

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@milkclub.org.

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: Jonathan Lyens

Office Sought: BART Board Director, District 8

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Phone: 415-446-8896

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Website: jonathanlyens.com

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when? I'm sorry, I don't recall if my membership is current.

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 you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

I hold a Masters in Public Administration and I have dedicated my life to public service. I spent four years in the SF Mayor's Budget Office, helping guide the city's budget through the Great Recession. In 2012, I served on the city's bargaining team, facilitating successful labor negotiations with 26 of the city's unions. I was on the team that helped rebuild SF General Hospital, the only level one trauma center in SF and northern San Mateo counties. In addition, I was President of the Board of Directors for Richmond District Neighborhood Center, with fiduciary responsibility for the program serving 3,000 San Franciscans each month through after school, senior and family programming.

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

Some notable endorsements include:

SEIU, Local 1021

Teamsters, Joint Council 7

IBEW, Local 6

Kevin De León, immediate past President Pro Tem, CA State Senate

Mark Leno, former CA State Senator

Art Agnos, former San Francisco Mayor

Sandra Lee-Fewer, Supervisor, District 1

Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3

Norman Yee, Supervisor, District 7

Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8

David Campos, Chair, SF Democratic County Central Committee

Keith Baraka, Member, SF Democratic County Central Committee

Peter Gallotta, Member, SF Democratic County Central Committee

****Partial list****

The full list can be found at: <http://www.jonathanlyens.com/endorsements/>

- 3) More than 7000 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?

I will champion the formation of a working group to find ways for City government and BART to partner together. A first goal will be to establish an outpost of the city's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) inside the BART system, providing real time service to those in need. On a more long term basis BART must prioritize housing people versus cars. Transit oriented development, with high levels of affordable housing is key. BART

currently owns enough land to build approximately 20,000 housing units, and we should get building. This is public land that should be used for the public good.

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

As a person with a disability, economic inequality is personal, as nearly 80% of people with disabilities remain outside of the workforce. As President of the FDR Democratic Club of SF, for seniors and people with disabilities, I led the effort to get the city to hire a coordinator of disability employment, tasked with outreaching to people with disabilities and helping qualified applicants get into city service. As BART Director I will prioritize transit oriented development and capitalize on BART's capacity to build nearly 20,000 new housing units across the Bay Area. Additionally, BART should ensure its workforce truly represents the diversity of the communities served. I also believe BART must reframe its fare structure to be more progressive, and not put an undue burden on those forced to change transit systems, and/or those taking shorter trips who currently pay more per mile than riders taking longer trips.

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.

As the city embarks upon its first attempt to regulate the recreational marijuana industry it is important to move deliberately. I have serious reservations about outright bans of dispensaries in specific portions of the city, as this will impede equal access. Regulations should be crafted with broad input from the community, existing business owners, as well as policy makers. Further, permit issuance has the opportunity for the city to ensure that dispensaries meet the unique needs of San Francisco and that permit holders remain good neighbors in their communities. Also, I believe new green jobs should be prioritized for those communities most impacted by the war on drugs.

6) The African American population in SF is steadily declining. The racial bias of our police force and criminal justice system is well documented. SFUSD's achievement gap for African American 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 SF?

Safety: We must do more to address the 69% rise in violent crime on BART, which includes having more BART staff close by at all times (not necessarily BART police). We must do more to address the issue of police violence at BART, and rebuild trust between police and the African American community.

Jobs: We need to ensure that BART's workforce is representative of the diversity of our communities and present BART as an optimal employer. We need to ensure that our fares remain progressive and fair.

Housing: BART needs to prioritize building of affordable housing on BART property.

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

Growing up blind, I found myself on the outside looking in from an early age – pushed out and left behind - and throughout my life I've worked hard to develop relationships with communities too often marginalized. This life experience allowed me to find common cause with many other communities often found in the same boat as people with disabilities, including the LGBTQ community. I have worked hard to support LGBTQ candidates, support members of the LGBTQ community for appointment to boards and commissions, and support young people starting out in life. As Director I will continue to ensure a future where all levels of society represent the true diversity of our city.

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?	x	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?	x	
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who: Vanessa Lyens	x	
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?	x	

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?	x	
6. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals?	x	
7. Do you support expansion of the LGBT curriculum in our City's public schools?	x	
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?	x	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

	YES	NO
9. Do you support the expansion of rent control beyond buildings constructed prior to 1979?	x	
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.		x
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?	x	
13. Did you support Prop G (the "Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax") in 2014?	x	
14. Did you support Prop F (stricter controls on AirBnB and other STR	x	

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

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?	x	
17. Do you support the protection of Due Process for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	x	
18. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?	x	
19. Do you support San Francisco expanding funding for immigration defense services?	x	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

YES NO

20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites?	x	
21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 am?	x	
22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	x	
23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		x
24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize?	x	
25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	x	
26. Do you support the use of Tasers by law enforcement?		x
27. Do you support capital punishment (i.e., the death penalty)?		x

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

YES NO

28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections?	x	
29. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	x	

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

YES NO

33. Do you ride Muni on a regular basis (more than once a week)?	x	
34. Do you support CleanPower SF?	x	
35. Do you support expanding free access to MUNI for seniors and disabled persons?	x	
36. Do you support requiring ride hail companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to the City in order to operate here?	x	