**The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club**

**Ballot Measure Questionnaire for November 2019**

*Dear Ballot Initiative Representative (or Opponent),*

*The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club invites you to get to know us a little better as we plan our endorsements for the November 2019 election cycle. Your participation in our Club’s questionnaire will allow our Membership to better understand what your ballot position is, what it stands for, and what you plan to accomplish if you pass or defeat the initiative.*

*Email your answers to Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair Gabriela Alemán at* [*pac@milkclub.org*](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) *and to our Correspondent Lee Hepner at* [*correspondent@milkclub.org*](mailto:correspondent@milkclub.org)*.*

*Good Luck,*

*The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

**Please answer each question in 150 words or less.**

**1. Please briefly describe the intent of the ballot initiative you are supporting or opposing.**

SFKidsvsBigTobacco.com is opposing the initiative from Juul (NO on Prop C).

The Final Digest that will appear in the Voter Guide explains it well:

The Proposal:

Proposition C\_ would authorize and regulate the retail sale, availability and marketing of electronic cigarettes in San Francisco. The measure would:

• Repeal the City law passed by the Board of Supervisors that suspends the sale of electronic cigarettes that lack required authorization by the FDA; and

• Partially repeal City law to allow the sale, manufacture and online retail sale of electronic cigarettes on City property. Proposition C\_ may repeal other City laws that apply to electronic cigarettes, including the City law that prohibits the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to overturn the law passed by the Board of Supervisors that suspends the sale of electronic cigarettes that lack required FDA authorization and to adopt new regulations on the sale, manufacture, distribution and advertising of electronic cigarettes in San Francisco.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you want to keep existing laws regulating electronic cigarettes.

**2. Explain why you support or oppose this initiative.**

Our Coalition is concerned that Big Tobacco (Juul Labs is 35% owned by Altria / Philip Morris Tobacco) will be given the authority to “comprehensively regulate” tobacco in our city. This Juul initiative could undo and pre-empt past, present and future ordinances regarding electronic smoking devices. Changes could only then be made at the ballot box. Public Health and the Supervisors would no longer have a role. This could include Malia Cohen’s ordinance that ended the sale of flavored tobacco in the City. Our middle school and high schools are awash with Juul. It is true that a number of adults have switched to buying their nicotine from Juul instead of from traditional cigarette companies. However, for every one adult (age 29-69) who has switched, research from American Journal of Public Health demonstrates that 80 additional 12-29 year olds have initiated nicotine with an electronic smoking device. 1 adult quits for every 80 young people who start. Great for Juul. Devastating for the health of young San Franciscans.

**3. Which public officials and/or organizations support your position on this initiative?**

Each of the 11 Supervisors and each Mayor has voted for each tobacco-control ordinance passed since electronic smoking devices and their fruity e-liquids came on the scene in 2007.

Each of the 11 Supervisors has demonstrated their support of public health for youth in this city; against Big Tobacco.

**4. Who is/are the main political consultant(s) working on your position on this initiative?**

Larry Tramutola, Matt Dorsey

**5. What is the main source of funding for your position on the initiative?**

Current source of funding is primarily from Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids with more expected from American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and American Lung Association (concerned with new lung health issues emerging with youth who Juul)

**6. Explain why the Harvey Milk Club should endorse your position on this initiative?**

Juul is sleek, stealth, trendy and addictive. Its fruity flavors are an on-ramp to a lifetime of addiction for queer youth and LGBT adults.

This Juul-backed initiative turns back the clock on public health because it could overturn recent efforts by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to protect young people from the allure of mango and mint flavored nicotine products.

Nearly every political club in San Francisco stood with sfkidsvsbigtobacco.com on June 5 2018 when R J Reynolds spent $12 million to try to confuse San Francisco voters. 68% of voters stood with us during that vote (Prop E to defend Malia Cohen’s ordinance). We would love for Harvey Milk club to stand up to Big Tobacco’s big money and big lies.

Youth testified two weeks ago in Congressional Hearings against the youth-appealing practices of Juul. Juul is constantly in the news regarding new chronic lung disease and seizures with young people. Some adults may describe Juul as harm reduction. For our youth, it could be described as harm *introduction*.