

# 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:** Theo Ellington

**Office Sought:** District 10 Supervisor

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 24380, San Francisco, CA, 94124

**Phone:** 415 886 5501

**Email:** [Theo@Theo2018.com](mailto:Theo@Theo2018.com)

**Website:** [Theo2018.com](http://Theo2018.com)

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

**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.**

For the past decade, I've served and advocated for the the resident of SF. As the Director of Public Affairs for the Golden State Warriors, I held arena developers accountable to the neighborhood. Because of us, residents will enjoy better transit, 3,000 good-paying jobs, and increased tax revenue for city services. It's about more than basketball—we are laying the foundation for a better neighborhood.

While Commissioner for the City's Office of Community Investment & Infrastructure, I focused on funding 1,049 affordable housing units (including 249 for formerly homeless families) and overseeing neighborhood development projects all across the city.

As Human Rights Commissioner, I fight against injustice and defend anti-discrimination policies for the most vulnerable in our community, including the LGBTQ community.

As a volunteer, I help neighbors in need. I serve on the boards of the Chinatown Development Center, the Bayview Opera House, and Economic Development on Third.

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

London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco  
Keith Baraka, Democratic County Central Committee  
John Burton, Former Chair, CA Democratic Party  
Malia Cohen, President of Board of Supervisors & District 10 Supervisor  
Carmen Chu, San Francisco City Assessor  
Bill Lee, Former SF City Administrator  
Fiona Ma, CA Board of Equalization  
Hydra Mendoza, President, Board of Education  
Thea Selby, SF City College Trustee  
Katy Tang, District 4 Supervisor  
Shanell Williams, SF City College Trustee

Adam Gould, Dogpatch Business Association  
Barbara Gratta & April Spears, Co-Founders, Bayview Merchants of Butchertown  
Jenny Mei, Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association  
Ed Hatter, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
Bruce Huie, President, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

- 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 understand the urgency of this crisis. When I was on OCII, we were able to build homes for 242 homeless families. Our first and most immediate step is to continue this work. Next, we need to support the success of the Navigation Centers and expand operations to include on-site wellness centers. As supervisor I will work everyday to address the needs of our district's homeless families by:

1. Expand navigation centers to include satellite wellness programs in conjunction with local medical clinics.
2. Rehabilitate existing housing and begin to build modular housing to connect homeless families.
3. We must end the loop of criminalizing homelessness and the mentally-ill by working with our public and private hospitals to make facilities readily available for mental health patients.
4. Establish metrics for city departments to encourage better interdepartmental communication between SFPD, SFFD, DPH, HSA and others that spend tax dollars on city services.

**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?**

San Francisco is in a housing crisis, there's no question. During my time at OCII, we were able to take advantage of tax-increment financing to create 1,049 affordable homes at every income level, including 249 for formerly homeless families. There is no question that we need more middle-income housing. The challenge is identifying funding sources (the "tax credit" model conforms to building more low-income housing, but not middle-income housing). I support identifying alternative funding sources to building housing that creates opportunities for working class families. As supervisor I will work every day to create affordable homes for every San Franciscan, not just the wealthy by:

1. Building more homes for folks at every income level. We simply must increase the supply of available housing.
2. Building housing without displacing communities by using the abundant vacant/blighted property and land available in D10.
3. Expand public housing through the Small Sites Acquisition Program, and explore the use of a public bank to fund the building of new homes.
4. Prioritize building housing along Third St. and other transit corridors.
5. Encourage all Supervisors to take an inventory of "Opportunity Sites" (including: surface parking lots, clustered gas stations, vacant lots, areas with an abundant of fast food restaurants)

**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?**

Our current equity program is a good start to ensure responsible implementation. The current legislative framework works for the retail portion of the cannabis industry but must be expanded to ensure we see the same impact cover the entire sector. My philosophy is to continue legislation to:

- Use "equity" as a policy framework to impact the entire industry.
- Develop a tax structure that reverses the effects on communities that suffered from the war on drugs.

- Work with local and state authorities to expunge records from individuals impacted (arrested or convicted) by policies for marijuana related offenses.
- Avoid the over concentration of dispensaries in traditional low-income neighborhoods

**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?**

Our city should be ashamed of the outcomes for African-Americans--they are far below any other ethnic group in San Francisco. To maintain *affordability* we must work with the Assessor Recorder's office to educate, inform, and create programs that make it easier for longtime residents to transfer property in order to retain homeownership for longtime families. For policing we must continue to monitor the DOJ 272 recommendations and implement community policing models. Our unemployment rate is upwards of 14% for African-Americans. We must do better in holding all industries accountable to hiring African Americans. By building direct career pipelines in industries like: technology, health care, hospitality, and cannabis. In terms of education, SFUSD has failed black families--too many of us are failing. We need to radically change our lottery system, build quality schools in every neighborhood, and fully fund the free city college program.

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

I've marched in Pride, hired members of the LGBTQ community, attended protests and rallies in support of marriage equality, and fought to spread the word about important medical services like HIV testing and PREP in my community. Too often, our homeless population is made up of marginalized members of the LGBTQ community. I will fight for them, and fight for you, as we address San Francisco's housing crisis.

## 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?	YES	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		NO
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who: Erica Walters, Terris, Barnes & Walters	YES	
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?		NO

<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?	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	

<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?	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		NO

platforms) in 2015?		
15. Did you support Prop I (the Mission Moratorium) in 2015?		NO

<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?	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	

<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?	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?		
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

<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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	

<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)?	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	

\*However, my family was the victim of an eviction when I was in high school

\*\*Not applicable.