

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:

Shamann Walton

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Board of Education

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San Francisco, CA 94104

Phone:

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Email:

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Website:

Waltonforschoolboard.com

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club?

No

If so, when did you first join?

N/A

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

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.

Qualifications:

I've spent my entire adult life working with students, families, teachers, and public school personnel on creating and supporting programs within public schools that ensure all students have the opportunity to learn and be successful. As a former educator, I understand the obstacles and challenges parents face ensuring their child gets a high-quality education. As a parent, I understand and identify with concerns and issues facing parents. As someone who has been

providing quality programming in SFUSD for years, I understand what methods work best to address the issues facing SFUSD schools.

I've worked with elementary schools to provide universal access to screenings for children ages 3 months – 5 years to identify developmental delays pre-kindergarten. I've worked on kindergarten transition programs and secured funding for regular classroom teachers to provide instruction over the summer for incoming students. I've managed school truancy prevention programs and assisted in increasing student attendance.

Currently I am the Executive Director of Young Community Developers, a workforce development agency in Bayview Hunters Point, where I work to provide high quality tutoring and job training to SFUSD students. I have a Bachelors in Political Science from Morris Brown College and a Masters in Public Administration from SFSU.

Priorities:

If elected to the Board of Education, my top three priorities would be to: ensure increased funding opportunities for strategies that get resources directly into the classroom; develop real solutions to close the achievement gap, especially for African American, Latino, Pacific Islander, English Language Learner, and Special Needs students; and work collaboratively with SFUSD and stakeholders to ensure equitable and high-quality schools are available to students in every neighborhood or community.

I'll fight to ensure that increased funding opportunities (i.e. through Prop 30 and LCFF) are utilized on strategies that get resources directly into the classroom to promote student success. I'll focus on funding for more teachers/para-professionals in order to decrease classroom sizes and for programs that increase access to higher education/career opportunities. It's crucial we bring in professional development and establish school-to-career pipeline options, especially drawing on the technology and innovation growth in our city. We need to integrate real-world learning into each subject area. This includes promoting internship/vocational programs, which allow students to equate academic performance to employment opportunities and future successes.

I'll fight to ensure that resources are used strategically to close the achievement gap, especially for African American, Latino, Pacific Islander, English Language Learner, and Special Needs students. I'll work to protect tutoring/mentoring/counseling services, after-school programs, summer school, and credit recovery opportunities in order to close the achievement gap. We need to provide teachers with the support/resources they need to be inventive (e.g., provide more practical learning experiences, accelerated language programs, immersion programs, arts programs, and tools to assist in the learning process). We also need school-day (not just after-school) programming for schools with poor graduation rates over the past 10 years. Students learn best when they're motivated; therefore, we must connect learning to their future success. We need to promote more college awareness and connection programs in the schools.

I'll fight to ensure equitable and high-quality schools are available to students in every neighborhood or community. I'll work collaboratively with SFUSD and stakeholders to ensure we're proving every student with an engaging, modern curriculum with an emphasis on the skills needed in the 21st century; and tools needed for higher education or career opportunities. I'll push for equitable options in AP course, immersion programs, credit recovery, and career/college exposure in each community. In addition, enhancing student, parent, and community input in decision-making is vital to the success of our students and our schools.

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 worked closely with organizations like Chinese for Affirmative Action, City College Board of Trustees and Young Community Developers to reverse the decision by the commission. I have met with the Special Trustee and Elected City College Board of Trustees to try and prioritize spending in order to assist with strategies for cost savings during this crisis. I have also written letters to state officials and local electeds to push for legislation that will support funding due to the recent decrease in enrollment due to the commission's decision.

I work within SFUSD schools to create pipelines for graduating seniors to connect with City College and we consistently bring in staff from City College to present to the students we serve at YCD in order to help increase enrollment and promote the continued opportunities 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?

I do support the repeal of or reform of the Ellis Act. We need people living in San Francisco who want to ensure that we have vibrant and connected communities. We do not need people purchasing property in our City just to turn a profit and remove individuals who have lived in communities for years. This is unfair, immoral and should be illegal.

San Francisco has one of the most expensive housing markets in the country, and our educators are unable to attain affordable housing. This is a real issue that needs to be addressed directly. By helping educators attain affordable housing, SFUSD can help increase teacher retention.

