

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Questionnaire for Candidates for November 2014

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on 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. 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 Part 2 answers on a separate sheet of paper. Please return the completed questionnaire by **11:59 PM Thursday, August 14th**. E-mail all questionnaires to PAC Chair Alex Walker at pac@milkclub.org. Please bring at least 5 copies (printed front and back) of your questionnaire to our PAC interviews on **Saturday, August 16**. If you are unable to do so, please let Alex know ASAP. Please do not print this cover sheet.*

*We will be having our candidate interviews on **Saturday, August 16** from **9:30 AM to 4:30 PM** at the **LGBT Center's Ceremonial Room** (1800 Market at Octavia). Alex should be in touch to schedule a 10-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: William L. Walker

Office Sought: Member, Community College Board

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Email: ccsfwill@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/will.power.sf> or <http://ccsfwill.blogspot.com>

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Yes.

If so, when did you first join? 2012.

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? Yes. I am gay.

PART 1: Short-Answer Questionnaire

- 1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek (include your key issues/priorities if elected and any key endorsements you'd like to share), plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.**

*My qualifications for **Member, Community College Board**, include serving as student trustee of the College Board from June 2012 to May 2013, during the first year of the accreditation show cause determination, three years of serving in several student government roles at City College of San Francisco-Ocean Campus, including student body president, student body vice president, senator, elections commissioner, shared governance coordinator, BSU president and Queer Alliance Vice President. My experience with public education includes being a graduate of three public schools in San Francisco, serving as a student organizer and activities coordinator with the San Francisco Unified School District Student Advisory Council and my current occupation as a Counseling Services Specialist with Foothill College, where I have worked as a classified staff member since 2011. Additionally, I have more than ten years of work experience in nonprofit organizations throughout the Bay Area where my primary responsibility has been youth development, particularly with young people that were underrepresented as I was when I was a youth. These organizations include Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, Community Health Network/Department of Public Health, CHALK Youthline, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and KPFA Radio.*

- 2) If you are running for College Board, tell us about what you have done to support CCSF during its accreditation crisis and what you plan to do to keep it open and funded. Even if you aren't running for College Board, if you have been a part of the fight to save CCSF, feel free to tell us about what you have done to help.**

I took it upon myself to run for this same college board seat in the 2012 election while holding the non-voting Student Trustee seat that year, attending school full time, dealing with typical housing situations that students face in San Francisco, and being the student spokesperson for why one should not shut down the largest single campus community college district in the nation. I created a blog where I communicated my every move, whether it was attending an accreditation task force work group, speaking at the opening of a new campus or program, voting against raising student fees at a board meeting, or marching in Sacramento to raise awareness about the importance of CCSF to the region's workforce, the city's residents, and the 90,000 students that depended upon it every single day of their life.

- 3) Do you support repeal or reform of the Ellis Act? Locally, what specifically would you do to fight for housing affordability in San Francisco?**

As a native San Franciscan, who currently occupies a bank-owned house under pre-foreclosure proceedings, I have received three illegal eviction notices at my place of residence over the past year. Over the past three years, I have been homeless for as long as I have been housed. I support any changes to the Ellis Act that will prevent law abiding tenants from facing speculative evictions. I also support any policy statements on housing balance to be ratified as binding legislation in a future election.

- 4) In your opinion, what kind of reform of Prop 13 is needed, if any? Would you support a split-roll property tax system?**

Proposition 13 cannot continue to allow for businesses to enjoy tax savings protections that were intended for fixed income California residents. I would support a split-roll property tax system.

- 5) LGBTQ elders and older people living with HIV face a number of challenges, including finding affordable housing, accessing health care and a general lack of services. Many are being evicted. If you were elected, what would you do in your power to help address these challenges?**

Existing programs that support the elderly and those suffering from HIV should be evaluated for their efficacy and it should be determined if these programs require more funding to ensure that all who seek services from these at-risk communities can access these services. Accessing these services should also be

streamlined through an easily identifiable network provider, such as an LGBTQ liaison placed at up to a dozen adult day centers in different parts of San Francisco.

6) 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 in your power to help these youth? For School Board candidates, what would you do on the SFUSD board to help LGBTQ students who are bullied?

As a graduate of City College of San Francisco, I supported the creation of a safe space for the Queer Alliance in 2002; LGBTQ students did not feel safe in the Associated Student Union at CCSF and the work of the Council that year created a safe space for queer students. I am proud to say that twelve years later, the Queer Alliance holds their meetings in the newly established Queer Resource Center. The space is great, but a number of alliances between queer leaders in San Francisco and the queer students that attend CCSF would be very empowering to students. Whether this program is a mentorship program or a speaker series of successful queer leaders in San Francisco, more programs where young queers can see elder queers that are contributing to the community can help boost the self-esteem of students who face bullying on a daily basis.

Additionally, much of the legislation being presented at the state level by Assemblymember Ammiano and Senator Leno should be tracked at the local level to determine what changes are happening locally as a result of legislation enacted at the state level.

7) 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 am willing to convene a few town hall forums in parts of San Francisco that are supportive of the facilities and parts of San Francisco that have no desire for the facilities to see if there are any ways of determining common ground between each side of the issue, whether any pilot of the facility would be palatable, and determining which allies in elected positions in San Francisco would be willing to introduce legislation to pilot a facility in an area that both understands the need for and can benefit from a pilot facility.

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?	X	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?	X	
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who:		X
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	

LGBTQ ISSUES		
5. Do you support including full transgender health benefits in Covered California health plans?	X	
6. Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender individuals?	X	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES		
7. Do you support rent control?	X	
8. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain:		X

RACIAL AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES		
9. Do you support driver's licenses for undocumented persons?	X	
10. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?	X	
11. Do you support the protection of due process for immigrant youth accused of crime?	X	
12. Do you support the DREAM Act?	X	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES		
13. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)?		X
14. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	X	
15. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012?	X	
16. Did you support Sen. Leno's 2013 bill (or at least the concept) to allow localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 AM?	X	
17. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana?	X	
18. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		X
19. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights?	X	

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES	YES	NO
20. Did you support Assemblymember Ammiano's AB 1266 (rights for transgender students)?	X	
21. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	X	

22. Do you support lowering the threshold to pass a local parcel tax for education to 55%?	X	
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

23. Do you support California's high speed rail plans?	X	
24. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?		X

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

25. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)?	X	
26. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)?	X	
27. Do you support Prop C (Children and Youth Fund)?	X	
28. Do you support Prop D (Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees)?	X	
29. Do you support Prop E (Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages)?		X
30. Do you support Prop F (Pier 70 Development Height Limit Increase)?	X	
31. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)?	X	
32. Do you support Prop H (Maintaining Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park as Natural Grass)?		X
33. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)?		X
34. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code – Minimum Wage)?	X	
35. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)?	X	
36. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)?		X

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.		X
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?		X
39. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?	X	
40. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?		X
41. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)?	X	
42. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)?	NO POSITION	
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	