

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: Mark E. Farrell

Office Sought: District 2 Supervisor

Mailing Address: PO Box 475162, San Francisco CA 94147

Phone: (805) 801-4015

Email: info@markfarrell.com; tylerbrowne@gmail.com

Website: www.markfarrell.com

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

If so, when did you first join?

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 any key endorsements you'd like to share), plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

Prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors, I practiced law as a corporate and securities attorney at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, joined Thomas Weisel Partners as an investment banker, and then co-founded Thayer Ventures, a San Francisco-based investment firm. I received by BA from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, my MA from University College Dublin in Ireland, and my J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia. My time in elected office, specifically the legislation and other policy initiatives that I have supported and prioritized, and my previous private sector experience largest qualifications to continue my service as District 2 Supervisor.

My key endorsements include the U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee, DA George Gascon, Assessor/Recorder Carmen Chu, Public Defender Jeff Adachi, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jose Cisneros, the San Francisco Democratic Party, San Francisco Young Democrats, San Francisco Firefighters Local 798, San Francisco Police Officer's Association, Laborers Local 261, Carpenters Local 22, Plumbers Local 28 and IPTE Local 21.

- 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 have supported all resolutions and other initiatives at the Board of Supervisors, and spoken out publicly about the need to keep CCSF open, and the disastrous effects closing CCSF would have on tens of thousands of students, the faculty, other workers and the entire City of San Francisco.

- 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?

I would have to see the specifics of any proposal. Speaking generally, I would support reform measures that balanced the immediate needs of increasing the housing supply in San Francisco, protecting against the dramatic evictions we have seen recently in San Francisco, while not overly burdening homeowners and renters. I am currently working on legislation regarding the “housing dial” to encourage the building of more on-site affordable housing here in San Francisco, and believe we need to continue to explore any and all options to increase affordable housing here in San Francisco.

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

I believe that property taxes should be more fairly apportioned between commercial and residential properties, and that we need more transparency in the process surrounding commercial property owners avoiding reassessment while homeowners often get stuck with the most recent sales price. However, I strongly believe we must be careful to not overly burden the small businesses that are at the heart of our neighborhood merchant corridors. On the issue of a split-roll property tax system, I believe that the voters of California have the final say.

- 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?

As Chair of the Board of Supervisor’s Budget and Finance Committee for the past two years, I’ve worked to ensure the City services residents depend on are protected and supported, in particular including back-filling all HIV/AIDS funding cuts from the federal and state level. I sponsored Prop-A on last year’s ballot, which protects City retiree health care benefits for seniors, created the Open Schoolyards project to create more open space families and foster a greater sense of community, and have also supported increasing our City’s budget reserves to protect against the next economic downturn, so that we don’t have to make too drastic of cuts to crucial City services when the next down turn hits. In my two years as Chair, we have doubled our reserved to protect against the next downturn while significantly increasing our spending for critical neighborhood services.

- 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?

Recently, my office held eight hearings on the issue of homelessness in San Francisco, and specifically hosted a hearing on services and solutions for LGBT and TAY respectively. With the hearings held so close to our City's budget cycle, it led to additional investments in services and programs for these populations in our recently passed budget. Additionally, this year I introduced and passed a budget supplemental and prioritized additional funding towards the Homeless Outreach Team – these services extend access to drug and alcohol treatment services as well as shelters and permanent housing to get people off the streets if they choose. If re-elected my office will continue to focus the issues that affect all who are homeless in my next term as well.

- 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'm not familiar with this plan and would need to know more from public health experts and others involved in the program to take a position. Speaking generally, I understand the health benefits in approaching illicit drug use through harm reduction policies, such as safe injection sites. I also am a supporter of other harm reduction policies such as wet housing.

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: Erwin & Muir	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 Assembly member 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)? 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)?	X	
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	