

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: *Nicholas Josefowitz*

Office Sought: *BART Board of Directors, District 8*

Mailing Address: *300 Montgomery St. #789, San Francisco CA 94104*

Phone: *415.801.3812*

Email: *nicholas@getsfmoving.com*

Website: *getsfmoving.com*

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)? *No*

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 am a life-long Democrat, running for an office that has been held by a Republican for 24 years. I will bring a San Francisco focus to the BART Board, and will represent San Francisco values.

I have dedicated my entire working life to build vibrant, sustainable, affordable communities. Out of college, I founded and built a solar energy company that brought clean power to thousands of families. I serve on the board of the California League of Conservation Voters, and I recently founded Leadership for a Clean Economy, an organization which works to elect climate and clean economy leaders to the state legislature in California. I was appointed to San Francisco's Environment Commission and am a member of SPUR's transportation policy committee. With Supervisor Eric Mar and community groups in Richmond, I pressured the city to plan for significantly improved speed, reliability and frequency of buses on Geary Blvd. Last year, I helped make energy-efficiency improvements affordable to low- and moderate-income homeowners through being the lead proponent of re-starting the Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE) program. Additionally, I successfully encouraged BART to study installing solar panels on their buildings and maintenance facilities, potentially creating the largest municipal solar project in the country. I also co-authored an influential review of Caltrans, the state transportation agency, which identified

structural issues in the organization that encouraged urban sprawl and led to poor performance, and which spurred much needed action in Sacramento.

I bring my skills and experience building cutting-edge, clean infrastructure to my my campaign to build a world-class public transportation system for San Francisco, one that gets us to work and back home quickly, affordably and reliably. Four of my top priorities would be:

- BART should run more trains, more often and more reliably. And should run trains on weekend nights.
- BART should thoroughly renovate its stations, especially those in San Francisco, to make them vibrant urban places.
- BART should use its own land, as well as work with local communities around BART stations, to build the affordable, transit-oriented neighborhoods that we so badly need in San Francisco and the Bay Area. If we build out BART parking lots to the density of Pier 70, we can build up to 14,000 new housing units, of which BART should require a significant portion to be affordable.
- BART needs to re-establish good labor relations with a deep focus on improved worker safety and a profound change in organizational attitude towards the concerns of its workers.

We have suffered from a lack of leadership on the BART Board of Directors. We need someone in that office who can bring innovative ideas to improve BART and better integrate all of the public transportation systems serving San Francisco.

Finally, my endorsements include:

Supervisor Eric Mar

Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos

Former President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors Aaron Peskin

Former State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp

Sierra Club

BART Director Tom Radulovich

Melanie Nutter, former Director, San Francisco Department of the Environment

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 strongly support CCSF in its fight to stay open. CCSF is a critical institution in our community, connecting under served San Franciscans to high-quality, affordable education and the promise of economic empowerment. Shutting down a college of nearly 80,000 students, who would otherwise be left with few educational options, would have catastrophic consequences for all of San Francisco and the region, not just those who attend 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 support reform of the Ellis Act, along the lines of the recent bills proposed by our San Francisco delegation in the California state legislature.

San Francisco's affordability and housing crisis demands both local and regional solutions, and BART can play a powerful role. BART owns 46,000 parking spaces -- approximately 200 acres of surface parking lots -- and as a BART director, I would focus on building affordable and market-rate housing on those extensive real estate holdings, where, if we built up to the density of Pier 70, we have the potential to build up to 14,000 new units a significant portion of which should be affordable. I would also work with city governments around BART stations, including San Francisco, to site more affordable and market rate housing that is transit-accessible in the neighborhoods around the BART stations.

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

Prop 13 has drained our state of crucial revenue for years and reform is critical. A proposition that was sold as protection for homeowners has instead shielded corporations from paying anywhere near the same property tax rates as residents across the state, and fixing that disparity would provide billions to revitalize California's education system and struggling public services. I strongly support implementing a split-roll property tax system, which would represent a big first step towards restoring California to its historical role as a national leader in public education and strengthening California's ability to care for its most vulnerable citizens.

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?

Firstly, I would focus intensely on using BART's land to build more affordable housing for the region, to dramatically increase our stock of affordable housing for those who need it most. BART owns approximately 200 acres of surface

parking lots -- about 46,000 parking spaces -- and if we built housing up to the density of Pier 70 on that land, we could build 14,000 units, of which BART should mandate a significant portion to be affordable.

Secondly, I would work hard to sharply improve accessibility at BART stations, an issue which affects the disabled and seniors most, to ensure BART is truly a system for everybody. In particular, I would work to make sure every entrance and exit at the stations have functioning escalators in both directions and working elevators. I would advocate for better signage, to alert BART users when an escalator or elevator breaks down and direct those who rely on them to the next best route to the trains or the street. Similarly, I would also work to improve signage generally, in the trains, the station and in the station's surrounding area, so that everybody can find the easiest way to and from the trains for their level of mobility. I would also work to make sure that BART's new train cars are made accessible for disabled riders.

Good transit is instrumental to helping disadvantaged populations get around, and every step we can take to strengthen BART and make it more accessible are crucial to making sure San Francisco is a livable city for its most vulnerable residents.

I would work closely with the Harvey Milk Democratic Club and other LGBTQ organizations to ensure that the voices of the LGBTQ community are represented in BART policies.

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 BART Board member, I would work closely with homeless advocates to ensure that the homeless individuals that frequent BART stations get the services and care they need, including permanent housing. BART has to prioritize these most vulnerable populations, including LGBTQ youth. I would also work to ensure that BART's anti-discrimination policies fully include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, and are fully enforced. I would ensure that all BART workers, especially BART's police, have written and fair policies with regard to interacting with transgender members of the public, regardless if they are seeking assistance or being arrested. I would make sure all police officers are trained comprehensively on the policy and on how to treat LGBTQ members of our community, and especially transgender and gender non-conforming people, with respect.

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?

As a BART Director, I would make sure the agency is caring for those in our community who need help most. To that end, I would make sure BART staff, and in particular BART police, are trained fully in how to appropriately handle all manner of public health issues, especially those concerning our most in-need fellow Bay Area 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?	X	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		X
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: Nicole Derse, 50+1 Strategies	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?	-	-
16. Did you support Sen. Leno's 2013 bill (or at least the concept) to	X	

allow localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 AM?		
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 Assemblymember 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%?	X	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

23. Do you support California's high speed rail plans?	-	-
24. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?		X

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

25. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)?	X	
26. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)?	X	
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)?	-	-
33. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)?	-	-
34. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code – Minimum Wage)?	X	
35. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)?	X	
36. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)?		X

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.	-	-
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?	X	
39. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?	-	-
40. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?	-	-

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	