



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: Malia Cohen

Office Sought: Supervisor, District 10

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Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? No

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? No, I am not.

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 native San Franciscan, I am a product of San Francisco's public schools, transportation and library systems, and I am acutely aware of the challenges our City faces. My work experience as a community organizer, small business owner and a former City employee has afforded me the knowledge and skills to spearhead legislation, advocate for important issues and interface with all communities to move forward policies that have a positive impact on our Southeastern neighborhoods.

In my first term on the Board of Supervisors, I have delivered for District 10 residents and San Franciscans by championing the development of affordable housing for seniors and families; spearheading landmark legislation to toughen



regulations on guns and lethal ammunition to curb violence; creating and protecting local jobs in construction and manufacturing; supporting the creation of an LGBT Senior Task Force to address the needs of the aging LGBT community and the increased funding for services targeting at-risk LGBT seniors and youth, particularly in communities of color; co-authoring legislation that provides a fair chance at jobs and affordable housing for individuals with a conviction history; securing funding to stop domestic violence, increased healthy food options and expanding language access services; and supporting free Muni for youth and fighting to secure more funds for Muni service.

District 10 deserves a leader in City Hall who has the experience, commitment, and pragmatism to guide us through the next four years -- my priorities will be tackling housing affordability, increasing public safety, bringing more living wage jobs to residents in District 10, and expanding neighborhood services in the Southeastern sector of our City including improved transportation.

I am honored and humbled to have received support and endorsements from the following people and organizations: US Senator Diane Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Kamala Harris, Senator Mark Leno, Senator Alex Padilla, Former State Senator Carole Migden, CA Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, CA Democratic Party Chairman John Burton, Former Speaker Pro Tempore Fiona Ma, Mayor Ed Lee, Public Defender Jeff Adachi, Assessor Recorder Carmen Chu, Supervisor David Chiu, Supervisor Scott Wiener, Supervisor London Breed, Supervisor Eric Mar, Supervisor Katy Tang, Board of Education Commissioner Jill Wynns, Board of Education Commissioner Matt Haney, Board of Education Commissioner Rachel Norton, Board of Education Commissioner Emily Murase, the Alliance for Jobs, the Police Officers Association, San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC), Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club Political Committee, the Building & Construction Trades Council, the Deputy Sheriffs' Association, Carpenters Local 22, Firefighters Local 798, Laborers 261, United Educators of SF – Executive Board, San Francisco Young Democrats, Operating Engineers - Local 3, SEIU - Local 87, SEIU – UHW, SFSU College Democrats, IBEW Local 6, Ironworkers Local 377, SF Black Young Democrats, Willie B Kennedy Democratic Club, Democratic Women in Action, Building Owners & Managers Association, Black Women Organized for Political



Action, Filipino American Democratic Club, and the Professional and Technical Engineers, 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 been a strong supporter of saving and preserving CCSF's accreditation. CCSF is an institution that is essential to our City. I have supported Board resolutions, made calls and signed letters in support of efforts to save CCSF. I will continue to be an advocate for CCSF.

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 have fought to support increased payments for victims of the Ellis Act and stood behind State efforts to reform the law because I am a firm believer that we must create more affordable and middle-income housing in San Francisco. In my first term, I took significant steps in rebuilding our City's public housing and moving forward key projects that deliver low and middle-income units. In District 10, we are building thousands of units of middle-income housing at the Hunters Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point, Alice Griffith and the old Schlage Lock site. In an effort to grow middle-income housing, in my capacity as a trustee on the Retirement Board I initiated the investment of \$50 million of pension funds into the City's first time homebuyer program. I will continue to support projects that deliver not only low income, but also middle income units in San Francisco and will push for additional incentives for developers who deliver these key community benefits.

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 support Proposition 13 reform. Just a few months ago, I sponsored a resolution at the Board of Supervisors urging the State legislature to close the



commercial property tax loophole that has been implemented as a component of Proposition 13. Commercial property owners don't pay their fair share under this system shifting the tax burden to others. By not assessing these properties properly, San Francisco is forgoing \$46 billion in assessed property values that would result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual revenue to the San Francisco Unified School District.

- 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?**

Nearly every corner of the City is facing an affordability crisis centered on rising rents and a flood of new residents. In order to meet demand, we must focus on building more affordable and middle-income housing. Many minority communities are being pushed out of their neighborhoods, and we must take action to keep diversity alive in San Francisco. I am currently working with community leaders to develop and initiate a new marketing plan focused on attracting minorities and people of color to the housing units being built throughout the Southeastern neighborhoods. I believe a similar program could work in the LGBTQ community. In my first term we took significant steps in rebuilding our City's affordable housing and building key projects that deliver low and moderate-income units. I supported increased payments for victims of the Ellis Act and supported State efforts to reform this State law which is being used by speculators to displace long time residents in our communities. During the height of the economic downturn I implemented a mandatory mediation program with the Superior Court to ensure that foreclosure victims had access to the legal services they needed to keep their homes. I believe we need to continue all of these efforts in order to preserve the diversity and character of San Francisco. San Francisco shouldn't just be a City for those who can afford it, we have a long been a City that embraces everyone.



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 believe that one of the most important things we can do to support LGBTQ youth are to provide key services such as housing, mental health and employment that are tailored to their specific needs. This is why I was a supporter of budget requests that came from the TAY budget coalition for key services. I was also a supporter of adding TAY to the re-authorization of the Children’s Fund and increasing the age of individuals that can access TAY services. Additionally, I believe that one of the most important ways to elevate a community is to support and help appoint and elect leaders to public positions. I have been proud to support LGBTQ candidates for City Boards and Commissions.

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 have not taken a position on the issue, but I remain open to hearing more about it.

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	
1. Have you ever run for elected office before?	X	
1. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: 50+1 Strategies	X	



1. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	
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LGBTQ ISSUES

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

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

1. Do you support rent control?	X	
1. 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	
10. Do you support the protection of due process for immigrant youth accused of crime?	X	
10. Do you support the DREAM Act?	X	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES

10. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)?		X
10. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?		X
10. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012?	I did not take a position on this issue	
10. 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	
10. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana?	I have no position on this issue	
10. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		X
10. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights?	X	

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES

YES

NO



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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

10. Do you support California's high speed rail plans?	X	
10. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?	I have not take a position on Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels Plan	

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

10. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop C (Children and Youth Fund)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop D (Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop E (Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop F (Pier 70 Development Height Limit Increase)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)?	I have not taken a position on this issue	
10. Do you support Prop H (Maintaining Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park as Natural Grass)?		X
10. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code – Minimum Wage)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)?		X

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

10. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.	I did not take a position on this issue	
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10. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?	I did not take a position on this issue	
10. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?	I did not take a position on this issue	
10. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?	No endorsement	
10. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)?	X	
10. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)?	I did not take a position on this issue	
10. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	