

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.

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: Michelle Parker

Office Sought: Board of Education

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Email: michelle@michelleparker.org

Website: www.michelleparker.org

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 a single mother of three SFUSD students and believe that investing in our public education system is the key to improving opportunities for economic mobility and strengthening our communities. I've been an active public education advocate for more than 10 years, fighting for issues like education funding, access to after school programming for all students, and more accountability. I served in education leadership positions at the school site, district and state levels, including as President of the Second District PTA, supporting and developing parent leadership at more than 60 schools across San Francisco.

I'm focused on:

- Implementing Universal Preschool
- Expanding Career Technical Education
- Returning Algebra and accelerated math courses to middle school
- Fixing the student enrollment system so families can attend schools in their neighborhoods
- Attracting and retaining excellent educators

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

Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma

Senator Scott Wiener

Assemblymember David Chiu

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Mayor London Breed

Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu

Supervisor Catherine Stefani

Supervisor Katy Tang

Supervisor Vallie Brown

Supervisor Ahsha Safai

Board of Education Member Rachel Norton

Board of Education Member Shamann Walton

Board of Education Member Emily Murase

City College Trustee Alex Randolph

City College Trustee Thea Selby

LiUNA Laborers Local 261

Northern California Carpenters Regional Council

Sprinkler Fitters Local 483

City Democratic Club

And many former elected, community leaders, teachers, administrators and parents

- 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 school board has no control over how the city addresses homelessness in general, but I do think it has a responsibility to work with city and community partners to address housing for youth and families. Partnerships like the one SFUSD has with Hamilton Families (Heading Home Campaign to house 800 homeless families by 2020), and the coordinated community plan to end youth homelessness, are both appropriate and important. If we don't work together to address these issues, we can't possibly expect our students to be able to be in school ready to learn. It will be my job as a school board member to regularly ask for updates on these projects, initiate new projects if necessary, and allocate funding to support them. And, importantly, to listen to our students and families who are experiencing homelessness to be able to help meet their needs.

- 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?**

Again, in the role SFUSD plays in housing and affordability issues, school board members have certain opportunities for impacting the people they serve. I played a leadership role in the most recent Prop G to increase teacher salaries, organizing the parent vote and volunteers, and will continue to work to increase SFUSD staff compensation and provide full time work for paraeducators. I support the current teacher housing project in the Sunset, and am interested in QUICKLY identifying additional sites and funding to start more projects. I also supported HOME-SF because of the possibility to increase middle income housing that will help our educators and families.

- 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?**

I agree with the board's priority in creating an equity framework around recreational marijuana, which requires half the city's dispensaries to qualify for an equity program that benefits low-income residents, people displaced from their homes and people with marijuana convictions. I am undecided on the size of the school buffer zone. I don't want marijuana too close to our school age kids, but I also understand that this size of a buffer zone in a dense urban setting creates challenges of WHERE to put a dispensary.

- 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?

I can do a few things:

- 1) Take the lead to fund and implement universal preschool in San Francisco, so that all kids have access to two years of high quality preschool before they come to kindergarten. This is known to increase kindergarten readiness, which in turn levels the playing field and helps reduce the achievement gap. When we instituted Preschool for All 10 years ago (less than 20% of SF children benefit) we saw participation rates of African American and Latino kids increase significantly, so we know there is an appetite for this program.
- 2) Support teacher training for cultural competency, implicit bias, family engagement, and differentiated and experiential teaching (known to be highly effective for at-risk students).
- 3) Support community schools and work with city and community partners to ensure wrap-around services for all students. This includes mental health services, nurses, job training, and more.

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

I show up and speak out. When my nephew came out during his senior year of high school (in our conservative family who likes to avoid talking about things like this), I both publicly and privately supported him – regularly checking to make sure he felt supported by his family and community. I donate funds to organizations who support LGBTQ people and vote for measures that do also. If I am elected to the school board, I will do everything I can to make sure that schools are safe places for students – that they are places where they can question and receive the kind of support they need (so, training our teachers and staff in necessary skills to both recognize when support is needed and identify what kind of support to provide), so that they can learn and be empowered to be whoever they want to be in the world.

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?	X	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		X
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who: MAGGIE MUIR	X	
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?		X

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

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES	YES	NO
9. Do you support the expansion of rent control beyond buildings constructed prior to 1979?	X	
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.		X
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?	X	
13. Did you support Prop G (the "Harvey Milk Anti-Speculation Tax") in 2014?		X

14. Did you support Prop F (stricter controls on AirBnB and other STR platforms) in 2015? <i>I can't remember, but I think so (box won't let me check)</i>		
15. Did you support Prop I (the Mission Moratorium) in 2015?		X

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?	X	
17. Do you support the protection of Due Process for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	X	
18. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to school board?	X	
19. Do you support San Francisco expanding funding for immigration defense services?	X	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

YES NO

20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites?	X	
21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 am?	X	
22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	X	
23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain:		X
24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize?	X	
25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	X	
26. Do you support the use of Tasers by law enforcement?		
27. Do you support capital punishment (i.e., the death penalty)?		X

EDUCATION AND YOUTH	YES	NO
28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections?	X	
29. Do you support the Common Core education standards?	X	
30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance?	X	
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?	X	
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?	X	

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