

Required Information

Full Name: *Jamie Whitaker*

Office Sought: *Board of Supervisors, District 6*

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Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? *No. I am a neighborhood advocate in SoMa.*

If so, when did you first join?

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? *Yes, I am gay.*

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.

My top priority is community health and mitigating air pollution in District 6 (see graphic below), and I want to require the Planning Department to work with DPH (www.sustainablecommunitiesindex.org tool) and the Dept. of the Environment to determine the cumulative impacts on community health and the environment from proposed large developments. I've been a public finance professional for over 7 years and am very familiar with revenue sources for San Francisco because I am a civil servant who determines the City's largest single revenue source: property tax revenues. District 6's changes have quadrupled our population, increased our taxable property values to represent over 20% of the City's total (meaning that for a \$500 million transit bond, District 6 will invest \$100 million or 20% of the total via our property tax payments), and left us with little improvement as far as new parks, new LOCAL transit buses (except the Twitter bus that is dumbfounding as to why it exists while 12 Folsom local bus service east of 2nd Street was cut on December 5, 2009), and improved bike safety infrastructure east of 4th Street. I am first and foremost a neighborhood advocate, and I don't see hardly any

SoMa/District 6 neighbors representing our voices on the Planning Commission, the Parks Commission, the Entertainment Commission, and so on ... the one SoMa resident exception I can think of being Cristina Rubke on the SFMTA Board.



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.

City College's \$15 million or so in parcel taxes that voters approved in November 2012 should prove to be a big help, but I would expect the tech companies to guarantee internships to students – and help with tuition for our high school students who want to take tech related classes that would help get them jobs at Twitter, Google, etc. My dad could tear a car apart and put it back together when he was a young man, and lucky for him, auto factories were hiring folks who dropped out of school to build cars in Michigan in the 1960s. Young people today need to learn the skills to design software or to provide healthcare to our aging population, but costs are a huge barrier – and kids who do not think they will be able to attend college are less motivated to do well in secondary school. A guaranteed tuition assistance and internship would be a true community benefit from Twitter and others benefitting from the Twitter Tax Break.

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 believe we need to stop upzoning Central SoMa because just planning to upzone the area has

added to the speculator frenzy pushing Filipino, LGBT, and other community members out of the heart of the SoMa District. There is an imbalance between the affordable housing and transportation systems and the amount of commercial/office space in downtown San Francisco. SoMa is really getting hollowed out, and I think the first step is to stop the Central SoMa Planning effort – or change its focus from building more office to a focus of building more affordable housing. I would have stuck with the 30% minimum affordable housing measure before any new market rate housing gets built – the real estate developers would figure out how to adapt to such a law, in my opinion.

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 commercial property should be re-assessed whenever there is a change in ownership of the property or the underlying entity (LLC, Corporation, Trust, etc). Commercial property tends to have a very intense utilization of City services, and residential property owners should not be subsidizing corporations that already benefit from so many tax write-offs and subsidies from regular joes and janes. I would support a split roll, absolutely. Unfortunately, that is a state law issue, not a City and County of San Francisco issue – though we could certainly lobby in Sacramento for such a change as a City and County.

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?

This is where new parks and open spaces, community buildings, schools, and other public gathering spots become very important so that folks can form bonds that last lifetimes. The government can help with thoughtful zoning and land use, thoughtful community benefit requirements, and planning for healthcare services for a Silver Tsunami of aging residents. Perhaps there could be a linkage between foster parenting, which is going to be very important with the many kids crossing our borders in the hopes of finding sanctuary in the United States, and subsidized, affordable housing for older people willing to take responsibility as a foster parent.

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 would encourage parents and teachers to try to keep an open dialogue and awareness of what is going on, and to say something and to stop bullies in their tracks when bullying occurs. Bullying often happens outside of the schools – sometimes, within one's own home. I think giving kids a hotline or some other means to open up and talk about what's going on with confidentiality is important. Foster parenting among LGBT couples should be promoted to provide options for kids ostracized by their families for being LGBT, in my opinion.

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 highly doubt that I would advocate for City funds to go towards a facility that knowingly observes use of 100% illegal drugs when my priority is mitigating air pollution, traffic congestion, and trying to get more parks/open spaces in District 6 because we only have 0.17 acres per 1,000 residents as of the 2010 census – and most supervisor districts have closer to 3.00 acres per 1,000 residents.

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		
2. Have you ever run for elected office before? YES – in Michigan in 2004		
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: NOPE		
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past? NOPE		

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 – Good opportunity for tech companies with Community Benefit Agreements....		

