

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Questionnaire for Candidates for June 2014

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on officially declaring your candidacy. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club invites you to get to know us better as we seek to learn more about you. As we plan our endorsements for the 2014 election cycle, your participation in our club questionnaire allows our membership to better understand you as a candidate – who you are, what you stand for, and what you plan to accomplish in office.

*There are two parts to our questionnaire this year. Part 1 is a series of short-answer questions. We invite you to be descriptive in this section, however, please keep your responses to under 5 sentences. Part 2 is a simple Yes/No questionnaire that covers a broader set of issues than Part 1. You may expand upon The completed questionnaire must be returned by **Noon on Friday, March 14th**. E-mail all questionnaires to PAC Chair Alex Walker at pac@milkclub.org. Please bring at least 20 copies (printed front and back) of your questionnaire to our PAC interviews on **Saturday, March 15**. If you are unable to do so, please let Alex know ASAP.*

*We will be having our candidate interviews on **Saturday, March 15** from **9 AM to 1 PM** at the **Women's Building, 1st Floor Auditorium** (18th Street between Valencia and Guerrero). Alex should be in touch to schedule a 15-minute slot (5 minute speech and the rest for questions and wrap-up). If you have any questions or to reschedule, email him at pac@milkclub.org or call him at 415-876-8254.*

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: *Alex Padilla*

Office Sought: *Secretary of State*

Mailing Address: *969 Colorado Blvd, Suite 103, Los Angeles, CA 90041*

Phone: *818-253-9140*

Email: *alex@alex-padilla.com*

Website: *www.alex-padilla.com*

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? *No*

If so, when did you first join? *n/a*

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? *No*

PART 1: Short-Answer Questionnaire

- 1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek (include your key issues/priorities if elected and what distinguishes you from other candidates seeking the same job), plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

I'm running for Secretary of State because I want California to be a shining success story of how we can reverse trends, defy cynics and demonstrate that we can increase voter engagement and turnout. In the last Presidential Election more than 10 million Californians did not vote. Five million were registered to vote and didn't show up at the polls. Another 5 million eligible voters didn't even bother to register. I am running for Secretary of State to change that.

Meanwhile, throughout the nation we continue to see attempts to restrict voter registration and undermine voting rights, particularly in minority communities. The Supreme Court's gutting of the Voting Rights Act last year confirms the renewed importance of the Secretary of State's office. As Secretary of State I will not only strongly oppose laws that undermine voting rights, I will work to make California the national counter example to those efforts by increasing voter participation, expanding civic participation and creating greater voter access for all.

I'm proud of my record in support of the progressive agenda. In the Legislature, I've consistently stood on the side of equality, I led efforts to ban single-use plastic bags statewide, make it easier for farmworkers to organize, increase funding for community

colleges and make it easier for community college students to transfer to a Cal State University. As Secretary of State, I won't shy away from taking on big issues.

Throughout my career I have earned the support of my colleagues and taken on leadership positions. On the LA City Council, I was elected Council President. At the League of Cities, I was chosen to serve as President. Currently, I am President of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials working to pass comprehensive immigration reform. This history of leadership has translated into broad support for my campaign and the tools to be an effective Secretary of State building coalitions to affect real change.

My record and understanding of technology issues, including legislation to create a statewide earthquake early alert system and a degree in mechanical engineering from MIT, uniquely qualify me to make targeted use of technology to increase civic participation. While I do not support online voting, I believe we can use technology to modernize the office of Secretary of State and our elections systems.

2) What are three issues/pieces of legislation that you would champion if elected to office?

I want to increase voter engagement and participation by setting goals for improved turnout and registration and doing a better job of informing the public about the when, where and how of elections. I want to make voting more accessible and convenient and I want to ensure that every vote is counted and accounted for. I want to increase options for voting, including early and mail voting for those who find that more convenient than voting at the polls and incorporate technology to make voting information easier to access and more widespread.

I will also focus on the largest division of the Secretary of State's office, the business unit. We need to shorten the time it takes to incorporate so that those seeking to start new businesses can do so quickly. I believe if you file to start a business on Monday, you should have your paperwork to open your business's doors by Friday.

As we all know too well, numerous states have made it more difficult to register to vote. California should be the counter-example and demonstrate to the nation how to engage the public to register and participate in elections. We can and should be the example of how to engage the public and strengthen our democracy and I will lead efforts to increase access to voting and beat back any effort to make it harder to vote.

3) How have you been an advocate for the LGBTQ community? Please provide specific

examples.

I have consistently supported full equality throughout my career. I contributed \$5k in seed money to Equality California in the organization's early days and raised funds and campaign visibly in my own district against Proposition 8.

Recently, I was proud to be part of the coalition led by EQCA to support the School Success and Opportunity Act in 2013, which allows students in K-12 schools to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with their gender identity.

In 2012, I was a strong supporter of AB 1856 to provide safe, supportive housing for LGBTQ Youth. I have long supported efforts to support LGBTQ youth including Project 10, a great program that supports young people during some of the toughest years of their lives.

Throughout my career, I've been more than just a supporter or a vote. Through my public positions, my active campaigning and my close work with leaders in the LGBTQ community, I've sought to be a leader and ambassador for the movement in the Latino community and other communities of color. While we have won marriage equality and have begun to make progress on transgender rights there is still a lot of work to do to build coalitions and change attitudes in communities of color throughout the State. I have been proud to be a leader in my own heavily Latino and catholic district on LGBT rights and hope to step up my involvement with the bully pulpit of statewide office.

