

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) or call him at 415-876-8254.*

*Good Luck,*

*The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club*

## Required Information

**Full Name: Mark Murphy**

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

**If so, when did you first join? January 2014**

**Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? 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.

I am running for the San Francisco Unified School Board to continue advocating for the opportunity for greatness for all our San Francisco children. I believe they must be provided every public education opportunity supported by the entirety of San Francisco. They are all our children.

Established in 1851, our San Francisco Schools have only had two gay men ever serve on the Board of Education. While our School Board has been very supportive, ground breaking in many regards, of LGBTQ students and their needs, I intend to serve as a role model and be the leading voice continuing to work to bring forward the many challenges that still exist for our LGBTQ students including the increased health and safety issues.

My vision for the School Board is to provide the necessary governance and oversight of our District's programs and services including;

- Continuing to provide a laser focus on improving outcomes for our underachieving students
- Addressing larger communications challenges with the District, Union, Parents, and city-at-large, and
- Engaging San Francisco in a "whole child" conversation with both public and private entities serving children, to ensure our children come to school healthy and ready to learn (teeth, eyes, food...), are provided talent and resources during the school day so richly

available in San Francisco, and seamlessly and effectively are served after school hours further enriching our children's academic, social, physical, and emotional selves.

My years of advocating for San Francisco children include:

- 2012-now: San Francisco's Prop H (Public Education Enrichment Fund) Community Advisory Committee providing oversight and feedback on \$50 million budget within SFUSD supporting 17 programs including Sports, Libraries, Arts, and Music, mentoring, Peer Resource, A-G credit recovery, STEM, and translation services and numerous other programs
- 2000-now: work with SFUSD school site PTO/PTAs
- 2013-14: Mayor and Superintendent's "Our Children Our City" Stakeholder Committee advocating for reauthorization of Proposition H (Public Education Enrichment Fund).
- 2013-14: SFUSD Vision 2025 Initiative
- 2007-2012: Served on Human Rights Commission's LGBT Advisory Committee focusing on LGBT youth (passing LGBTQ legislation with the San Francisco Board of Education)

I understand and appreciate our SFUSD from many aspects, including, my husband of 19 years is a 16-year National Board Certified SFUSD elementary school teacher.

Focusing on the educational success of children in the City and County of San Francisco is a moral imperative, and one I believe demands the greatest of attention and resources.

Specific components I look to address are:

### **Common Core implementation**

Implementation of the [Common Core Standards](#) and [Smarter Balance Assessments](#), arguably the greatest standards and testing/assessments change in a generation, effects every student, teacher, para professional, administrator, parent, the entire education community. [SFUSD has begun implementing the new Standards](#), but significant work remains:

- Academic and language equity for all students
- Technology parity at every school for every child
- Greater levels of professional development and preparation time for all teachers and administrators

I will bring my unique expertise in project management implementation, organizational communications, and change management to raise the level of the conversation on these most important issues as the Common Core is rolled out through the District.

### **Laser focus on the continued achievement gap**

[Education access and equity](#) is paramount for a large number of San Francisco children.

- In San Francisco, almost half the children enrolled in our schools live in poverty
- Nearly one third begin school not speaking, reading or writing English

While funding and staffing changes within the District have improved with the passing of [Proposition 30](#), the state's continued economic recovery, and the [Local Control Funding](#)

[Formula](#) will help shore up critical recent historic losses to the district's budget, the ongoing conversation addressing the largest numbers of underachieving students is paramount.

As a School Board member, my Co-Chair role of the [PEEF CAC](#), providing guidance on nearly \$50M annual District program expenditures, many addressing access and equity, will provide the unique background and oversight experience to continue advocating for those children in the San Francisco School District with less, so they can do more.

### **Leverage of the entirety of San Francisco's resources**

The success of our San Francisco Unified School District children does not start when the bell sounds in the morning nor does it end with the school bell in the afternoon and definitely does not happen solely within the four walls of our schools.

Ensuring our children come to school ready to learn having had a good night's sleep, are fed, immunized, mentored, and cared for is a particular 'whole child' focus I will bring to the School Board.

Within its 49 square miles, San Francisco is a City and County with world renowned resources, from physical and natural beauty, to an arts community rivaling the world's best, to myriad options of higher academic opportunity, to envied LGBT leadership, to passionate civil rights leadership, to ethnic diversity and over 100 languages, to groundbreaking preventative and illness curing healthcare systems, and so much more.

As a School Board member, I will remember the nearly one thousand voices I heard during the 2013 "[Our Children, Our City](#)" community meetings:

- Children are asking for help to reduce the barriers for their success
- Parents are asking for improved communications
- CBOs are asking for better program coordination

Also, taking part in the San Francisco Unified School District's 'Vision 2025' initiative, I experienced first hand how San Franciscans from numerous aspects of our city are motivated to step forward and raise the level of opportunity and success for our SFUSD school children.

Finally, my expertise in the areas of community facilitation and coalition-based problem solving will continue the good work already underway bringing together the entire City and County of San Francisco's resources for our children, their future, their success.

