

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Questionnaire for Candidates for November 2018

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on declaring your candidacy! The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club invites you to get to know us a little better as we plan our endorsements for the November 2018 election cycle. Your participation in our Club's questionnaire will allow our Membership to better understand who you are, what you stand for, and what you plan to accomplish if you get elected to office.

There are two parts to our questionnaire. Part 1 is a series of short-answer questions, less than 150 words. Part 2 is a simple set of Yes/No questions covering a broad set of issues. If necessary, please expand upon your responses in Part 2 separately.

E-mail all questionnaires to Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair Tom Temprano at pac@milkclub.org and to our Correspondent at correspondent@milkclub.org.

*Good Luck,
The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

Required Information

Full Name: **Justin Sha**

Office Sought: **Fremont City Council, District 4**

Mailing Address: **282 Tiffany Terrace, Fremont, CA 94536**

Phone: **510-666-7889**

Email: **justin@justinsha.org**

Website: **justinsha.org**

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? Since when? **No**

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)?

Yes

Please see end of
this document for
my responses to
PART 1

PART 1: Short-Answer Questionnaire

(Please limit responses to 5 sentences or 150 words)

- 1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek. Include any key endorsements you'd like to share plus anything else that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.**
- 2) What are your plans to address housing affordability and economic inequality in the region you wish to represent? What have you done to address this crisis, if anything?**
- 3) The anti-black racial biases of both the police and the criminal justice system is well documented. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support the African American community against these threats?**
- 4) What would you describe as your most important actions or plans to support the LGBTQ community?**

PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire

Please check **Yes** or **No** for each question.

GENERAL	YES	NO
1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	✓	
2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		✗
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? _____		✗
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?		✗

LGBTQ ISSUES	YES	NO
5. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals?	✓	
6. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum in our public schools?	✓	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES	YES	NO
7. Do you support the expansion of rent control for buildings constructed after 1979?	✓	

8. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer or agent in the eviction of a tenant? If so, please explain at the end of the questionnaire.		X
9. Do you support requiring Short Term Rental platforms (e.g. AirBnB, VRBO) to publish registration numbers for properly-registered short-term rentals on their respective websites; handing over booking data to the Planning Department; and increasing funding for enforcement capacity?	✓	
12. Do you support the statewide ballot initiative Prop 10 to repeal Costa-Hawkins?	✓	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES	YES	NO
13. Do you support Sanctuary City?	✓	
14. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	✓	
15. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to School Board?	✓	
16. Do you support expanding funding for immigrant defense services?	✓	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES	YES	NO
20. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection sites?	✓	
21. Did you support allowing localities to allow some bars to serve liquor until 4 AM?	✓	
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 below.		X
24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize?	✓	
25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	✓	
26. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?	✓	
27. Do you support the death penalty?		X

EDUCATION AND YOUTH**YES NO**

28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections?	✓	
29. Do you support Common Core education standards?	✓	
30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance?	✓	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**YES NO**

31. Do you ride public transit on a regular basis? More than once a week?	✓	
32. Do you support community choice aggregation?	✓	
33. Do you support expanding free access to public transit for seniors and disabled persons?	✓	
34. Do you support requiring ridesharing companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to local government order to operate in your locality?	✓	

1.

I graduated from Dartmouth College in 2015 and the University of Hastings, College of the Law in 2018. I am a lawyer and an entrepreneur who has cofounded three startups. I am running for Fremont City Council, District 4 because the current frontrunner, Yang Shao, would otherwise win if I didn't.

[REQUIRED BACKGROUND: A few months ago, the Fremont Unified School District Board voted to eliminate sex education curriculum for 4th and 5th graders, rather than comply with the 2016 California Healthy Youth Act: <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2018/05/03/fremont-school-board-nixes-sex-ed-for-grades-4-6/>. This 3-2 decision was made due to antagonism to LGBTQ and gender issues and based on personal religious beliefs. One of the Board members who voted to eliminate sex education was Yang Shao, the current FUSD Board President, who is endorsed by Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, who voted against recognizing Harvey Milk Day in schools—also by a 3-2 decision—during her own respective tenure on the school Board. Many local progressives believe that there is a nascent conservative movement bubbling in Fremont based on a Chinese Christian evangelical network stemming from the “River of Life” church.]

None of the other candidates can beat Yang Shao: (1) Debbie Watanuki cannot win Chinese American voters (the majority in my district) due to her Japanese surname; (2) Craig Steckler will not win because he is an out-of-touch former police chief and will not canvass; and (4) Robert Daulton cannot win with a message built solely on anti-development and a campaign strategy that only targets white voters.

In contrast, I am a gay Chinese American who is accessible to all segments of my community. I am running out of necessity, and I am a progressive who can win.

2.

Fremont residents are incensed by the traffic and frustrated by the actions of the Fremont City Council, which has continuously approved high-density residential developments that contribute to congestion without adequately addressing the housing affordability crisis. My case in point? The Fremont City Council approved the construction of a very large luxury residential development across the street from the new Warm Springs Bart Station: only 5 percent of this development, in a small corner, is sectioned off for affordable housing, with the rest of the units going for an average \$1.2 million dollars per one story flat—\$1.5 million for a two story “penthouse.” As a member of the City Council, I would engage in tough negotiations with developers, reject any additional development that is not affordable, and I would publicly support initiatives like the Rent Relief Act, which was introduced by Kamala Harris.

3.

I supported Black Lives Matter during its nascent days in 2014, and I will continue to be a strong advocate for criminal justice reform and speak against police brutality in all communities. Given the demographics of Fremont, the most important action that I could take would be to push for greater sensitivity training for the Fremont Police Department, which would benefit based on some recent events.

4.

At Dartmouth, I stepped down from my position as Class President, so that I could work for my LGBTQ and Asian American communities; I helped program the biggest PRIDE Week in Dartmouth's history. At Hastings, I served as Treasurer; during my tenure, BALIF [the S.F. Bay Area LGBT Lawyers Association] awarded Hastings OUTLAW the Best Student Organization of the Year Award 2017-2018. (We got a big check that we received on stage!)

I plan to support the LGBTQ community in Fremont by being a vocal advocate. I would support our community by preventing Yang Shao from winning, and once on the School Board, I would fight to make sure that our rights are respected, especially given the fact that many Fremont citizens are immigrants.