nor will they be allowed to, sleep on the street. As mayor, I am deeply committed to ensuring that San Francisco upholds its policies and treats every individual with dignity and respect. City Hall insiders have failed to build the beds despite having the power, money, and models available. Their solution is to simply move the problem from one block to another.

My administration will prioritize the immediate creation of sufficient shelter capacity. This includes building 1,500 new emergency shelter beds within the first six months of my term and expanding the availability of interim “bridge” housing. We will also ensure these shelters are accessible and tailored to the diverse needs of our unhoused population, including specialized accommodations for families, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with mental health or addiction challenges.

In addition, I will work to improve coordination between city agencies, law enforcement, and service providers to guarantee that every individual encountered on the streets is offered shelter and support services. My administration will establish a clear, transparent process to track and report on the availability and use of shelter beds to ensure compliance with this policy.

2. HOW WILL YOU INCREASE EMERGENCY SHELTER AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO?

As the only candidate in this race who has actually built shelter and housing, I’m committed to taking immediate and effective action. I’m the only candidate to create interim housing for the homeless at roughly a third of the cost per bed as the city does. My plan starts with treating this issue like the urgent disaster it is.

As mayor, I will fully utilize and expand the emergency powers that have been untapped

for too long to address our homelessness crisis. In my first six months, I'll create 1,500 emergency placements using a mix of modular construction, hotel units, safe parking, and traditional shelters. My plan includes 2,500 interim "bridge" housing units within two years to provide temporary yet stable housing for those in need.

While offering a variety of options, I believe in holding people accountable; under my leadership, no one will need to, nor be allowed to, sleep on our streets. I'll also implement a performance management system to hold city departments and nonprofits accountable, tracking real outcomes and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Mobilizing the private sector will be key, leveraging my experience at Tipping Point to bring in resources for quick, tangible results.

The cost of doing nothing is too high—it's smarter and more sustainable to cut these costs in half by getting people off the streets. We'll open the "release valve" to connect people to pathways off the streets, including state-funded mental health programs and family reunification. Once the crisis stabilizes, resources will be reinvested in permanent supportive housing and upstream solutions to tackle the root causes of homelessness.

3. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION AS A FORM OF ACCOUNTABILITY WHEN A PERSON IS ARRESTED?

My behavioral health plan, which has been praised by both law enforcement and mental health experts, would invest in alternatives to incarceration, such as mental health and addiction treatment programs, to reduce the overall jail population and prevent recidivism. This would ensure that we are not only addressing the immediate overcrowded conditions in our jails but also working towards a more sustainable and just criminal justice system in San Francisco.

4. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM (SUCH AS CART) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO POLICE CALLS TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE WHO ARE UNHOUSED, STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE, OR IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISES THROUGH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

We need to make sure we're not asking officers to be our social workers and mental health professionals. Shifting to a co-responder model—as outlined in my behavioral health plan—will benefit morale and shift existing police resources back to patrol and foot beats. Not every call requires a response from someone with a badge and a gun. Coupled with creating 24/7 Crisis Centers where people experiencing a behavioral health crisis can be brought to be assessed and navigated to the proper resources to

relieve our overcrowded ERs, creating more treatment beds, and launching care coordination for 5150 patients, we will reverse the tragic situation on our streets.
<https://daniellurie.com/priorities/mental-health-drug-crisis/>

5. SAN FRANCISCO MEASURE E SHIFTED CERTAIN POLICYMAKING AND OVERSIGHT POWERS RELATED TO POLICING AND SURVEILLANCE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE POLICE COMMISSION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT. WHAT SAFEGUARDS, OVERSIGHT OR REVISIONS WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO PROVIDE PROTECTIONS FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO?

I believe the responsibility for safeguarding the rights of San Franciscans lies with everyone at City Hall and under my administration, I will personally take that accountability if we fall short. No more excuses and finger-pointing. I would ensure regular, public reporting by the SFPD on the use of surveillance technologies, including data on how these tools are being deployed, the outcomes of their use, and any potential impacts on civil liberties. Transparency is key to rebuilding trust between City Hall and the community.