

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: *Tony Kelly*

Office Sought: *Supervisor, District 10*

Mailing Address: *250 Connecticut Street #6, SF CA 94107*

Phone: *415 498 0360*

Email: *tony@tonykelly2014.com*

Website: *tonykelly2014.com*

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? *Yes*

If so, when did you first join? *2009?*

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 have been volunteering and leading neighborhood efforts for more than a decade for sustainable land use, working-class jobs, open space & transit planning, affordable housing, and environmental justice. I've been elected President of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association nine times, and I've been on the board of the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses for eight years. I've served on task forces and advisory panels to the Mayor, the Port of San Francisco, and the Board of Supervisors. For my leadership in the arts and in the communities of District 10, I was named a Local Hero by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* in 2006.

I seek to build a consistent Board majority for equitable housing, economic development, and infrastructure, to remedy the excesses of the past four (or 15) years and move forward productively.

My candidacy, as well as my term in office, will be distinguished by the consistency and clear articulation of my positions, my willingness to learn and to think creatively about policy, and my singular commitment to community engagement and accountability.

That last point is critical, and it is why I am committed to holding Community Office Hours 11 times every week in District 10 with me or my legislative staff, including every day of the year in Bayview-Hunters Point.

My endorsements include: Sierra Club, San Francisco Rising, Potrero Hill Democratic Club, SF Latino Democratic Club, Mayor Art Agnos, Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, Supervisor John Avalos, Supervisor David Campos.

- 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 needed City College in order to graduate from Stanford University in 1986. (Long story.) I attended CCSF in the summer of 1986 and I truly appreciate the quality of its education and its accessibility to all our

communities. During the fight to save CCSF, I have attended rallies and marches and advocated for its continued growth and expansion of services. I look forward to continuing that advocacy in a much more meaningful way at the Board of Supervisors – we need to invest substantial resources in CCSF to address District 10’s longstanding problems, including an undereducated, underemployed population of disconnected transition-age youth and ex-offenders returning to our neighborhoods. The City’s current employment and workforce development programs have fallen short again and again with these communities, and the best option by far to overcome multiple employment barriers is a strong, broadly accessible, wide-ranging CCSF education.

- 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 repeal of the Ellis Act at the state level, and am proud to be one of the sources of Supervisor Campos’ legislation that substantially raised relocation payments for Ellis Act evictees to match federal relocation payment standards.

In the late 2000s I led a broad-based community response to the City’s massive re-zoning of the Eastern Neighborhoods, saving blue collar jobs and affordable housing, and last year I wrote a package of reform proposals for those re-zoning plans, approved unanimously by the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association and other community planning advocates. As Supervisor, I will put those specific reforms into effect throughout the district, filling a vacuum of land use leadership at the Board.

We won’t solve our City’s affordable housing crisis by building ‘market-rate’ condominiums where the ‘market’ is driven by international wealth. We need stronger local solutions, with our own public resources – land and capital.

The two biggest drivers in the cost of housing are the cost of the land and the cost of financing with commercial banks. So we should be maximizing our opportunities to build housing and infrastructure on public land – HOPE SF sites, Port property, or land owned by the PUC or MTA or Caltrans. Then we should support development on that land with public financing, using our billions of dollars in General Fund and retirement reserves, to build affordable housing with less direct subsidy and more local control.

I also support new and continuing programs to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing housing, the Anti-Speculation Tax on this November’s ballot, and the purchase of foreclosed and bank-owned properties throughout District 10, District 8, and throughout the City to enable at-risk families to stay in their homes.

- 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 would like to repeal Prop 13; it is the cause of far too many inequities in our state and local budgets. But until that dream is fulfilled, a split-roll property tax system is the best reform we can get, restoring some sanity to the property tax system for commercial properties.

- 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 an issue in District 10 as well as District 8 – District 10 has a growing LGBTQ community, an aging population, and (as the NY Times has reported) the highest average viral load level of HIV. So my consistent advocacy in the community and at City Hall for affordable housing, better transit and parks, public safety, and front-line services for our most vulnerable populations encompasses and benefits the LGBT elder community.

I believe there are plenty of profits to be made in development in San Francisco without destroying the neighborhoods that make our City what it is. That is a major reason why I am running for office. I want to use the Board of Supervisor’s substantial powers – of land use, of the budget and contract approvals, of oversight, and their unlimited power of inquiry – to serve the public good, which in this case means managing our growth to minimize displacement and evictions and build infrastructure to support our sustainable growth.

I would also investigate levels of health care delivery in District 10 and the City, and the Board’s budget

process to ensure that the level of services is maintained or increased, even if there are cuts at the federal and state level in the future. That is the commitment of San Francisco’s model of care, and we cannot back away from that.

- 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?

One in seven of District 10’s youth are in ‘families in transition’ – an unstable home environment with multiple risk factors (a single parent, unemployment, substance abuse, threats of domestic violence, etc), so I am very familiar with and concerned about the risks faced by far too many LGBTQ and straight youth in our City’s southeastern neighborhoods. We need an immediate and substantial City investment in our schools – to increase wraparound services for disadvantaged and at-risk families, to restore arts and music education as a means to improve test scores and reduce truancy and racial tensions, and to create after-school and overnight ‘safe havens’ for children who are facing risks in the community or at home.

- 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 support harm reduction programs, when informed by nonprofit agencies dedicated to that work – I want to hear their professional opinions based on experiences in the field. There is substantial research and data that supports harm reduction strategies for substance abuse, both for public health reasons and for outreach benefits.

I think the Board of Supervisors can do a much better job of advocacy for new or controversial programs through a stronger year-round budget process at the Board of Supervisors. The Audit and Oversight Committee in particular has an untapped power to supplement the work of the Board’s Budget and Finance Committee; they can work year-round to identify opportunities to make City government more efficient and cost-effective in support of the Board’s progressive policy goals, and to prepare City agencies and community allies well in advance of the annual budget battles in the summer.

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: Stearns Consulting	X	
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	

LGBTQ ISSUES	YES	NO
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?	Neutral	Neutral
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?	X	
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?	X	
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)?	Neutral	Neutral
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)?	X	
33. Do you support Prop I (Park Code – Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)?		X
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.		X
38. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?		X
39. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?	X	
40. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?		X
41. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)?	X	
42. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)?	X	
43. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	