

**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:** Michael Petrelis

**Office Sought:** District 8 Supervisor

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 14943, SF, CA 94114

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*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)? Yes*

## **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.

As a candidate for District 8 Supervisor, my key issues start with building and protecting truly affordable housing for low and moderate income folks, expanding rent control to all housing built after 1978, greatly increasing taxes levied on tech companies based in San Francisco and real estate developers and earmarking those tax revenues to the Community Land Trust for its crucial work, creating joint public/private funded subsidies for long-term San Francisco tenants facing astronomical rent increases and putting an immediate halt to real estate speculation.

Regarding public dollars, officials and spaces I've delivered accountability over how some nonprofits such as Charlotte Shultz's SF Host Committee, which receives \$250,000 annually for City Hall parties, waste taxpayer money; obtained and published on the web expense reports and monthly calendars for officeholders and department heads and advocated that they voluntarily post their calendars online; exposed how the City has ceded control of the public rainbow flagpole at Harvey Milk Plaza to a private and exclusive business organization, while also successfully persuading, in collaboration with a trans woman of color and LGBT seniors, that organization to lower the flag on several occasions and also raise the Transgender Pride Flag.

I wish to feed two birds with one seed by reopening bathhouses to more fully meet the various hygienic needs of our homeless brothers and sisters with showers and laundry facilities, and giving them a safe space to rest during the daytime hours and have private cubicles for sexual liaisons; while also providing gay, bisexual, trans men and bisexual guys a bathhouse with rooms that have doors for private sex activities; and for all patrons on-site access to STD and HIV testing, prevention materials and anal and penile condoms, and information about agencies for social services.

Endorsers include Tommi Avicolti Mecca, LGBT Housing Advocate; Sue Englander, Harvey Milk Club Member; Andy Blue, District 8 Democrats' Member; Veronika Fimbres, Transgender and African-American Activist; Laura Guzman, Latina Mental Health Advocate; Mitch Hightower, Body Freedom Advocate; Elwood "Nude Woody" Miller, Body Freedom Advocate; Melanie Nathan, Global LGBT Activist, and Clinton Fein, First Amendment Fighter.

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.

As a former student of City College who greatly benefited from the teachers who taught the classes I took, collaborations with fellow students and the other resources such as mental health counseling at this wonderful institution, I regret that due to serious health related problems and a legal vendetta by the District 8 incumbent Supervisor tying me up in the criminal justice system, I've not had the time or energy to participate in the demonstrations or community meetings to keep City College open.

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 fully embrace abolishing the Ellis Act and I would turn to longtime affordable housing experts and social justice advocates, and seek their guidance about how I might best fight to keep renters in their homes, curb the eviction epidemic and agitate for the creation of genuine affordable housing for low income individuals and families.

4)

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

Yes, I enthusiastically back major reform of Prop 13 and believe that Assemblymember Tom Ammiano has provided courageous and terrific leadership to change Prop 13. Yes, I support a split-roll and thank Mr. Ammiano for educating me about this matter. He said, and I totally with him: "[It's a] 'smart roll,' because it's smart enough to sniff out the real changes. It brings in more money by assessing property at what it's worth, not by raising tax rates. This doesn't affect people who have held property for a

long time, just new owners. That's the way it is with residential property.”

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? First of all, my life-partner of 18 years Michael Merrigan and I are gay elders and also long-term AIDS survivors who are blessed to live in a rent controlled apartment, and we fear our landlord wants to cash in on the hot real estate values of our neighborhood.

We continue to advocate with elected officials, the Department of Public Health and advisory bodies such as the HIV Prevention Planning Council and San Francisco CARE Council, for City- and privately-funded programs to assist us and our cohorts in maintaining our affordable housing and personal health wellness.

It's important to champion the work conducted the City's Human Rights Committee's LGBT Aging Policy Task Force and the Human Resources Agency's LGBT Aging Task Force, and we want the recommendations of these task forces to be fully implemented and funded. Of particular concern, after losing a beloved friend this year to suicide, is better mental healthcare for senior gays.

I am committed to keeping pressure on local and national HIV/AIDS and LGBT nonprofits, such as the Human Rights Campaign and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, to fight for direct services for LGBT seniors and expand existing programs that engage long-term AIDS survivors.

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'd start with requesting weekly status reports from the pertinent City agencies about getting the queer homeless shelter on South Van Ness Avenue and putting public pressure on them to cut the red tape, while not scrimping on all safety requirements.

We need emergency housing for queer youths rejected by their families, and additional services assisting them with employment counseling, government benefits, access to healthcare, and food security.

One step I would take is establishing an advisory board comprised of only LGBTQ young people to assess their needs and recommend policy solutions.

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 consider raising private funds to secure an injection site and ancillary services to operate it, convening community meetings to hear concerns of nearby residents where the site would, build support from neighbors and local businesses, and sustain advocacy efforts at the Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Police Department to back these life-saving sites.

**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	Y	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before? No		
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: Yes. Mitch Hightower		
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past? No		i

**LGBTQ ISSUES**

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

**TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

7. Do you support rent control? Yes		
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8. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain: No		
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**RACIAL AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**

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

**SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES**

13. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)? No		
14. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? Yes		
15. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012? No		
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? Yes		
17. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana? Yes		
18. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain: No		
19. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights? Yes		

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES**

**YES NO**

20. Did you support Assemblymember Ammiano's AB 1266 (rights for transgender students)? Yes		
21. Do you support the Common Core education standards? Yes		
22. Do you support lowering the threshold to pass a local parcel tax for education to 55%? Yes		

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

23. Do you support California's high speed rail plans? Yes		
24. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan? No		

**LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES**

25. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)? Yes		
26. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)? Yes		
27. Do you support Prop C (Children and Youth Fund)? Yes		
28. Do you support Prop D (Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees)? Undecided		
29. Do you support Prop E (Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages)? No		
30. Do you support Prop F (Pier 70 Development Height Limit Increase)? Yes		
31. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)? Yes		
32. Do you support Prop H (Maintaining Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park as Natural Grass)? Yes		
33. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)? Yes		
34. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code – Minimum Wage)? Yes		
35. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)? Yes		
36. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)? No		

**STATE BALLOT MEASURES**

37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? <b>Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year. N/A</b>		
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)? Yes		
39. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)? Yes		

40. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)? No		
41. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)? Yes		
42. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)? No		
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)? Yes		