

Bale Dalton Is Backed By Pete Buttigieg, Whose Soft-On-Crime Agenda Included Cutting The Prison Population By 50%, Eliminating Mandatory Minimum Sentences, And Ending Incarceration For Drug Possession

In August 2026, Dalton Was Endorsed By Pete Buttigieg. “Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is weighing in on another potential battleground race. The likely 2028 Democratic presidential candidate has endorsed Democratic congressional candidate Bale Dalton as he challenges U.S. Rep. Cory Mills.” (Jacob Ogles, “Pete Buttigieg Endorses Bale Dalton, A Veteran Trying To Flip CD 7 From Red To Blue,” [Florida Politics](#), 8/15/26)

Criminal Justice

Buttigieg Supported Reducing The Prison Population By 50% Because “In Some Cases, Incarceration Actually Leads To An Increase In Crime.” “Experts agree that far too many people are locked up unnecessarily in the United States. As a result, we have the highest incarceration rate in the world. If we were to reduce this rate by 50%, we would still have the 28th highest incarceration rate globally—just after Nicaragua. In some cases, incarceration actually leads to an increase in crime.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

Buttigieg’s Website Called For “Closing Down Prisons,” Because “We Need Better Ways To Address Crime And Poverty.” “It’s not just a matter of closing down prisons; we also need to invest in social services and diversion programs, and allow people to rehabilitate. We need better ways to address crime and poverty, both in the criminal justice system and in society.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

Buttigieg Supported Eliminating Incarceration For Drug Possession And Expunging Past Convictions. “We will ensure more people are free by reducing the number of people incarcerated in the United States at both the federal and state level by 50%. To achieve this, we will... Eliminate incarceration for drug possession, reduce sentences for other drug offenses and apply these reductions retroactively, legalize marijuana, and expunge past convictions.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

Buttigieg Supported Eliminated Mandatory Minimum Sentences. “We will ensure more people are free by reducing the number of people incarcerated in the United States at both the federal and state level by 50%. To achieve this, we will... Eliminate mandatory minimums.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

Buttigieg Supported Reducing The Use Of Cash Bail By “Limiting Bail To What An Individual Is Able To Pay”

Buttigieg Supported Reducing “The Criminalization Of Poverty And Its Link To Incarceration.” “We will ensure more people are free by reducing the number of people incarcerated in the United States at both the federal and state level by 50%. To achieve this, we will... Reduce the criminalization of poverty and its link to incarceration.” (Pete’s Plans, [Pete For America](#), Archived 2/14/20)

In October 2019, Buttigieg Released A Plan That Did “Not Explicitly Propose Ending The Cash Bail System” But Called For “Limiting Bail To What An Individual Is Able To Pay.” “The plan does not explicitly propose ending the cash bail system, as candidates like former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Kamala Harris of California have. Instead, Buttigieg proposes limiting bail to what an individual is able to pay and rewarding states that are taking steps to eliminate the for-profit bail industry.” (Abby Phillip & Donald Judd, “Buttigieg Unveils Criminal Justice Plan As He Struggles To Gain Traction With Black Voters In South Carolina,” [CNN](#), 10/26/19)