

BART BOARD, DISTRICT 8 QUESTIONNAIRE
CANDIDATE: *William Walker*
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club PAC Questionnaire
August 11, 2018

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.

I have worked for four transit agencies: SFMTA, LA Metro (LACMTA), Samtrans/Caltrain (SMCTD) and 511 Bay Area. I transcribed Board meetings, convened public hearings and reported traffic and transit incidents. I've also served on two CACs for the Balboa Park Station Area and Mission Bay Redevelopment Area as well as the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees. I rode transit as a primary mode in San Francisco and Los Angeles for a total of 30 years. My elementary, middle and high schools are all located in District 8. I'm well versed in the district's needs.

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

Not at this time.

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?

In the short term, BART should convert the Convention and Visitors Bureau Hallidie Plaza space into a supervised injection site with homeless drop in services. The existing partnership with the City's Department in Homelessness should be strengthened. BARTPD should develop a civilian rank to address social services needed in stations. In the long term, station land (i.e. parking lots) could be repurposed for land leases that create affordable housing and support service spaces to support the homeless. BART should also ensure all future extensions prioritize affordable housing and support services.

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?

At 7 years old, I marched for affordable housing in San Francisco. I grew up in HUD housing. I've been a proponent of repealing Costa Hawkins and enforcement of loopholes in the Ellis Act since childhood. I support groups like the Housing Rights Committee, Tenants Union and Tenants Together. I want to create a plan to address the lack of funding for HUD homes on San Francisco, many of which are being privatized and purged of lifelong lower income residents who cannot remain in the Bay Area.

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 am mostly in agreement with the current framework adopted by the Board of Supervisors. I believe that more funding will need to be earmarked to address economically disadvantaged residents who do not have the startup costs to begin a business. A grants program, a staff liaison that assists these residents, and a fee installment plan might all be measures to mitigate the issues facing residents wishing to enter the industry that come from disadvantaged groups. Curriculum for CCSF, SFUSD and unemployment offices should also be developed to train potential residents interested in the industry.

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?

Means tested transit fares would go a long way for African Americans, many of whom were displaced and travel from places like Antioch to San Francisco by BART, spending upwards of \$1,400-3,500 annually per family member to ride. BART could also create a curriculum to attract new employees from public schools in the Bay Area, which would directly benefit students of color, who are the majority of most urban school districts. BART could mandate that affordable housing for residents and the workforce, including their own workforce, are part of their strategic, long range, and capital planning frameworks.

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

For two years I served as a member of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Board and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club Executive Board. I led the emergency march against Donald Trump and his proposal to remove trans-identified troops from the military. I participated in Milk Board contingents at the Pride Parade Resistance March, the Repeal of DOMA march, and at several fairs and festivals including the Castro Street Fair. As an out, proud, gay black male, I will remain committed to my LGBT+ community. BART will need an advocate to ensure its spaces are safe for all.