

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: Cat Brooks

Office Sought: Mayor of Oakland

Mailing Address: 2506 Linden Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Phone: 510-501-2341

Email: catscreatives@gmail.com

Website: www.catbrooksforoakland.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 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 currently serve as the Executive Director/Co-Founder of the Justice Teams Network, a network of grassroots activists providing rapid response and healing justice to all forms of State violence across California. I am the co-founder of the Anti Police-Terror Project, an organizer, and proud resident of Oakland. I have served as Executive Director for both Youth Together and the National Lawyers Guild. I left my position as co-host of KPFA radio's morning show "Upfront" to run for mayor.

My energies have been focused on activism and community engagement. I come to this campaign with 13 years of grassroots, unpaid organizing experience in Oakland. I believe it is because of this commitment that we have seen a groundswell of volunteers and donors rise up in support. With more than 500 volunteers and nearly 2,000 donors, we are already reaching folks with a desire to change the status quo.

Key Endorsements:

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action - Oakland

Block By Block Organizing Network (ranked first)

National Union of Healthcare Workers

Oakland Rising Action

Our Revolution - Contra Costa (dual endorsement)

Our Revolution - North Bay

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, East Bay

Workers World Party,

Oakland At-Large Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Councilmember Cheryl Davila, Berkeley, District 2

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles, District 8

Gus Newport, Former Berkeley Mayor

Shanti Gonzalez, Director, OUSD*

Maria D. Dominguez, Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women*

Amber Piatt, Alameda County Human Relations Commission

Hon. Linda Handy, Peralta Community College District, Board of Trustees Area 3

Blake Johnson, Peralta Community College District*

Toni Cook, OUSD School Board Member 1990-1998*

Courtney Welch, Rockridge Community Planning Council*

Alex M. White, 2016 D13 Delegate for Bernie Sanders*

Brandon Harami, ADEM- California Democratic Party*

Danny Glover, Actor, Producer, Activist
W. Kamau Bell - Comedian, Journalist

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?

The first order of business must be to immediately get those who are sleeping on the streets, off the streets. We must treat this situation as the emergency it is and devote the necessary resources to create short and long term housing solutions. At the state level, we can support Costa Hawkins repeal and then implement a progressive rent control policy that would serve as a model for the rest of California.

I recognize that we have a huge crisis of affordable housing in Oakland, that our workforce is being displaced, and that building high-end housing does NOT solve this crisis. I believe that developers must be held accountable, and must pay their fair share. We will champion:

- *Enforcement of Impact Fee collections*
- *Community Benefit Agreements*
- *Closure of landlord eviction loopholes*
- *Low income resident Right to Counsel for evictions/foreclosures*
- *Inclusionary Zoning*
- *Dedication of public land for public good*

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 must continue to force a conversation about anti-blackness in law enforcement and its roots. We need to enforce a zero tolerance policy within the department for any racist behavior. We need to work with communities to identify where we can lessen engagement with law enforcement. We should be training community in de-escalation, first aid, and restorative justice and employing them to keep communities secure. We must immediately end the practice of sending police to deal with mental health crises. This would reduce officer involved shootings by over 50%. Further, we have never had a mayor demand full transparency and accountability from OPD. We remain in federal receivership, continue to pay multi-million dollar claims against the police department, and allow them to exceed their authorized overtime spending by tens of millions of dollars per year. Beginning with a complete audit, we must convene stakeholders to determine the best path forward.

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

A formative experience for me was performing in the 2005 production of “Corpus Christi,” retelling Jesus’s story from the perspective of a gay man. It was a cast of varying gender, race, class and orientation with a shared mission of spreading understanding and love for all. We toured nationally and internationally, spreading our message courageously despite encountering intolerance.

I have fought against anti-LGBTQ efforts like Proposition 8. Because of my work around police misconduct, I understand that the fight against anti-LGBTQ bias in policing is vital. The LGBTQ community is impacted disproportionately by the current housing crisis. We must ensure the safety of unhoused LGBTQ Oaklanders, focusing on youth.

As Mayor, I would:

- *Hire a high-level LGBTQ Community Liaison.*
- *Expand inclusive support addressing LGBTQ needs in city services, including: homelessness/housing, senior services, job programs, business assistance, youth programs, etc.*
- *Ensure a welcoming environment and hiring process for LGBTQ employees.*

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?	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? <u><i>JL Rindahl Consulting, Jennifer Rindahl (Principal)</i></u>	YES	
4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?		NO

LGBTQ ISSUES	YES	NO
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	YES	NO
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7. Do you support the expansion of rent control for buildings constructed after 1979?	YES	
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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
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	
12. Do you support the statewide ballot initiative Prop 10 to repeal Costa-Hawkins?	YES	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

YES NO

13. Do you support Sanctuary City?	YES	
14. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	YES	
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	

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?	YES	
23. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain below.		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?		NO
27. Do you support 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 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**YES NO**

31. Do you ride public transit on a regular basis? More than once a week?	YES	NO
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	