

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) or call him at 415-876-8254.*

*Good Luck,*

*The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club*

## Required Information

***Full Name: James Fang***

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

***Mailing Address: 809 Sacramento Street, SF, CA 94108***

***Phone: 415-321-5882***

***Email: fangforbart@gmail.com***

***Website: fang4bart.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 have proudly served the people of San Francisco as their BART Board representative for the past 24 years. In that time we have not only created hundreds of thousands of jobs, we have also contributed greatly to the environment (69 percent of BART's energy usage is sustainable).

Key endorsers are:

- a. Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi
- b. California Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom
- c. California Attorney General Kamala Harris
- d. California Democratic Party Chairman John Burton
- e. California Board of Equalization Member Betty Yee
- f. California Board of Equalization Candidate Fiona Ma
- g. Public Defender Jeff Adachi
- h. Bevan Dufty
- i. The Chinese American Democratic Club
- j. The San Francisco Police Officers Association
- k. The San Francisco Firefighters
- l. BART SEIU
- m. BART ASFME

- 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.
- 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. While the concept on paper may seem valid, it is now being exploited and in many is having the reverse effect of its intended use.

While there may instances where families due to personal circumstances may need to take property off the rental market so they can all live together, clearly use of the Ellis Act has morphed into something which now is being abused by real estate developers to draw more high end tenants at the expense of working San Franciscans. We need to study how we make the Ellis Act more specific to families who need the space for their families.

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

Massive reform of Prop 13 is needed. Clearly the large commercial property owners, those who can afford a heavier tax burden, are enjoying the same benefits as the small homeowners. But as society changes and social needs become more pronounced, the inequity of Prop 13 becomes more glaring.

I would support a split = roll system.

- 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?

BART already offers a 62 percent discount on its fares (the highest in the Bay Area) to seniors. We also have programs which assist disabled and infirmed passengers.

I will continue these types of efforts so that BART becomes even more accessible to elderly HIV citizens.

- 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?

The entire BART staff (including our police department) has a no tolerance policy towards bullying of any kind, youth, elderly etc... As early as 2009 BART had an art exhibit by youth which not only demonstrated their talent but emphasized that those

being bullied should seek out immediate assistance. In addition the BART police have a program (GRAPE) in which go to middle schools and provide assistance and support to youth who feel they might be victims of bullying (more toward gangs).

At the BART workplace, our code of conduct touches on bullying, but I believe we need to make it much more forceful.

I will explore how we can integrate and implement programs that deal with LGBTQ youth and seniors who are the victims of bullying.

- 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 am in favor of such facilities.

## PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire

Please check **Yes** or **No** for each question.

| <b>GENERAL</b>   | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 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: Ted Fang     | 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 but not abuse of rent control |   |
| 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 yes but with conditions |  |
| 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)?   |   |   |
| 14. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?  | x |   |
| 15. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012?  | x |   |
| 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)?       |   |   |
| 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)?  |   |   |
| 31. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)?   |   |   |
| 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)?   |   |  |

**STATE BALLOT MEASURES**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 37. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? <b>Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.</b> |   |  |
| 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)?                          |   |  |