I believe SFUSD and the Board of Education can work closely with the Board of Supervisors to create legislation that allows educators working in SFUSD to get adequate housing at an affordable rate. Not just rental housing, but work on legislation that allows educators to purchase affordable homes in San Francisco. Legislation should be written into proposals and tax

measures to generate more revenue for affordable housing.

SFUSD should actively pursue the possibility of using SFUSD owned land to build subsidized affordable housing for educators. Santa Clara School District has led the way with this model, and SFUSD should follow suit. While this has been previously discussed, we should pursue this as a possibility.

We could also work with the City and County of San Francisco to either encourage them to build affordable housing specifically for SFUSD educators or set aside a part of their planned affordable housing development for teachers. SFUSD should advocate having a portion of affordable housing dollars to be earmarked for SFUSD educators. The City and County could also provide vacant lots or other city owned property to SFUSD at no or little cost with the commitment to use it for teacher 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 think that the first thing we need to do to reform Prop 30 is take away the benefits for corporations and businesses to hide purchases so that they will not be assessed on new tax values when they buy buildings. This loophole was not the intent of Prop 30's protections. I would support a split-roll property tax system as we do need to make sure that seniors and people who have bought property during their careers, do not get priced out of their homes when their earning potential goes down. I will always be a believer in making sure that people/corporations with means provide a higher percentage of resources.

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?

I would work closely with the Board of Supervisors and Mayor on more affordable housing strategies for all San Franciscans, especially marginalized populations like LGBTQ seniors and disenfranchised transitional age youth (TAY). I would continue to work with organizations/entities such as Larkin Street Youth Services, SF LGBT Aging Policy Taskforce and the Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Services Center (BHMSSC). I have been working with the BHPMSSC on affordable housing options for seniors over the past four years. I have participated in ensuring that a center for seniors was built in Bayview Hunters Point (behind 5800 3rd Street and currently under construction). I will work with electeds to locate more space for these buildings and provide more opportunities for all seniors in San Francisco to live and stay here. I would also work to leverage resources so that we could put more money in the affordable housing pot and make sure that before you develop market rate housing in San

Francisco, that you provide a percentage of affordable and below market rate units for our citizens. I have been working on policies with this specific goal and will continue to do so for the LGBTQ community and people living with HIV.

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 will work tirelessly to advocate for the LGBT community within SFUSD. In order to create a space for LGBT students and parents to express their concerns and increase LGBT representation, I would secure resources to provide a full time staff person (as opposed to the current part time allocation) to specifically address the needs of LGBT students. I would work to look at the school culture climate surveys to ensure the safety of LGBT students at school. We know that LGBT students who do not feel safe, respected, or nurtured in our schools are much more likely to have lower grades, more likely to be bullied or threatened, and more likely to drop out. This is unacceptable. We need to address this issue and devote the necessary funds and staff to support our LGBT students. I would also propose policy that requires each school address these concerns in their “balanced score card”.

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 would work with other elected officials and healthcare providers on the best practices in rolling out proper implementation for injection facilities and drug consumptions facilities. I would want to do more research on the benefits so that when these facilities become a reality, we avoid any unintended consequences.

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?	<u>YES</u>	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before? 2012 Board of Education	<u>YES</u>	

3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: Nicole Derse + Esete Assefa, 50+1 Strategies	<u>YES</u>	
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	<u>YES</u>	

LGBTQ ISSUES

5. Do you support including full transgender health benefits in Covered California health plans?	<u>YES</u>	
6. Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender individuals?	<u>YES</u>	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

7. Do you support rent control?	<u>YES</u>	
8. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain:		<u>NO</u>

RACIAL AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES

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

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES

20. Did you support Assemblymember Ammiano's AB 1266 (rights for transgender students)?	<u>YES</u>	
21. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	<u>YES</u>	
22. Do you support lowering the threshold to pass a local parcel tax for education to 55%?		<u>NO</u>

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

23. Do you support California's high-speed rail plans?	<u>YES</u>	
24. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?		<u>NO</u>

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

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

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.	<u>YES</u>	
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?	<u>YES</u>	
39. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?		<u>NO</u>
40. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?	<u>YES</u>	

41. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)?	<u>YES</u>	
42. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)?	<u>YES</u>	
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	<u>YES</u>	