

# 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](mailto:pac@milkclub.org).

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

### Required Information

**Full Name:** Alida Fisher  
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**Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when?** Not yet!

**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.**

In the twelve years my four children have attended SFUSD, I have been an active parent volunteer at seven schools. I am Chair of SFUSD's Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC), a member of the African American Parent Advisory Committee, and a member of the LCAP Task Force. My experience as a former foster parent and transracial adoptive parent has shaped my passion for equity and social justice. My priorities are to create learning environments where all students feel welcome, included, and valued; implement intervention services so that all students are proficient readers by third grade; increase staffing stability; and improve budget and decision making transparency and accountability at all levels of the district.

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

While I have been an education advocate for many years, I am new to politics. I am just starting the process of seeking endorsements. This campaign has been my introduction to working with various political clubs and organizations, completing questionnaires, and asking for endorsements.

- 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?**

We need more collaborative programs like the pilot program at Buena Vista Horace Mann that, starting in November, will allow 20 families experiencing homelessness to sleep in the school's second gymnasium. As a foster parent, I experienced the frustration of navigating the city's bureaucracy. It can be challenging for anyone, particularly those in crisis, to find the appropriate services. Short term, I believe each school should have at least one full-time social worker (and many need more than one) to help families navigate various city departments and access services. Long term, we need to invest in more mental health supports in our schools.

- 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 support building affordable housing for educators, paraeducators, and other SFUSD certificated staff on vacant school district property. I support giving teachers and other school district employees preference in city housing lotteries. I support building additional affordable housing throughout the city. I was a supporter of this June's ballot measure, Prop G. I actively campaigned with UESF for teacher raises, and will continue to support initiatives that raise the salaries of SFUSD educators, paraeducators, and classified employees

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

- 3) **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?**

A legislative framework for recreational marijuana should take into account the impact that the “War on Drugs” has had on our most marginalized communities. The city should expunge criminal drug-related records that are preventing residents from getting jobs, housing, and certain forms of public assistance. Preference should be given to small, San Francisco-based businesses, particularly minority-owned businesses, in the registration and permitting process.

- 4) **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?**

As the parent to four African American students, this issue is near and dear to my heart. Racial bias has also been documented within our school district. SFUSD must allocate resources towards robust implementation of policies such as Restorative Practices (RP). All personnel need to be trained in cultural humility. Educators must understand the impact of trauma on our students. The resources required to fully implement a large-scale initiative such as RP are significant, but necessary to improve outcomes for our most underserved students. It would require a massive focus on training, and a shift of practices at some schools.

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

As the CAC Chair, I sit on many district-level committees and collaborate with a wide variety of leaders and parent advocates. I was part of the first advisory committee leadership team that brought together families from multiple advisory groups. I am currently working with the SFUSD LGBTQ Support Services Department to create a LGBTQ+ Family Advisory Committee, and I welcome the opportunity to work with all parents to build leadership opportunities and district involvement. As I work with families from various communities, I am struck by the fact that we all have the same concerns for our students: all families want their children to be included, valued, and to thrive at their school.

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

<b>LGBTQ ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
5. Do you support public funding, including set asides, for the establishment and development of LGBTQ Cultural Districts in San Francisco?	✓	
6. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals?	✓	
7. Do you support expansion of the LGBT curriculum in our City's public schools?	✓	
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?	✓	

<b>TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
9. Do you support the expansion of rent control beyond buildings constructed prior to 1979?	✓	
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.		✓
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?	✓	
13. Did you support Prop G (the "Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax") in 2014?	✓	
14. Did you support Prop F (stricter controls on AirBnB and other STR	✓	

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

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

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

**YES NO**

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

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

**YES NO**

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

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

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
33. Do you ride Muni on a regular basis (more than once a week)?		✓
34. Do you support CleanPower SF?	✓	
35. Do you support expanding free access to MUNI for seniors and disabled persons?	✓	
36. Do you support requiring ride hail companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to the City in order to operate here?	✓	

## ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ALIDA FISHER***

Most people call me Lee. I'm the mother of four children, ranging in ages from ten to seventeen. My husband Scott and I have been San Francisco residents since 2000. In the twelve years our children have attended public school, I have been an active parent and volunteer at seven SFUSD schools. I am the Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education and a member of the African American Parent Advisory Committee. I am a member of SFUSD's LCAP Task Force. I am a Parent Mentor with Support for Families of Children with Disabilities and an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland.

As a former foster parent and adoptive parent of African American children, two of whom have disabilities, I am particularly passionate about the issues of equity and social justice. Here in San Francisco, we experience many challenges specific to large urban school districts. Our opportunity gap is huge. While San Francisco has the second highest concentration of billionaires in the United States, we also have the highest percentage of homeless youth and young adults. According to our own school climate surveys, 25% of students between 5th and 12th grades report that they don't feel safe in our schools. While we have much work to do, I'm excited to be raising my children in a city that recognizes the need to address these issues and is actively working towards solutions.

"A rising tide lifts all boats" is a favorite expression of mine. By ensuring that we support our most marginalized students, we support everyone. Teaching all educators to provide differentiated instruction, to recognize the signs of trauma in their students, and to engage students of all backgrounds has been proven to improve outcomes for all students.

One of the most important solutions to many of our ongoing challenges is providing more professional development opportunities and co-planning time to educators, paraeducators, administrators, and parents. As the daughter and granddaughter of teachers, I watched my how hard my mother and grandmother worked to support their students, and how personally invested they became in the success of their students. Teachers want to help all students reach their potential. Here in SFUSD, they are asking for more professional development. They deserve to be given the skill set to support and engage all students, regardless of background, learning style and ability. And they need time in their schedule to be able to plan and support each student individually and uniquely.

I participate in multiple district committees, stakeholder engagement teams, and working groups. I work with families to ensure that our voices are being heard - and our feedback being included - when decisions are made about our children's education. I've attended hundreds of district Board of Education meetings and committee meetings. I'm ready to make the move to the other side of the table: I want to do more than comment in committees and at board meetings. I want to help craft policies surrounding inclusive practices and social emotional learning supports. I want to ensure that we consider and support our most vulnerable students and families in every decision, resolution, and guideline. I want to be the next member of the San Francisco Board of Education.