

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: John Rizzo

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Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? YES

If so, when did you first join? 2005

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 elected twice to the Community College Board, and both times was endorsed by the Harvey Milk LGBD Democratic Club. I am endorsed by Tom Ammiano, Carole Migden, David Campos, Phil Ting, Eric Mar, Police Commissioner Petra De Jesus, Democrat Jane Morrison, the Sierra Club, Laborers Local 261, and others.

I have many accomplishments that I am proud of at City College, including creating the City's first Local Hire policy, authoring and passed the City College's first Sunshine Policy for open governance, defending and supporting education and counseling programs for disadvantaged students, and working to create green jobs training programs for disadvantaged communities.

The **top three priorities** are **accreditation, enrollment, and protecting and restoring the role of City College in the community.**

Representative Jackie Speier summed it up well when she said ""The ACCJC has run amok, they have lost their vision -- if they ever had one."

The newly invented "restoration status" is unwarranted. City College should be on Probation status now. "Restoration" (also called "accredited pending revocation") appears to be a way for ACCJC to delay revocation beyond the October trial date.

ACCJC has not given up its fight to close or shrink City College, even though the required fiscal and planning changes are largely in place. Despite some 95% of the roadmap tasks being completed, the ACCJC has refused to recognize the progress, and has not visited the college in 16 months.

This is unacceptable. We must continue to fight ACCJC by continuing to work with our state legislators and local elected officials to guarantee fair treatment of City College. I strongly support legislation that would enable community colleges to select other accrediting agencies. I

believe we may another attempt along these lines next year. There will be an opportunity after the City's lawsuit against ACCJC in October for further legislative initiatives in Sacramento. I will be ready to work with legislators.

The over 25% drop in enrollment – caused by the continuing accreditation threat – is a desperate problem that needs to be fixed, as it threatens the loss of tens of millions of dollars in state funding. Senator Mark Leno stabilized funding for the short term. But the administration must significantly boost recruitment efforts for the long-term health of the institution.

The third priority is making sure City College continues to serve the diverse needs of our students. Getting students to 4-year college is only part of what City College does. We need to protect our programs that provide workforce training, education for the formerly incarcerated, counseling for special-needs students, English as a second language, retraining people who already have degrees, lifelong learning, as well many other programs that benefit our students.

I am also a community leader and a fighter for progressive causes:

- As Sierra Club political chair, have worked to elect progressive candidates around the Bay at the state and local level.
- I lead the successful fight to stop the building of new fossil-fuel power plants in southeastern San Francisco.
- I have been the Sierra Club's lead in advocating for affordable housing
- I helped create the GoSolarSF program, which has produced hundreds of jobs for low-income people and incentivized 10 MW of new solar power

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 with Assemblyman Tom Ammiano in Sacramento on his legislation to restore democracy to City College. I have testified at hearings and met with State Legislators, both Republican and Democrat, to support and explain Assemblyman Ammiano's legislation, as well as to explain the situation of City College to state legislators.

I have discussed the issues with the State Auditor, who afterwards produced a scathing report condemning the accrediting agency.

The Board of Trustees approved the plan to address accreditation, 95% of which is completed. Yet, the accrediting board has refused place City College on Probation. I have been speaking out about this unfair treatment. I have also appeared at rallies and events supporting City College. But supporting City College is more than making speeches.

Electing David Campos to the Assembly is important for City College. Next year, I will work with the State Legislature to pass legislation that would enable California Community Colleges to use an alternative accrediting agency, one that is fair and without conflicts of interest.

I am one of the few candidates that have been actively working to make changes in law and at City College for benefit of the students of 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?

Yes. I would work to build student housing for low-income City College students. City College could partner with the City of San Francisco. I have proposed this before and will bring this back again.

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 been disastrous for public education, taking California from #1 in per pupil spending to almost last in the country. The corporate loophole needs to be closed. Corporations sell portions of properties and on paper make it appear as if the property has not been sold. This has kept corporate property taxes artificially low.

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?

As a Trustee at City College, I have supported the LGBT Studies program at the College, a program that teaches these issues among the panoply of rich history and cultural.

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 have supported City Colleges services for homelessness, supporting continued funding for these vital programs. In the counseling department, this includes the **Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students Programs (HARTS)**. I have also supported training programs foster youth, including the **Title IV-E Foster Care Service Providers Trainings**, which are provided free (and should continue to be free) to those who work with foster youth.

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?

At City College, I support the academic freedom that enables faculty to teach controversial policies such as supervised injection facilities. The Health Department teaches classes about preventing HIV for drug users. This is a good example why we cannot let political factors damper academic freedom.

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	
1. Have you ever run for elected office before?	YES	
1. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who:		
1. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	YES	

LGBTQ ISSUES

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

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

1. Do you support rent control?	YES	
1. 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

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES

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

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES**YES****NO**

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

1. Do you support California's high speed rail plans?	YES	
1. Do you support Governor Brown's Delta Tunnels plan?		NO

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

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

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

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