- 4) LGBTQ elders face a number of challenges, including finding affordable housing, accessing health care and a general lack of services. Older people living with HIV face similar challenges. If you were elected, what would you do to help address these challenges?

Accessibility of care, access to medication, drug costs, discrimination and access to information are among the most pressing needs. HIV and AIDS also have a disproportionate impact on our homeless and prison populations. At the state level the Governor's budget actually decreases funding for important programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program Rebate Fund. Federal funding for AIDS has also decreased. The LA County five-year HIV plan includes goals to reduce new infection by 25%, increase detection to 85% and increase to 90% the percentage of people living with AIDS who are linked to care within 90 days of diagnosis. I support these efforts and believe they should be fully funded. This is an issue deserving of our state's investment.

- 5) Similarly, LGBTQ youth face challenges including bullying and a high rate of homelessness if ostracized by their families. If you are elected, what would you do

to help these youth?

While we have begun to make efforts to support LGBTQ youth, there is more to be done to ensure all young people have a welcoming place to learn and safe place to call home. AB 1856 was a step in the right direction on housing, but we must do more to support fair, equal access affordable housing. At the same time, youth suicides continue and bullying is rampant. I believe we need to increase funding for programs in our public schools like Project 10 which give young people support during some of the toughest years of their lives. In addition to enacting policy we need to continue to educate the public and build coalitions that can not just pass laws in the short term, but change attitudes in the long term.

- 6) Supervised injection facilities or drug consumption facilities have been shown to reduce new HIV and hepatitis infections, overdose deaths, and public drug use, and to increase linkage to medical care and substance use treatment and save money, yet they remain controversial and illegal. If you are elected, what would you do to advocate for supervised injection sites?

I support sensible programs that reduce the spread of disease, reduce risks of death and encourage treatment. If elected, I will not shy away from being a visible, vocal supporter for sensible drug policy that works.

- 7) Do you support repeal or reform of the Ellis Act? What would you do to fight for housing affordability?

Affordable housing is one of the great challenges California, and cities like San Francisco, face. When I served on the LA City Council more low income housing was developed in my district than any other in the city. I also actively supported inclusionary zoning and negotiated inclusionary housing elements into market rate developments to demonstrate that it could be done and that it would pencil out.

As a renter, I understand the importance of strong protections for tenants. The Ellis Act results in particularly cruel evictions, often for some of the most vulnerable tenants, and reduces the housing stock. It needs to be reformed. I support Sen. Mark Leno's efforts to limit use of the Ellis Act by new landlords and would support additional measures to ensure tenants rights are protected and protect our existing affordable housing stock.

- 8) What kind of reform of Prop 13 is needed, if any? Would you support a split-roll property tax system?

Corporations and the wealthy should pay their fair share and we must continue to work to identify revenue sources to stabilize the state budget. Prop 13 was originally sold to voters as a way to protect residential homeowners. Its time to update Prop 13 to close the loopholes that allow corporations to avoid

reassessments on commercial property. Still, efforts to reform Proposition 13 have stalled in the legislature so while I believe we need to push for corporate tax reforms, we also need to address revenue needs elsewhere. That’s why I was a strong, early supporter of Proposition 30 and have long supported efforts to make it easier for local districts to raise revenues by lowering thresholds for special taxes and bond measures. In the legislature I have proposed increasing the tobacco tax to raise \$1 billion annually for our State’s general fund and increase our commitment to education and healthcare.

9) What is your position on online voting? If you support, what would you do to implement a secure online voting system?

I oppose online voting. Voting online is neither secure nor private.

PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire

Please check **Yes** or **No** for each question.

GENERAL	YES	NO
1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	Yes	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?	Yes	
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: Rose Kapolczynski	Yes	
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?		No

LGBTQ ISSUES

5. Do you fully support same-sex marriage equality?	Yes	
6. Do you support anti-discrimination laws for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people?	Yes	
7. Do you support including full transgender health benefits in Covered California health plans?	Yes	
8. Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender individuals?	Yes	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

9. Do you support rent control?	Yes	
10. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant?	No	

RACIAL AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

11. Do you support driver’s licenses for undocumented persons?	Yes	
12. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?	Yes, but only for advisory votes or elections for	

	neighborhood level boards and commissions.	
13. Do you support the protection of due process for immigrant youth accused of crime?	Yes	
14. Do you support the DREAM Act?	Yes	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES	YES	NO
15. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)?	Yes, but only for the most heinous crimes.	
16. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	No, but I believe we need to prioritize prosecuting those who profit and control the sex trade and human trafficking rather than the people being victimized.	
17. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012?	Yes	
18. Did you support Sen. Leno's 2013 bill (or at least the concept) to allow localities to allow bars to serve liquor until 4 AM?	Yes	
19. Do you support reducing simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor?	Yes	
20. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana?	No, but I support decriminalization and regulation of medical marijuana.	
21. Do you support a woman's right to choose and access a safe and legal abortion under all circumstances?	Yes	

22. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott?		No
23. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights?	Yes	

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES

24. Did you support AB 1266 (rights for transgender students)?	Yes	
25. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	Yes	
26. Do you support lowering the threshold to pass a local parcel tax for education to 55%?	Yes	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

27. Do you support California's high speed rail plans?	Yes	
28. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?	Yes, I support the Governor's overall vision, however I believe we must take every measure possible to protect the environment and preserve sensitive ecosystems.	