

**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:** *Dr. Anita Grier* **Office Sought:** *Community College Board*

**Mailing Address:** *106 Byxbee St. SF 94132* **Phone:** *415 755-8985*

**Email:** *dranitagrier@gmail.com* **Website:** *anitagrier.org*

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

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

I always begin every speech and anything I write with this exhortation: SAVE CITY COLLEGE!

### 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've been in education all my life, as student, teacher and as Trustee for Community College.

I have been diligent in supporting the faculty and staff at CCSF and have conscientiously advocated for low-income students. I'll continue fighting to keep education affordable and available to all. I refuse to apologize for my strong support for living wages for our outstanding teachers and staff. Nor do I apologize for my continued support for their job security and benefits. After a bankrupt decade of "blame the teachers" on a national level, enlightened people are beginning to recognize that, far from improving the situation, pseudo reform has resulted in a severely deteriorated education system. We deserve the best teachers, and in order to keep the best, we need to stay competitive in wages and benefits.

As a teacher in SFUSD, I've been a life-long union member. I've counted on my union to look out for my interests, and now I'm devoted to looking out for my brothers and sisters in AFT 2121 and SEIU 1021. As an SFUSD administrator, I served as a delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council and worked collaboratively with the AFT Local 2121 delegates, other progressives and our heroic comrade Walter Johnson. I expect my labor comrades to be with me at election time, as they expect me to be with them in their struggles and on the picket lines.

- 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.

**Saving City College is my number 1 priority.** City College is the multi-racial heart and intellectual soul of San Francisco and we'll never let it close or be lobotomized. Please join our fight to preserve affordable, accessible, life-long learning for everyone.

I take pride in the thousands of low-income people whose successful careers started at City College. Many families do not have the option of 4-year and elite universities; City College exists so everyone can get an education. This matters now, more than ever, as San Francisco becomes one of the most

expensive cities in the world. We must continue to ensure that our citizens benefit from City College.

The current crisis, brought on by the ACCJC, was precipitated by the California Community College Board of Governors' *Student Success Plan*, an ill conceived and poorly articulated plan of action that leaves out consideration of extremely low-income individuals, leaves diversity considerations out of the equation, ignores LGBT and transgender considerations, and has no special provisions for people with language problems and ESL issues. It does not address the disabled or the special needs of seniors. Nor are issues addressed surrounding veteran transition or programs like our Second Chance, a program that I'm working to improve with Sheriff Mirkarimi, that assists incarcerated populations.

Our Trustees fought for *Open Access* education for everyone, not just full-time students with the goal of getting a job. I personally went to Sacramento (at my own expense, of course) to testify against the *Student Success Plan*. I firmly believe it violates the *California Master Plan for Higher Education*. I have made eight trips to Sacramento to advocate for our college since the take-over.

I'm proud of the grassroots support that has coalesced around this battle and most elected officials have stepped up to stop the college accreditation organization, the ACCJC's power grab and its undemocratic "Extraordinary Powers." That means that actions can be taken by one individual behind closed doors, without hearings or input from the public—something San Franciscans will not stand for. Any such "extraordinary" actions must be rescinded and resolved in the open process our *Sunshine Policy* requires, a policy I'm proud to say that I authored.

As Trustee I've worked tirelessly to save the *California Master Plan*, making the transition to higher educational institutions available for our students. It's a battle I take personally; not just because I attended City College, but for the thousands of students who have sacrificed to go to classes, complete the work and who followed all the rules. They are the victims in this power grab and they deserve better.

Save City College! — it's not perfect — but it's a treasure we can continue to build on. Please join the fight. Start by signing up for a class! If you or your child has special education needs, City College is here for you! If you need workforce specialization and training towards certification, City College is here for you! If you are an artist who wants to meet, and work, and share with other artists, City College is here for you! We have special programs for veterans and the Second Chance program for incarcerated prisoners who want to turn their lives around. For high school students and GED students who dream of going to college, City College is here for you! A great career begins at City College!

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?

Absolutely.

I have lived in my home in the Ingleside for almost 30 yrs, but when I bought in the neighborhood, it was affordable. It is not affordable any longer. We need affordable housing! Everyday I think about the high school students and college students with whom I work. I wonder where they will live once they leave their parents. Where will our teachers, nurses, policemen and firemen live?

Forty years Ago ILWU had the vision to take on the issue of affordable housing and provide low-cost housing. The success of community housing is clearly demonstrated in San Francisco's St. Francis Square Cooperative, which has provided affordable homeownership for four decades. Today those residents own their homes. We have amazing resources; we've just lost the vision.

We need to find a way to get some of the vacant Ellis Act apartments back on line to increase supply; there have been estimates that there may be 10,000 of them. The Housing Authority has many units that still need rehabilitation to bring them up to standard for rent and I we need that. The Sunnydale units could better utilize the 50 acres of property they cover; this property alone could provide 20,000 units of well-planned housing.

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 do not think Prop 13 is untouchable. I support regular reassessment of commercial property, however, if apartment buildings are included in that category, I do not support passing increases through to tenants. Prop 13's endlessly hammers local governments and school. The lower property taxes it mandates cause the high income and sales taxes that are an unfair burden on the poor. But that has made for a revenue stream that rises and falls with the economy, crippling the state when the economy is in the dumps.

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?

While the office of Trustee for City College has limited power to bring about the resolution we all desire, our many seniors are often ignored, seniors for whom a class can mean the difference between years of isolation and depression or association and interaction with like-minded friends. And having seniors learning and interacting along with young learners adds a priceless value to classes and activities. (Didn't someone write *It Takes a Village?*)

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 teacher in SFUSD, I have consistently and vociferously advocated for the children who have these unnecessary and unconscionable problems. It is a teacher's job to be on the lookout for these issues that crop up in classrooms and playgrounds.

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?

We must do whatever it takes to ameliorate these devastating health problems.

## **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: Karen Rolph Morales	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%?		
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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?		

**LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES**

25. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)?		
26. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)?		
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)?		
36. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)?		

**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>		
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)?		
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	x	

On some of these local issues, I hesitate to form opinions without sufficient study. Because of the significance of taking a position, I usually prefer to wait for the arguments that are presented in the ballot handbook before I make my final decision. And I reserve the right to change my mind on any issue I have marked a preference for. I also weigh the opinions of my union, the Milk Club, the Tenants Union and the activists present at the African American Democratic Club and, of course, there are other community and political activists whose views I value.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issues you are concerned about, and please bring me any concerns you may have.