The Campaign is proud to be endorsed by the following Clubs and Organizations in addition to the follow Elected Officials:

- San Francisco Parent Political Action Committee
- Laborers' Local 261
- San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council
- Alice B Toklas LGBT Democratic Club PAC Sole Endorsement
  
- CA State Senator Mark Leno

- San Francisco Assessor/Recorder Carmen Chu
- San Francisco School Board Member Rachel Norton
- San Francisco School Board Member Jill Wynns
- San Francisco Supervisor Mark Farrell
- San Francisco Supervisor Katy Tang
- San Francisco Supervisor Scott Wiener
- City College Trustee Rafael Mandelman
- City College Trustee Steve Ngo
- San Francisco DCCC Vice Chair Zoe Dunning
- San Francisco DCCC Member Arlo Hale
- San Francisco DCCC Member Meagan Levitan
- San Francisco DCCC Member Rebecca Prozan

The Campaign is proud to be endorsed by the following Community Leaders (partial list):

- Stephen Adams - President, San Francisco Small Business Commission\*
- Dr. Amy Bacharach - San Francisco Community Organizer
- Keith Baraka - San Francisco Firefighter
- Susan Christian -San Francisco Human Rights Commission\*
- Todd David - President Friends of Noe Valley\*
- Mark Dunlop - Treasure Island Development Authority\*
- Jason Galisatus - Chairman Emeritus Bay Area Youth Summit\*
- Tom Nolan - Chairman to the SFMTA Board of Directors\*
- Michelle Parker - San Francisco Parent Leader
- Michael Pappas - San Francisco Human Rights Commission\*
- Mark Sanchez - SFUSD Principal
- Andrea Shorter - Commission on the Status of Women\*

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.

N/A

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?

Yes, I strongly support a reformation of the existing Ellis Act legislation! I too have had far too many friends evicted from their homes and worst case, leaving San Francisco. The most obvious and immediate measure SFUSD can provide educators is a wage increase stemming from the current contract negotiations. Keeping our teachers in San Francisco, in community with their schools and children, provides an immeasurable impact on the lives of their students and families.

I would like to revisit past measures discussed pertaining to creating educator housing and yet most importantly, I would reach out and invite UESF, SEIU, and others to be part of the conversation to provide input, thoughts, and ideas because the magnitude of this issue will take “all hands on deck”.

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

As I have stated previously, I strongly(!) support any and all efforts, local and statewide, addressing revisions to Proposition 13.

This was and continues to be the greatest scourge to education funding in California. I have been excited at the prospect of Prop 13 reformation since then San Francisco Assessor/Recorder, now Assemblyman, Phil Ting first started raising this issue locally. It is my understanding there are current efforts underway, looking ahead to the 2016 California ballot, in the vein of a split-roll, I believe the most palatable change to voters in California.

As a member of the San Francisco Board of Education, I will lend my voice, my time, and my energy to usher through any and all reforms to our existing Prop 13.

- 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?

From my five years on the LGBT Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Commission, we regularly discussed LGBT elders and it was from the Advisory Committee that the San Francisco LGBT Aging Policy Task Force, Co-Sponsored by Supervisor Campos, was created.

As an member of the Board of Education, I would continue to call on other LGBT elected officials and community advocates to continue pressing for action on the "LGBT Aging at the Golden Gate: San Francisco Policy Issues and Recommendations," document.

Not unlike my work at the LGBT Advisory Committee reviewing and calling for public hearings on the groundbreaking “Investigation in the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Youth” report by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the LGBT Again report is a ground breaking report that must be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing and regular basis.

- 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?

I am proud to have been a primary author and community advocate, along side School Board member Sandra Fewer, of the most recent LGBTQ Resolution passed by the San Francisco Board of Education Resolution No. 912-8A3 In Support that the San Francisco Unified

School District (SFUSD) Strengthen the Anti-Discrimination Program in Schools in Order to Effect a Healthier Learning Environment for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students.

I have worked closely with the SFUSD Student Services team over many years as part of my work on the LGBT Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Commission, publicly calling on SFUSD to more directly address the challenges and issues that more severely impact our LGBTQ children (suicide ideation, drinking, smoking, and truancy).

I would stand proud as a Board of Education member overseeing the legislation I helped write and fought to enact via a 7-0 vote. I will continue to strongly evaluate if appropriate funding is being allocated to meet the expected outcomes, to ask for testimony from students and continue to address the health and safety of our LGBTQ youth.

- 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?

As a member of the San Francisco Board of Education, while personally I fully support supervised injection and drug consumption facilities, “wet” houses, and other programs that have demonstrated success in improved health and reduced costs, I would need to balance my work with the youth and children of San Francisco against these issues.

## PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire

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

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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: Erwin & Muir	X	
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?		X

<b>LGBTQ ISSUES</b>		
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	

<b>TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES</b>		
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
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**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	

**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)? <b>Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.</b>	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)?	X	
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	