

**Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club**  
Questionnaire for Candidates for November 2018

**Required Information**

Full Name: **Paul Bellar**

Office Sought: **Office of Assessor/Recorder**

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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 have worked in San Francisco housing as part of my real estate appraisal business over the last 8 years. During this time, I have seen our housing market crash and make its way back. While supporting families, homeowners and eager to be homeowners, I worked with the assessor side of the Assessor/Recorder's office. I have come to realize this position can help ease our housing crisis. However, this won't be achieved with placeholder candidates who don't come from housing. With my extensive knowledge of San Francisco housing, I can lead this office in a direction that can help ease.

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

League of Pissed Off Voters

Broke Ass Stewart

My Wife (Not as easy as you would think)

- 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?**

The assessor's office is the most underutilized office in San Francisco when it comes to housing. With many landlords chasing the high rental rates in San Francisco, many tenants are being harassed, bullied and arbitrarily evicted. This has led to a higher rate of homelessness within San Francisco.

This can be help alleviated in the short term by providing beds for homeless.

Long term goals should include navigation centers in all supervisorial districts as this is a city wide problem. To expect the hardest hit areas to be the only areas shouldering the homelessness burden is narrow minded.

- 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?**

The number one way this position can help make San Francisco more equitable is to improve access to affordable housing. I have seen firsthand what high housing costs do to San Francisco residents. From my experience in the housing market, some home owners want to help. Due to limitations in their income or permissibility in the law, people are unable to contribute to the solution for the housing crisis. I would help create programs that would find ways for people to help. Whether it's legalizing their In-Law unit or updating their home to rent out a room, there are outside the box thinking that can help.

- 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?**

N/A as the Assessor's office is unable to weigh in on this. However, I feel the legalization

of marijuana was a great thing. The legalization takes away the power from police to misuse weed laws to put minorities in jail.

**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?**

As Assessor/Recorder, I think it is paramount that we weed out bias that are still quite evident in today's institutions. I will work with the African American communities to help facilitate programs to keep our city diverse. If this means speaking to individuals to help them understand the property tax liabilities, then I will be there.

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

The LGBTQ community is an important one for me. My sister spent a great deal of her youth fighting to come out of the closet. In Ohio, such things were not done and seeing how it tore her up inside lives with me to this day. Once I fully understood why she was so unhappy as a child, I have endeavored to make sure young people in my classroom have a safe place to be themselves. As a high school teacher over the last 18 years, it has been a lifelong goal to create an environment in my classroom where students felt safe, welcome and supported.

## 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?	<b>X</b>	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		<b>X</b>
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who: Belinda@AccessSF.org	<b>X</b>	
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?		<b>X</b>

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

<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?	<b>X</b>	
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.		<b>X</b>
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?	<b>X</b>	
13. Did you support Prop G (the "Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax") in 2014?	<b>X</b>	
14. Did you support Prop F (stricter controls on AirBnB and other STR	<b>X</b>	

platforms) in 2015?		
15. Did you support Prop I (the Mission Moratorium) in 2015?	<b>X</b>	

<b>IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?	<b>X</b>	
17. Do you support the protection of Due Process for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	<b>X</b>	
18. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?	<b>X</b>	
19. Do you support San Francisco expanding funding for immigration defense services?	<b>X</b>	

<b>SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites?	<b>X</b>	
21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 am?	<b>X</b>	
22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	<b>X</b>	
23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		<b>X</b>
24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize?	<b>X</b>	
25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	<b>X</b>	
26. Do you support the use of Tasers by law enforcement?		<b>X</b>
27. Do you support capital punishment (i.e., the death penalty)?		<b>X</b>

<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections?	<b>X</b>	
29. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	<b>X</b>	

30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance?	<b>X</b>	
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?	<b>X</b>	
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>X</b>	

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

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