

## 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:** John David Trasviña

**Office Sought:** Board of Education

**Mailing Address:** 5150 Diamond Heights Blvd. #202B, San Francisco, CA 94131

**Phone:** 650-714-4587 (Ryan Blake)

**Email:** [john@johnforsf.com](mailto:john@johnforsf.com)

**Website:** [JohnForSF.com](http://JohnForSF.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.**

**I'm grateful for the SF public school education I received that prepared me for Harvard University, Stanford Law School and a career in civil rights, public service and education. I was appointed by President Clinton to lead the federal government's only office devoted solely to immigrant workplace rights and by President Obama to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing. I was a leader in the Administration on LGBT anti-discrimination and our expansion of the Civil Rights Act to include gender identity within the gender discrimination prohibitions helped EEOC do the same. I've taught and been Dean of USF Law School, bringing my social justice, equality and civil rights orientation to our classrooms. I have the management and oversight skills to be an effective Board member and a life-long Democrat, member of 10 clubs.**

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

**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Assembly Member Phil Ting, DCCC Chair David Campos, DCCC Vice Chair Petra DeJesus,**

**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 are facing a crisis in homelessness among families, including LGBT youth who are pushed out of their homes and families to the streets and suicide rates 3-5 times higher than other youth. I agree with use of schools for housing homeless families. I would bring my HUD experience to the table including my work to ensure that transgender individuals had full and appropriate access to housing facilities and consideration when adopting policies. Youth flee schools and homes because of bullying and I would provide oversight and experience to monitor and improve school anti-bullying initiatives. As Lowell High Alumni President, I have supported funding the wellness center and will continue to do so.**

**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?**

**As President Obama's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing, I was a key leader in requiring local jurisdictions to assess how they were spending federal dollars to promote integration and opportunity. Previous administrations had failed to do so. We scrutinized public and private investments in infrastructure, compliance with fair housing laws, listening to community stakeholders, collaborating with other agencies at all levels, and training and hiring low income**

individuals and public housing residents. We created change and affordable housing and penalized discrimination. I would bring those tools to this job and focus on educator housing by calling on each supervisor to identify an underutilized parcel in their district that could be used for this purpose.

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?

This already is a rapidly changing area, from the new policies that are just starting to take effect, to the new Office of Cannabis, to likely changes at the Board of Supervisors after November. It is not a good time for the Board of Education to weigh in. Let's see whether the policies work in the way that were intended and their impact on the schools. As a Board member, I would be open to hearing about whether schools or school children are affected by siting and other decisions and helping to resolve them by bringing in all the relevant parties.

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?

There's a reason it's called the SCHOOL to prison pipeline. While parenting and pre-K education come at the beginning, the failure of our schools to close the achievement gap has contributed to the life conditions of African American youth that far too often culminate in violence. Our success with the community will reduce their over-presence in the criminal justice system. I support the African American Achievement & Leadership Initiative (AAALI) and would put it on the agenda of every Board meeting to report progress. I would expand it to the youngest students in the District and add a component involving parents' opportunities to support their child's education and for the District to be the hub of other city agencies to support the family's related needs.

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

As President Obama's HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, I cultivated sustainable partnerships with the LGBT rights community including GLAAD, NCLR and SAGE. I drafted and implemented historic guidance on Fair Housing Act jurisdiction for LGBT housing discrimination complaints, issued the LGBT Equal Access Rule (since nullified by the Trump Administration) and the first formal investigation and resolution of LGBT housing discrimination at the federal level. I empowered LGBT staff throughout the agency and presented our work to stakeholders nationwide. At USF, I was responsive to LGBT student concerns, including on student recruitment and posting signage for all gender restrooms. I am personally aware of the crisis that LGBT youth face in homelessness and housing and will ensure that School District policies, personnel and programs support all youth at all levels.



## **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: Ryan Blake/Josh Weinberger

4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past? Yes, on behalf of the No on Proposition O (opposing bilingual ballots) campaign in 1983. The Club was an ally but we lost.

### **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? 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. Do you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 am? Yes

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? Yes, but not all.

23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? No  
If so, explain:

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? Yes

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? No

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

34. Do you support CleanPower SF? Yes

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