

# 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@milklub.org](mailto:pac@milklub.org) and to our Correspondent at [correspondent@milklub.org](mailto:correspondent@milklub.org).*

*Good Luck,  
The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

### Required Information

**Full Name:** Soli Alpert

**Office Sought:** Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner

**Mailing Address:** 2404 Fulton St., Apt. 104, Berkeley, CA, 94704

**Phone:** (415) 819-2139

**Email:** soliforrentboard@gmail.com

**Website:** berkeleyrentboard2018.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, though I am the son of lesbian mothers.

**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 one of five members of the Community Power Slate for Berkeley Rent Board. We were nominated at the 2018 Berkeley Tenant Convention, a biannual event organized by the Berkeley Tenants Union, Berkeley Citizen Action, Berkeley Progressive Alliance, and other community groups. Our slate is dedicated to advancing pro-tenant and pro-rent control policies. I sought the nomination of the Convention because approximately half of all Berkeley renters are students, but no student representative sits on the rent board. As a Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Kate Harrison and a Senior at UC Berkeley, I am uniquely positioned to represent student voices and priorities while also contributing an analytical and policy focused perspective to the Board. The Community Power Slate is proud to be endorsed by the Berkeley Tenants Union, Berkeley Citizens Action, Berkeley Progressive Alliance, East Bay Democratic Socialists of America, East Bay Young Democrats, Our Revolution East Bay, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Former Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, AD 15 Candidate Jovanka Beckles, Berkeley Councilmembers Kate Harrison, Kriss Worthington, Sophie Hahn, and Ben Bartlett, every member of the Berkeley Rent Board, and many others. Individually, I have been endorsed individually by the California Young Democrats, the John George Democratic Club, State Senator Kevin de Leon, and Councilmember Cheryl Davila.

**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?**

Strong rent control is *vital* to ensuring housing affordability. While Berkeley has some of the strongest rent control in the state, we have much to do to make it better. Passing Prop 10 will go a long way towards addressing these issues, especially by reestablishing vacancy control. However, we need to address the lack of protections for those in certain types of duplexes and accessory dwelling units. I have worked in Councilmember Harrison's office to increase Berkeley's affordable housing inclusionary requirement, and to close loopholes allowing certain types of development to include less affordable housing.

**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?**

While the Rent Board does not have jurisdiction over issues of criminal justice or policing, there are steps we can take to advance these issues. I was deeply disappointed that the proposed Police Review Commission reforms which I helped to craft in Councilmember Harrison's office were not able to be placed on this November's ballot. That means that we will need to push for them that much harder come 2020.

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

Thankfully, Berkeley has strong laws against housing discrimination aimed at the queer community. As a Rent Board Commissioner, I will push to evaluate how we can increase our enforcement efforts and tenant outreach, so these and other protections for tenants in Berkeley can be fully effective. Unfortunately, homelessness disproportionality effects the queer community. Strong rent control can help to make housing more attainable to currently homeless residents of Berkeley and to prevent more from becoming homeless.

**PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire**

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

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?		✓

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

<b>TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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.		✓
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.		✓
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?		✓

<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?	✓	

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?	✓	