

## **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:** TREVOR MCNEIL

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**Website:** democracy.com/trevormcneil

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

If so, when did you first join? I think my membership has currently lapsed, I first joined in 2005 I think

**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 running because San Francisco hasn't elected a public school teacher to the school board in a decade. I am running because I am planning on raising my family in out SFUSD schools and hear great angst from other friends my age about the process for enrolling, the unstable budget, and lack of transparency from the district. I am running because I have always worked as a political activist and community organizer and feel I will be responsive to stakeholders who support our kids while they are in school.

I am running because I am a San Franciscan living paycheck to paycheck worried about the prospect of being able to stay in the city I love. I am a proud teacher's union member who does not have a contract with my school district and is frustrated at the disrespect I see on the other side of the bargaining table.

**I want to bring the perspective of a front-line worker in our schools. As someone who has worked as a para monitoring a lunchroom with kitchen staff, a sub always reliant on front-office staff, a teacher, and worked in random after school programs all over San Francisco, I think I am uniquely qualified among the current candidates to relate to issues people working with students every day face.**

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 think the Ellis Act is being greatly abused and I think it absolutely needs to be reformed. Locally I would be thrilled if a local municipal bank was able to get into the affordable housing-building game, I'd love an excessive rents tax, and think that we could have a central city department to monitor rents, advocate for tenants, and keep track of increases (kinda a combination of assessor, public defender, and a city policy analyst). I generally am in favor on non-intrusive, high-density development in under-utilized corridors that work well with the community and devote an larger-than-average percentage to affordable housing units (Pier 70 seems legit, 8 Washington was too much)**

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 is the single biggest threat to public education in California. It is an engine of inequity. Prop 13 needs massive reform, especially around corporate earnings and re-assessments and business tax loopholes. I support a split-roll property tax 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?

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 an educator who has led gay–straight alliances at the middle school and high school level as well as help lead school–wide anti–bullying efforts, I think I have a unique perspective on how well I can implement. I have worked with GLSEN and LYRIC among others in using best–practice anti–bullying tools. San Francisco can’t be complacent on this issue. One piece of policy that I am active on is re–thinking sex ed. The curriculums we have right now are getting better but are still hetero–normative, don’t focus on decision making (instead they focus on shame or fear), don’t start early enough (puberty is starting earlier, especially in communities of color), and require condoms and other health measures in school to be a legal requirement rather than an occasional parent–ok’d privilege. I think in terms of schools, trans rights are going to be the big story of the next decade. In my line of work I think there is much to do in terms of educational standards to see how concepts of sex vs. gender are taught and reforming the ed code so that there are protections for students and families. To that last part, in all aspects of school policy (especially gym class) there is a serious need for an audit of how cisgender privilege pervades our schools. I have taught in middle schools where I helped students assess such privilege to the point where they petitioned the principal for a gender–neutral bathroom in the middle school (one of my proudest moments!).**

- 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 think that a lot of resistance to these comes from NIMBYish groups and some parents who, while probably acting out of best intentions, are uneasy with this issue. As a school board commissioner I think I would have a bully pulpit to advocate for supervised injection sites.**

## **PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire**

Please check Yes or No for each question.

**GENERAL  
NO**

**YES**

1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	X	
1. Have you ever run for elected office before?	X	
1. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who:		X
1. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	

**LGBTQ ISSUES**

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

**TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

1. Do you support rent control?	X	
1. 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**

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

**SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, NIGHTLIFE AND LABOR ISSUES**

1. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)?		X
1. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	X	
1. Did you support Prop 35 in November 2012?	X	
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?	X	
1. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana?	X	
1. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		X
1. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights?	X	

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES**

YES NO

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

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

**LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES**

1. Do you support Prop A (Transportation and Road Improvement Bond)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop B (Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop C (Children and Youth Fund)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop D (Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop E (Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop F (Pier 70 Development Height Limit Increase)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop G (Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax)?		X
1. Do you support Prop H (Maintaining Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park as Natural Grass)?		X
1. Do you support Prop I (Park Code - Children's Playgrounds, Walking Trails, Athletic Fields)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop J (Administrative Code - Minimum Wage)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop K (Affordable Housing Goals)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop L (Transportation Priorities)?		X

**STATE BALLOT MEASURES**

1. Do you support Prop 43 (Water Bond)? <b>Note: this may not end up being on the ballot this year.</b>	X	
1. Do you support Prop 44 (Rainy Day Fund)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop 45 (Health Insurers Justify Rate Increases)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop 46 (Drug Testing Doctors; Raising Medical Malpractice Awards Cap)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop 47 (Reducing Some Crimes From Felonies to Misdemeanors)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop 48 (Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum)?	X	
1. Do you support Prop 49 (Constitutional Amendment Opposing Citizens United)?	X	

\* I am worried about the roll-out of Common Core, the solidification of the testing culture as a result, and this measure becoming No Child Left Behind by another name. It's a good step but the devil is in the details to be sure. Everyday I am implementing this in a public school classroom and it has great potential to be a good improvement or a thorn in good educators' side.