

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for Candidates for November 2018

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on declaring your candidacy! The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club would like to get to know you better as we decide our endorsements for this upcoming election.

Our questions were developed with our members and reflect their priorities. Your participation in our Club's 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.

- **Part One is a series of short-answer questions (<100 words).**
- Part Two is are Yes or No questions that covers a broader set of issues than Part One.
- If you feel the need, you may expand upon your responses in Part Two on a separate sheet of paper, but you are not required to.

Please return the completed questionnaire by 11:59 PM Friday, August 10th, 2018. E-mail all questionnaires to Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair Tom Temprano at pac@milclub.org.

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: Gordon Mar

Office Sought: Supervisor, District Four

Mailing Address: PO Box 16765 SF CA 94116

Phone: (415) 488-5176

Email: info@gordonmar.com

Website: www.gordonmar.com

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when? No

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? No

PART ONE: Short-Answer Questionnaire (Please limit responses to 5 sentences or 100 words)

1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek. Feel free to add anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

As a community organizer for over 25 years in San Francisco, I have a track record of fighting for working class and marginalized San Franciscans, and getting results. I co-founded Jobs with Justice San Francisco - a coalition of over 30 labor, community and faith-based organizations - where I have served as Executive Director for the past 8 years. Previously, I served as Executive Director of Chinese Progressive Association - a grassroots community organization that empowers immigrant Chinese families to improve their working and living conditions and advance justice for all people - for a total of 15 years. I received a Bachelor of Conservation and Resource Studies from UC Berkeley, and served on the SF Commission on the Environment.

As a longtime resident, I have a personal stake in the health and vitality of our neighborhoods, understand the issues deeply, and have delivered for our communities. My proudest accomplishments include convening the Budget Justice coalition, working on both campaigns to raise San Francisco's minimum wage, starting in 2003, playing a leading role in the community and labor coalition that saved City College during the accreditation crisis, and fought to make it tuition free for all San Franciscans, and helping pass the SF Retail Workers Bill of Rights to protect retail and service workers. Over the last three decades, I've fought and led many others campaigns to increase access to stable housing, good jobs, living wages, fair contracts, healthcare, and education.

2) Do you have any key endorsements you'd like to share?

Rose Pak Democratic Club
United Educators San Francisco
National Union of Healthcare Workers
SEIU 1021
SEIU United Service Workers West
UNITE HERE Local 2
Teamsters Local 856
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 648
Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21
Laborers Local 261
San Francisco Tenants Union
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer
Supervisor Norman Yee
Supervisor Jane Kim
Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
Supervisor Hillary Ronen
Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Public Defender Jeff Adachi
BART Board Director and Former Supervisor Bevan Dufty
Board of Education Commissioner Matt Haney
Board of Education Commissioner Mark Sanchez
City College Board President Brigitte Davilla
City College Board Trustee Tom Temprano
Former State Senator, Assemblymember, and Supervisor Mark Leno
Former Assemblymember and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano
Former Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt
Former Mayor Art Agnos
Former Supervisor Eric Mar
Former Supervisor Christina Olague
Former Supervisor John Avalos
Democratic County Central Committee Chair and Former Supervisor David Campos
Democratic County Central Committee Member Frances Hsieh
Democratic County Central Committee Member Alysabeth Alexander
Democratic County Central Committee Member Peter Gallotta

3) More than 7,000 individuals are experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Due to the physical and mental trauma inherent to living without stable housing, these individuals suffer from increased health problems and are three to four times more likely to die prematurely than their housed counterparts.

What do you see as the most important short-term and long-term solutions to the homeless crisis in San Francisco? What can you do in the office you are running for to help end homelessness?

Some 70% of individuals living on the street in San Francisco once were housed here, which means the single most effective thing we can do to address homelessness is prevent vulnerable residents from being displaced. I support Proposition 10, I supported Prop F, and I support Our City, Our Home. We need more shelter beds, more navigation centers, more supportive housing, and more mental health and substance abuse services. Homelessness isn't only an economic crisis, it's a public health crisis, and should be addressed as such.

4) What are your priorities and plans to address housing affordability and economic inequality in San Francisco? What have you done on this in the past?

I was a leader in the fight for San Francisco's first minimum wage, passed in 2003, and when we raised our minimum wage again to \$15 / hour. I've spent my entire career fighting for access to stable housing, good jobs, fair contracts, healthcare, and education, and will bring my experience and values with me to City Hall. I'll negotiate hard with developers for the highest levels of affordable housing possible in new developments. I'll explore incentives for homeowners to add Accessory Dwelling Units if they commit to rent them below market rates, and I've proposed developing affordable housing for families at four sites

in District Four owned and underutilized by SFUSD.

5) Describe your philosophy and priorities for developing a legislative framework for recreational marijuana. Do you agree with the current framework adopted by the Board of Supervisors? What would you change, if anything?

