

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: Paola Laverde

Office Sought: Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner

Mailing Address: 1533 MLK Jr. Way, #4, Berkeley 94709

***Phone:
510 499 2550***

***Email:
Paola4BerkeleyRentBoard@gmail.com***

Website:

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.

Presently, I am Vice-Chair of the Rent Board. My accomplishments include updating the Berkeley Municipal code on elevators to improve the rights of mobility impaired tenants and created the "Tip of the Month" program, increasing outreach to tenants and property owners. I also lobbied in Sacramento on behalf of tenants for the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act. Presently I have the endorsements of the Berkeley Tenants Union, Berkeley Progressive Alliance, Berkeley Citizen Action, John George Democratic Club, East Bay Women's Political Alliance, Our Revolution East Bay and East Bay Democratic Socialist of America. My goals for the next four years include: Amending Berkeley's Relocation Ordinance to include an enforcement mechanism that tenants can utilize, Ensuring that the Rent Board's decennial survey of rent controlled tenants is conducted in a timely and comprehensive manner, Establishing universal registration of all rental units.

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?

One way I am addressing housing affordability as a candidate is by supporting and campaigning for CA Proposition 10, the Affordable Housing Act and Berkeley's Measure Q on the November ballot. If California voters approve prop 10, it will repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act which limited Berkeley's rent control ordinance to cover only rental units built before 1980, voided vacancy control and removed rent control protections from single family Homes. If Berkeley's voters approve Measure Q, the above mentioned rental protections would return; no more vacancy decontrol with 20-50% hikes in rent every time there's a turnover and single family homes would again be under rent control. Also, Measure Q, would establish 20 years as the length of time new construction is exempt from rent control. I am also supporting and campaigning for Berkeley Measures O

& P which would raise money for affordable housing and services for the homeless in Berkeley.

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?

Keeping the African American community in stable housing in Berkeley is one way of dealing with injustice. Unfortunately, Berkeley’s African American community, has been hardest hit by Costa-Hawkins, with its vacancy decontrol component that encourages landlords to evict long term tenants, many of them African American, in order to raise rents. This is evidenced in the fact that Berkeley’s African American population has gone from nearly 20 per cent in 2000 to just under 8 per cent in 2017. According to the East Bay Community Law Center from April 2017 to April 2018, 52% of the clients contacting the center for help with an eviction were African American. This means that African Americans are now rare in Berkeley which leads to racial profiling because police as well as new residents, who are paying higher rents, will question if a black person in Berkeley is really part of the community,

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

As a Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner, my action plan to support the LGBTQ community is to ensure that anti-discrimination laws in the rental housing industry are upheld and that individuals in the LGBTQ community know their rights as tenants and responsibilities as landlords. Tenants who don’t know their rights are susceptible to have them violated, while landlords who don’t know their responsibilities may unwittingly violate the law. Knowledge is power; that’s why as a Commissioner, I expanded the Rent Board’s outreach program on social media by creating the Tip of the Month program. Each month, this program provides useful information on Berkeley’s rent control law as well as other rental housing related topics.

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? **YES**

3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? **NO**, If so, who?

4. Have you ever sought the Harvey Milk Club endorsement in the past?

Yes

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**

7. Do you support the expansion of rent control for buildings constructed after 1979? **YES!!**

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? **NO**

22. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? **YES, IF UNCOERCED**

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**

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