



## Santa Clara County Budget Hearing

**To:** Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

**From:** SEIU 521, Santa Clara County Chapter

**Date:** June 16, 2026

**Re:** District Attorney, Jeffrey Rosen's 27 FY Budget Proposal – DA's Office

---

Across the County, we're seeing budget cuts fall disproportionately on frontline support staff – the workers who interact daily with the public, deliver services, and keep the departments functioning. These cuts may look small on a spreadsheet, but they have real consequences for the people who rely on County services every day.

Unfortunately, the District Attorney's proposal continues that trend. Instead of preserving Paralegals, Legal Process Officers, and other support staff, who bring specialized expertise to the justice system, these positions are being eliminated.

- **The revised proposal is not a wise use of county resources.** It prioritizes preserving attorneys' positions and instead proposes significant cuts to support services, which will have enormous impacts on the department. It's also unclear if pushing work that is currently performed by lower-paid positions onto higher-paid positions is the most efficient use of county resources. In general, a better track would be to have each position working at a higher scope to ensure that higher-paid positions are performing work that is up to their level of compensation.
- **Potential for retention issues:** The proposal is clear that the work done by the Paralegals, Senior Paralegals, and the Legal Process Officers will all be pushed onto the Attorneys & Criminal Investigators. Pushing work performed by lower-paid positions up to higher classifications may lead to recruitment and retention issues for higher-paid classifications, which also may be harder to fill should a vacancy occur. This will cause delays in county services and potentially lead to increased costs for the county through increased attrition in the higher-paid classifications.
- **The DA's proposal does not contemplate the increased social costs of increased incarceration.** The proposal made it clear that its priority is ensuring enhanced resources for prosecuting violent crime, and it makes significant cuts to crime prevention and custody alternative proposals that allow people to avoid incarceration. We all know about the societal impacts of incarceration, and cutting

these programs to maintain attorneys' positions is not a wise use of county resources. The county will end up having to spend more money in future years if this decision is made.

- **The revised proposal includes an additional Assistant to the DA position. Why are we adding a position costing \$221,000 while cutting our support staff?** We have committed frontline support staff who know the department and have institutional expertise.

We urge you to reject these cuts and preserve these positions. We ask that you approve the County Executive's original recommended budget, not the revised proposal from District Attorney, Jeffrey Rosen.