I support an equity framework that provides preference for the communities disproportionately harmed by the War on Drugs in this emerging industry. With that said, As Supervisor, I'll represent my constituents, and will ensure that community input is listened to and taken into consideration in decisions about these issues at City Hall. For the three recent proposed cannabis dispensaries in the Sunset District located on Taraval, Noriega and Irving Streets, most comments from neighborhood residents were in opposition to the projects, though there were also many community members who spoke in support. I believe this indicates that project sponsors were not able to gain the support of the majority of community members who chose to speak out and the projects were therefore not good fits for those locations. The Sunset District is a large diverse neighborhood, and I believe there may be other locations within the district where the immediate neighbors would be more supportive of a cannabis dispensary, especially in the Inner Sunset or west of Sunset Boulevard.

6) The African American population in San Francisco is steadily declining. The racial bias of our police force and criminal justice system is well documented. SFUSD's achievement gap for African Americans students is the highest in the country as of 2017.

What do you think are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support the African American community in San Francisco?

I've been committed to racial equity throughout my career, and convened the Close The Gap coalition to address the achievement gap for students of color at SFUSD. I support expediting the SFPD reforms recommended by President Obama's Department of Justice, and believe in a community policing framework for public safety issues. As Supervisor, addressing equity issues requires listening to and working with marginalized communities; the African American community knows better than I what challenges they face, and I'll be a committed partner and ally in listening and addressing injustice. Aside from racial bias in the criminal justice system and the achievement gap in our schools, the affordability crisis—made worse by predatory speculators—has disproportionately impacted communities of color. As Supervisor, I'll negotiate hard with developers to make sure they're building for the communities who live here, especially those most vulnerable to displacement.

7) How have you support the LGBTQ community and how will you continue to do so if elected?

As Executive Director of Jobs With Justice, I worked on the Pride At Work campaign, which focused on pressuring healthcare insurers to remove discriminatory exemptions against trans patients, who were and are disproportionately denied the care and coverage they need and deserve. I've fought for LGBTQ

representation in leadership throughout my career, for fair contracts for LGBTQ workers, and will continue to be a strong ally and advocate for the LGBTQ community if elected. I support expanding LGBTQ cultural districts, hiring programs, social services, and dedicated services for homeless youth, who are disproportionately LGBTQ.

PART TWO: Yes or No Questionnaire

Please check Yes or No for each question.

GENERAL YES NO

1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat? Yes
2. Have you ever run for elected office before? No
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact?

If so, who: Edward Wright, Campaign Manager, edward@gordonmar.com, (530) 748-9093

4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past? No

LGBTQ ISSUES YES NO

5. Do you support public funding, including set asides, for the establishment and development of LGBTQ Cultural Districts in San Francisco?

Yes

6. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals?

Yes

7. Do you support expansion of the LGBT curriculum in our City's public Schools?

Yes

8. Do you support efforts to expand access to PrEP and other initiatives of the "Getting to Zero" initiative to end the HIV epidemic in San Francisco?

Yes

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES YES NO

9. Do you support the expansion of rent control beyond buildings constructed prior to 1979?

I support Proposition 10, local jurisdictions need the power to pass rent stabilization ordinances that make sense for the community.

11. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain on a separate sheet of paper.

No

12. Do you support requiring Short Term Rental platforms (e.g. AirBnB, VRBO) to publish registration numbers for properly-registered STRs on their respective websites, handing over booking data to the Planning Department, and increased funding for the department for enforcement capacity?

Yes

13. Did you support Prop G (the “Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax”) in 2014?

Yes

14. Did you support Prop F (stricter controls on AirBnB and other STR platforms) in 2015?

Yes

15. Did you support Prop I (the Mission Moratorium) in 2015?

Yes

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES YES NO

16. Do you support San Francisco’s Due Process for All Ordinance, which prevents law enforcement from detaining suspected criminals in response to ICE requests, except in the case of violent crimes?

Yes

17. Do you support the protection of Due Process for immigrant youth accused of crimes?

Yes

18. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?

Yes

19. Do you support San Francisco expanding funding for immigration defense services?

Yes

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES YES NO

20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites?

Yes

21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 am?

Yes, with a process for community input

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?

Yes, in concept, but would want to ensure that it's centered on workers' needs and doesn't reinforce or expand exploitation

23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott?

If so, explain:

No, though I've been arrested participating in picket lines!

24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize?

Yes

25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?

Yes

26. Do you support the use of Tasers by law enforcement?

I opposed Proposition H, and support de-escalation techniques and training for all patrol officers before we consider tasers

27. Do you support capital punishment (i.e., the death penalty)?

No

EDUCATION AND YOUTH YES NO

28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections?

Yes

29. Do you support the Common Core education standards?

Yes

30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance?

Yes

31. Do you support the full-funding of the Free City College program including funding for the Summer semester and an expansion of grants for low-income students already receiving state or federal financial aid?

Yes

32. Do you support the development of the Balboa Reservoir adjacent to City College's Ocean Campus so long as it includes a mix of market rate, affordable and faculty/student housing?

Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES YES NO

33. Do you ride Muni on a regular basis (more than once a week)?

Yes - I ride the L Taraval every day.

34. Do you support CleanPower SF?

Yes, and I'm participating in the SuperGreen program

35. Do you support expanding free access to MUNI for seniors and disabled persons?

Yes

36. Do you support requiring ride hail companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to the City in order to operate here?

Yes