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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

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? NO – school board, yes, when		

the person has at least one kid enrolled in SFUSD.		
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)? YES, I do believe it should be an option – but the main purpose of keeping it as an option would be to deter murder and deter other violent acts against children and other adults.		
14. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? YES		
15. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012? YES		
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? NO		
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, I am a union member, my parents were labor union members, and my maternal grandparents and many relatives were labor union members. No way would I cross a picket line.		
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%? NO – parcel taxes are regressive and harm seniors disproportionately. It'd be better to change San Francisco's PEEF.		

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

23. Do you support California's high speed rail plans? YES, absolutely.		
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<p>24. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan? I don't know... need to learn more about this topic.</p>		
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LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

<p>25. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)? NO – because there is no guarantee the money won't get flushed down the Central Subway toilet, there is no guarantee bike lanes that stop at 4th Street on Folsom and proposed to start at 6th Street on Howard will get extended to The Embarcadero to make the Bay Area Bike Shares connected to safe protected bike lanes to get folks from east SoMa to the dining and nightclub options in western SoMa. Ditto for a bus line – 20,000 residents will be living east of 2nd Street soon, but there's no 12 Folsom bus line in the TEP to connect residents along Harrison/Folsom to the dining and nightclub options in western SoMa. Enter some guarantees for improved infrastructure for SoMa, and float the bond again in 2015. With no guarantees, our \$100 million (because District 6 has 20% of aggregate taxable property values in the City) may not give us anything in return as has been the ongoing case for the past 20 years – no new bus lines in SoMa despite a quadrupling of our residential population during that time.</p>		
<p>26. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)? NO – this is an unfunded item, meaning there will likely have to be cuts elsewhere in the budget. The BEST solution is to operate parking meters 7 days per week from 7am until 11pm, just like the Port of San Francisco parking meters have been operating for years. Also, we need weekday evening outbound only congestion pricing (rebrand it as Healthy Family Climate Toll to explain the benefits sought) to create a \$60-\$80 million per year revenue source to improve our transportation system.</p>		
<p>27. Do you support Prop C (Children and Youth Fund)? NO – the reason why is that our child population is shrinking, yet this set aside increases the existing amount taken from the General Fund for 25 years from today's 3% to 4%. We have a growing senior citizen population and a shrinking children population – why would we increase the set aside for children? That doesn't make sense to me. It also means future elected officials won't have the option to use those funds for other urgent needs (affordable housing, AIDS/HIV Federal funding backfill, etc.)</p>		
<p>28. Do you support Prop D (Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees)? Abstain – I doubt that the dollar amount is significant given the staffing at OCII is about half what the former Redevelopment used to have (about 50</p>		

compared to 100 pre-February 2012's dissolution implementation)		
29. Do you support Prop E (Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages)? NO – This is a regressive tax that I do not believe will impact the caloric intake of San Franciscans. If we want to tackle a public health problem, let's implement congestion pricing and tackle the deadly air pollution problem that is shortening the lives of tens of thousands of residents in District 6, many of whom are children living in affordable housing.		
30. Do you support Prop F (Pier 70 Development Height Limit Increase)? YES – the 90 foot height fits well with the existing building heights in the area, and most importantly, Forest City has done significant outreach to the Dogpatch and Potrero Hill neighbors surrounding them for the past several years.		
31. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)? YES – this will help deter the worst of real estate vultures who treat our homes like investment vehicles.		
32. Do you support Prop H (Maintaining Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park as Natural Grass)? YES – I do not believe we should pave over the natural environment remaining in Golden Gate Park. Instead, the soccer fields are VERY MUCH needed in District 6 – perhaps on Piers 30/32, as one option.		
33. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)? This has some good ideas, but I will vote NO on it since it only exists to try to kill off Prop H.		
34. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code – Minimum Wage)? YES – This should pass by a landslide if the people show up and vote.		
35. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)? YES – though I would have preferred the 30% minimum affordable ratio that I think developers would have figured out how to implement and help preserve San Francisco's spaces for middle class and poor instead of pushing them out to the middle of nowhere in Contra Costa County.		
36. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)? HELL NO.		

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year. As I write my responses, I believe this is still be edited ... no opinion until I see the final language.		
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)? YES – economic cycles		

come and go.		
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)? I don't know the details of this measure.		
41. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)? Probably, but I need to learn the details still.		
42. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)? I need to learn the details – my focus is San Francisco.		
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)? YES – too bad it won't be on this ballot.		