

**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: John T Selawsky

Office Sought: Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board

Mailing Address: [1912 Blake St Berkeley CA 94704](#)

Phone: 510.590.6227

Email: websky66@gmail.com

Website: pending

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

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? No

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.

I am a long-time resident of Berkeley (31 years), a former Berkeley School Board member (12 years, including 3 as Board President), and running for re-election to the Berkeley Rent Board. I have or do serve on Zoning Adjustments Board, BOLT (Library Board), Commissions, and Task Forces, and have been active politically since the early 1990's in Berkeley. I care deeply about Berkeley, its diversity, its vibrancy, and have worked to protect the activist spirit and collectivism that Berkeley was known for. I have been chosen Chair of the Rent Board for 2 consecutive years by my colleagues on the Board.

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?

Housing affordability and anti-displacement mechanisms are a key component of my, and my slatemates (Community Power slate, the pro-tenant slate for Berkeley Rent Board) platform and commitment. All of us in somewhat different ways have worked on these issues over the past 20 years. We are at a crisis point for affordable housing in the East Bay, and I am committed to work with our City Council, County representatives, and community organizations to work out solutions to this crisis. There are very few overnight, quick solutions. This will take a real commitment and work from a multi-agency and multi-organizational coalition.

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?

We, the Rent Board, can publicize our commitment to equity and fairness in our decisions, policies, and practices. We have already gone a long way toward that end, but of course more always needs to be done. Promotion and retention of employees of color and recruitment of a diverse staff are one of our top priorities, and we are working on and addressing these issues over the next few years. Institutional barriers are not something that come down overnight; but with commitment and effort they can be addressed.

4) What would you describe as your most important actions or plans to support the LGBTQ community?

I have always aligned myself as an ally of the LGBTQ community, initially as an activist and resident of San Francisco in the late 1970's and early 80's. I have worked with and supported LGBTQ initiatives and candidates (Joaquin Rivera, Judy Appel, James Chang, Kriss Worthington (on his very first campaign against Carla Woodworth), many others. I also worked very closely with Judy Appel while I was a Berkeley School Board member to write, pass, and implement cutting edge LGBT anti-bullying and welcoming legislation and policy for BUSD.

PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire. Please check Yes or No for each question.

GENERAL

1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat? Yes
2. Have you ever run for elected office before? Yes
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? N/A
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past? No

LGBTQ ISSUES

5. Do you support public funding for employment development specifically for transgender individuals? Yes
6. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum in our public schools? Yes

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

7. Do you support the expansion of rent control for buildings constructed after 1979? Yes, absolutely.
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. No, and I never will.
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? Yes, yes, yes.
12. Do you support the statewide ballot initiative Prop 10 to repeal Costa-Hawkins? Yes, yes, yes.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

13. Do you support Sanctuary City? Yes, absolutely.
14. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes? Yes, absolutely.
15. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including but not limited to School Board? Yes

16. Do you support expanding funding for immigrant defense services? Yes, yes, yes.

SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

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? No

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? Yes

23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain below.
No, and I never will.

24. Do you support efforts to allow employees of Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services to unionize? Yes, yes, yes, absolutely and please.

25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?
Yes, absolutely.

26. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement? No

27. Do you support the death penalty? No

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

28. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections? No

29. Do you support Common Core education standards? No

30. Do you support teacher training to implement alternatives to suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance? Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

31. Do you ride public transit on a regular basis? More than once a week? Yes, at least 2 or 3 times a week.

32. Do you support community choice aggregation? Yes

33. Do you support expanding free access to public transit for seniors and disabled persons?
Yes

34. Do you support requiring ridesharing companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) to provide trip data to local government order to operate in your locality Yes