

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

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

### **Required Information**

**Full Name:** Gabriela López

**Office Sought:** Board of Education

**Mailing Address:** 1762 Pine Street, #6, San Francisco, CA 94110

**Phone:** (415) 879-8683

**Email:** [gabriela@gabrielalopez.org](mailto:gabriela@gabrielalopez.org)

**Website:** [gabrielalopez.org](http://gabrielalopez.org)

**Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when?** Yes, Since December 2017

**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.**

*I've been working in education for over 10 years, and I am the only public school teacher running who is currently in the classroom. I will also be the only Bilingual educator on the Board of Education. I started as a paraeducator in the same public school district I attended, and I also worked in arts education at a non-profit organization. I am now a fifth grade Spanish Immersion teacher and the mentor of a teacher candidate from USF. At my site, I am the representative of our Union Building Committee, on the School Site Council and the Arts Coordinator.*

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

*I am proud to have the endorsement of the following:*

*Jane Kim, Board of Supervisors District 6*

*Sandra Lee Fewer, Board of Supervisors District 1*

*Hillary Ronen, Board of Supervisors District 9*

*Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell, President San Francisco Board of Education*

*Mark Sanchez, San Francisco Board of Education*

*Matt Haney, San Francisco Board of Education*

*David Campos, Chair San Francisco Democratic Party (DCCC)\**

*San Francisco Latino Democratic Club*

*Rose Pak Democratic Club*

*Karen Zapata, Founder Teachers 4 Social Justice\**

*Rudy Corpuz, Executive Director United Playaz\**

*Cynthia Meza, Former President Latin American Teachers Association\**

*And many more!*

**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?**

*I work closely with students, families and teachers who don't have stable housing, and see how this affects a school's community. There should be no child in San Francisco who is without a home. In the short-term, I see an increase in job and educational opportunities, and more*

*access to mental health services. In the long-term, more nighttime shelter beds and addressing the drastically high rents as solutions to the homeless crisis. In office, I would push the resolution for SFUSD to partner with the Department of Homelessness, and ensure all schools continue to have access to food banks.*

**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?**

*Investments in affordable housing are important, but do not replace the need for competitive salaries. I will support the call for an independent audit to clearly see where money is being spent, making it more helpful to learn how we can raise the 38% of SFUSD budget to something more competitive. I will continue to push for raising the minimum wage. We need to expand Homebuyer Programs such as Teacher Next Door, and repeal Costa Hawkins. I have helped collect signatures, endorsed and will continue to support the Our City, Our Home and Affordable Housing Act campaigns.*

**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?**

*We need to make sure parents and children know the latest research on the effects of marijuana on concentration, motivation, mood, sleep and digestion. I voted to approve Prop 64 and agree with the current framework adopted by the Board of Supervisors and their dismissal and seal of all marijuana-related misdemeanors and infractions. The enforcement of marijuana prohibition disproportionately impacts people of color, and this can impact people's ability to get public housing, financial aid for school, loans, employment opportunities and voting.*

**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?**

*We need to leverage salary gains to bring focus on hiring, supporting and retaining more African American and Latino educators in our high potential schools. We should look to fundamentally change the classroom supports, ensuring that classrooms have more paraeducators, and that every school has full-time social workers, nurses and counselors. I believe we need more community based initiatives that address, not just the quality of instruction, but poverty. I would redefine success for our minority students as graduation from a four year college, as preparing a student solely for entry to college might emphasize*

*test scores and AP classes.*

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

*In my classroom, I promote a gender-inclusive, LGBT curriculum, and have proudly pushed the school district's goal to create a safer learning environment for all students with an emphasis on LGBTQ youth and their families. We need to ensure all schools are following the FAIR Education Act, which requires that history instruction cover LGBT people as well as those with disabilities. We have to ensure our schools allow students to feel safe, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. And assure teachers that they will not face any administrative backlash for addressing LGBT figures and movements in the classroom.*

## **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? **YES**  
If so, who: Gabriela Alemán, aleman@gabrielalopez.org
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? **YES**
11. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? **NO**  
If so, please explain on a separate sheet of paper. **NA**
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? **NO**

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? **YES**

23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? **NO**

If so, explain: **NA**

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? **NO**

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? **NO**

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!**

34. Do you support CleanPower SF? **YES**

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

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**