



## Questions for 2021 District Attorney Candidates

Responses for Candidate (name): \_\_\_\_\_ **DAN QUART** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are you running for District Attorney and what experience do you have that prepares you for this job?

I'm running for Manhattan DA because my experience in the courtroom for 21 years as a lawyer and 10 years in Albany as a legislator shows that not only do I understand the law and how it's applied, but that I also understand the societal circumstances that bring people into the courtroom. Additionally, I've lived in Manhattan my entire life. This is my home, and this race is about my community, and I believe that I can bring one standard of justice and compassion to the office.

2. What do you believe are the most important responsibilities of the District Attorney?

Some of the most important responsibilities include decarceration, reducing the footprint of the office, ending surveillance-based prosecution, and police accountability.

3. The Office of District Attorney encompasses aspects of policy making, *i.e.* what to prioritize in terms of crimes which are prosecuted, and also managerial aspects. If elected:

- How will you decide which crimes to prioritize?

I'd decline to prosecute most low-level crimes and would prioritize reallocating resources to what really is reflecting manhattaites like prosecuting crimes of sexual assault and violence, vehicular violence and cybercrimes.

- What steps will you take to manage Execs, Bureau Chiefs and ADAs to effectuate your decisions?

I'm committed to reinterview attorneys in the sex crimes units, bureau chiefs and assistant bureau chiefs to make sure that they share the priorities of the office. I'm also prepared to make personnel changes that go beyond the leadership team to make sure that the office can carry out the decisions we make.

4. Should the Office of District Attorney be responsible for investigating police officers for misconduct/criminal acts and if so, what steps will you take to ensure that it is done fairly?

Yes, we will have a singular standard of justice and we won't treat our police officers any better or worse than any other person the office interacts with.

5. Do you support alternatives to incarceration and if so, how and under what circumstances?

I do support alternatives to incarcerations. I would utilize diversion programs when appropriate, especially in cases of mental as well as support programs like the West Harlem Initiative that take a restorative justice approach and provide wrap-around services, job training and other social services to those who need it.

6. What is your position on cash bail?

I've championed legislation in Albany to end cash bail and would continue those efforts as district attorney.

7. How do you intend to make NYC safer and more fair for all?

There is a lot of work that I'd be able to do as District Attorney that would improve the safety and ensure a single standard of justice for all. One place I'd start is making sure that my office is engaged with the community, listening to the needs of Manhattanites. My community affairs staff will regularly engage with neighborhood groups, community boards, tenants associations and other organizations on their terms and in their turf. As District Attorney I'll also work with my colleagues at every level of government to address the root causes of violence like job loss and homelessness. Some violent crimes do need to be dealt with by the criminal justice system, and when looking at these cases I'll consider whether or not there is an ongoing threat to an identifiable person, and the seriousness of the alleged violence.

8. Do you have any other positions or considerations you'd like our members to know?

No but if you have any additional questions while you're making your decision please do not hesitate to reach out.

9. Please provide contact information for any additional questions, to get involved in your campaign, etc.

Leslie Joy, Campaign Manager- (301)-938-9857

**THE VRDC THANKS YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES.**