

*NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*

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1 minute and 55 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Wake Up Call on Crime?]

LESTER HOLT: Also here in California, the progressive District Attorney of San Francisco is out of a job with crime-rising voters rejecting an approach that critics call soft on crime. Jake Ward is there tonight.

CROWD: Recall Chesa! Recall Chesa!

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Voters Send Democrats Message on Crime]

JAKE WARD: Tonight, new fallout after a stunning defeat. Voters in one of the most progressive cities in America removing their progressive district attorney from his job.

CHESA BOUDIN: People have a right to be frustrated. There's so much room for improvement.

WARD: Chesa Boudin was elected touting alternatives to prison and recalled in a landslide facing criticism for being soft on crime. With San Francisco struggling with rising homelessness, hate crimes, and violence, his defeat now a warning to other progressive prosecutors like DA George Gascon and LA facing a possible recall election of his own. And in New York da Alvin Bragg openly criticized by fellow Democrat Mayor Eric Adams.

NYC MAYOR ERIC ADAMS (D): No one takes criminal justice seriously anymore. These bad guys no longer take them seriously. They believe our criminal justice system is a laughingstock.

WARD: Tonight, President Biden urging mayors and police chiefs to act.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN: This time the states and localities spend the money they have to deal with crime.

WARD: Meanwhile, Boudin supporters are concerned the priorities of progressive prosecutors are at risk. Professor Lara Bazelon investigates wrongful convictions in San Francisco.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO PROFESSOR LARA BAZELON,: We have other cases that are in the pipeline. Our work is on the chopping block too.

ADAM MESNICK: I've been robbed on Mission Street. I was jumped on Sixth Street.

WARD: But tonight, San Francisco voters like Liberal Democrat and sandwich shop owner Adam Mesnick demanding change.

MESNICK: The top cop has failed.

WARD: Between the enormous amount of money spent on this recall and the enormous national attention it received, it's clear that rising crime rates are going to be a major issue in the Midterms. Lester?

HOLT: Jacob Ward, thank you.