

## 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:** Nick Josefowitz

**Office Sought:** District 2 Supervisor

**Mailing Address:** 1782 Union Street, 94123

**Phone:** (415) 814-0554

**Email:** [nickj@nickjosefowitz.com](mailto:nickj@nickjosefowitz.com)

**Website:** [www.NickJosefowitz.com](http://www.NickJosefowitz.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 founded and ran a successful clean energy company, and I understand that good ideas matter less than good execution. My successes as an elected BART Director include dramatically reducing train breakdowns and raising \$4 billion to modernize aging infrastructure and increase rider capacity. I also serve on the boards of the MTC, Capitol Corridor, and WETA (ferries). I was appointed an SF Environment Commissioner from 2013-14.

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

Lateefah Simon, BART Board of Directors; Eric Mar, former Supervisor; Scott Wiener, State Senator; David Chiu, State Assemblymember; Phil Ting, State Assemblymember; Susan Leal, former Supervisor

**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?**

As Supervisor, one of my top priorities will be to deliver 3,000 new shelter beds with comprehensive services for addiction and mental health, job placement, and benefits access. SF has actually lost shelter beds since 2004. These shelter beds are essential to reducing the suffering for those who have fallen into homelessness and are now living on our streets. No matter how much we invest in permanent affordable housing - and investing in more affordable housing is the ultimate long-term solution - there will still be thousands of people who for many years will be suffering on our streets unless we can find shelter for them in the short term. I will also work to significantly increase the short-term rental subsidy programs which have proven so successful at helping folks stay in their homes if they experience a short-term dip in their income.

**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 believe the key to addressing housing affordability is to build more affordable housing, especially for low- and very-low income workers, families, and seniors. As a BART Director, I passed a policy to bring 20,000 new units to the immediate vicinity of train stations, which included a requirement that 35% of those units will be affordable with a special emphasis on units affordable to low- and very-low income households. I am currently leading efforts to significantly increase the speed and number of units that will be built around BART stations with AB2923. This legislation, if passed, will set new standards around inclusionary zoning, mandating 35% affordable housing across the entire BART system, and its strong anti-displacement provisions would also break new ground in California law. The bill would also require

BART to develop a strategy to prioritize units on BART land for essential workers. As Supervisor, I will build on these efforts at the local and state levels.

We also need to continue to ensure that tenants are safe and secure in their homes. As an MTC Commissioner, I have worked closely with Supervisor Kim and others around the region to try and put in place incentives for other cities and counties to implement some of the robust tenant protections we take for granted here in San Francisco. I will continue this work as Supervisor, and will support the full and continued implementation of the legal assistance programs envisioned in Prop F.

**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?**

The Board of Supervisors did not handle the rollout of legal cannabis well, waiting too long to create local rules and depriving certain neighborhoods of local cannabis businesses. Cannabis businesses are legitimate businesses, filling empty storefronts, generating tax revenue for the City, putting local workers to work in good paying jobs, and becoming a part of their communities. As Supervisor, I will work to ensure cannabis businesses in D2 and beyond have the opportunity to thrive. I will work to ensure that the cannabis industry employs strong apprenticeship programs, that cannabis workers are paid good wages and have good benefits, and the cannabis industry has labor peace. I will also work, at the state level, to start rolling back some of the arbitrary restrictions that prevent cannabis from being sold with meals, or cannabis from being sold and used responsibly at bars and clubs in forms that do not generate smoke.

**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?**

Just 20 years ago, African Americans were nearly 15% of San Francisco's population. Now they comprise just 3%. Few chose to leave.

If we are to bring stability and support to the African American community, solidarity in its greatest form must be the strategy. As Supervisor, I will support African American organization, listen to the African American elders who helped build this city, be a student of Black historical doctrine, continue to support progressive African American political candidates, and call out and work against racist policies.

As Supervisor, I will work to ensure that San Francisco City Government is a workplace free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. I will support the work that Supervisor Kim and SEIU are doing on that front through November, and will continue her work as Supervisor.

As Supervisor, I will provide more effective oversight of our police force, especially when it comes to use of force incidents against African Americans. As a BART Director, I have extended the work of Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, and led efforts to pass a more progressive Use of Force policy and overhaul BART's police oversight model. I have also worked closely with Director Bevan Dufty and

Director Lateefah Simon to implement responses to the challenges of drug addiction and homelessness in the BART system that do not criminalize illness or poverty, but instead bring much needed services to those who are suffering in our BART stations. At BART, as in San Francisco, a disproportionate number of those who are homeless are African American. I would continue this work as Supervisor.

As Supervisor, I would work to formally extend certificates of preference to descendants of original recipients who were the victims of redevelopment policy, and conduct extensive outreach to identify and notify them of their rights. Not only would this stabilize the African American community, but help redress past displacement.

I would work to reduce the achievement gap in our public schools and city college, and ensure that every San Francisco kid grows up with the skills and opportunities they need to thrive.

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

I was a strong supporter on the BART Board of extending our preferential contracting program to LGBTQ-owned businesses, which won the Equality Trailblazer from Equality California. I was also a strong supporter of the efforts to pass a new progressive policy for how BART Police interact with individuals identifying as transgender. As Supervisor, I will support LGBTQ organizations and continue to work with the LGBTQ community to implement a progressive agenda for all LGBTQ residents.

## **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? Yes (elected to BART Board of Directors, 2014)
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who: Yes, Maggie Muir
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past? For the BART Director race in 2014.

### **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?
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? 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? Yes
22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? I support the legalization of sex work.
23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain: No
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? Yes
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? 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, but I mostly use my bicycle to get around
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