

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire for November 2019

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 2019 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 are elected to office.

There are two parts to our questionnaire. Part 1 is a series of short-answer questions, with a 150-word limit on answers. Part 2 is a series of Yes/No questions covering a broad set of issues.

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

Good Luck,

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: Jenny Lam

Office Sought: Board of Education

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Phone: 415.699.5349

Email: jennylamforschools@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.jennylam.org>

Are you a Member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Club?: No

If so, since when?: N/A

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

Part 1: Questions for All Candidates

Please answer each question in 150 words or less.

1. Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek. Feel free to add anything that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.

I was appointed by Mayor Breed to serve on the Board of Education. I bring a student-first approach that is informed by being a public school parent.

I have previously served as co-chair of two SFUSD committees: the Public Education & Enrichment Fund Committee and the Quality Teacher and Education Act Committee.

I am an experienced community organizer and education leader. As the State Engagement Manager at Education Superhighway, I brought technology to schools statewide.

As Director of Programs at Chinese for Affirmative Action, I expanded civil and political rights for San Francisco's immigrant youth and families. I also served as Executive Director of GirlVentures and Deputy Director of Oakland Asian Students Educational Services.

As MayorBreed's Education Advisor, I administer and implement policies that advance strong partnerships between our public education system (SFUSD and CCSF) and the City.

I am a San Francisco Bay Area native and second-generation Chinese American.

2. Do you have any key endorsements that you would like to share? Why are these endorsements meaningful to you?

I am proud that diverse elected officials, community groups, and activists support my candidacy to continue my work on the SFUSD Board of Education. I've worked hard to gather support from community members from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and contexts, and will continue to lead through collaborating with and listening to the community.

I am proud to be endorsed by:

1. **Mayor London Breed.** Born and raised in public housing, a graduate of San Francisco public schools, and a tireless advocate for equity and youth empowerment. She has demonstrated her leadership and commitment to leading our City.

2. **Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.** Supervisor Mandelman and I worked together during accreditation crisis at City College (CCSF) while he served as President, Board of Trustees. He utilizes his legal, policy training with strong decision making to serve our city and uplift the voices of diverse populations within our community. He also serves as my Supervisor.

3. **Supervisor Sandy Fewer.** Supervisor Fewer is a strong advocate for public education and social justice. She is born and raised in San Francisco, raising three children who all attended public schools.

4. **Former Supervisor Jane Kim.** I've been inspired by Jane's success leading San Francisco to be the first city in the nation to make Community College free for all residents.

3. What do you see as the most important short-term and long-term solutions to the homeless crisis in San Francisco? What can you do in the office you are running for to help end homelessness?

As a school board member, I have supported the integration of community school programs and wrap-around support services for students and their families. I am proud of the success of our pilot emergency shelter and family housing support program, operated by Dolores Street Community Services at Buena Vista Horace Mann School. This program--recently expanded to serve students from across SFUSD--offers emergency shelter for families as well as intensive case management services to help families find permanent housing quickly and intervene with families at risk of losing housing.

I supported Proposition C as a pragmatic set of programs and policy solutions that can help us better serve people who are currently in need of emergency and permanent housing while also keeping people housed to prevent more homelessness. I look forward to the end of the litigation that is blocking its implementation so we can give this plan a chance.

4. What are your plans to address housing affordability and economic inequality in San Francisco? What work have you done on this issue in the past?

The City needs to redouble its efforts to build housing at all levels of affordability, and especially affordable housing so that our families and educators can be in stable living situations that allow their students to focus on learning.

I am an outspoken supporter of November's affordable housing bond. This housing bond is critically important to our school district as it provides funding for our vulnerable families to stay in the city as well as support for teacher housing for SFUSD and City College educators.

While at Chinse for Affirmative Action, I lead workforce and economic initiatives specifically to address the needs of low-income immigrant communities including Local Hire on public works projects, the strongest local hire ordinances in the country as well as fair wages for all workers.

5. Describe your work addressing racial injustice and inequity in San Francisco.

I am currently working to further racial justice and fight for equity as a school board member. For example, through my resolution "Our Healing in Our Hands - Creating Schools as Spaces of Student-Driven Healing, Transformation and Growth." I co-authored this resolution with Commissioners Alison M. Collins, and Faauuga Moliga. It directs staff to further increase funding to support culturally responsive health curriculum with preventative wellness services for vulnerable students, including peer-led wellness programs.

I also have a history of service based on listening to constituents and promoting strong democracy. I tri-chaired Prop N (2016) Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections. Unfortunately, the measure didn't pass. In the third attempt, San Francisco became the first city in California to allow noncitizens to vote for School Board elections in 2018. As a result,

59 out of 65 registered noncitizen voters voted. This is the highest voter turnout of any demographic.

With the partnership of Chinese for Affirmative Action, I have worked with several founding coalition organizational members including the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), La Raza Community Resource Center through SFILEN, and the San Francisco Immigrant and Legal Education Network to provide these potential voters with legal and supportive services.

6. How have you supported economically-underresourced LGBTQ San Franciscans, and how will you continue to do so if elected?

I will work to increase access to safe, caring, supportive schools, which is critical to supporting strong academic and social and emotional growth for our highest-need students, including economically-underresourced LGBTQ San Franciscans.

I will increase access to counselors and mental health supports, especially in the critical middle school years (and have already supported recent school board investments in this arena); expand high-quality before and after school programming and transitional programming; and promote the development of community schools so that students and families can get the supports they need and fully leverage the tremendous assets, including rich ecosystem of community-based organizations, that our city has to offer.

For LGBTQ students in particular, this includes core partnerships with city CBOs that provide transitional housing and other supports to LGBTQ youth; partnerships with LGBTQ organizing groups such as GSA Network.

7. What are your thoughts on the role of law enforcement and corporations in the annual Pride parade?

I think this is an issue for the LGBTQ community to decide.

8. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections? Why or why not?

I have supported the youth-led efforts to pass this charter amendment every time it has been on the ballot in San Francisco because it is good for the political development of young citizens. In the case of school district policy in particular, having upper division high school students voting could increase their engagement with school district policy making, which can only help our schools and the district overall. Research in the US and other democracies has shown that engaging 16 and 17 year olds in civic debates and elections increases the civic participation of entire families and that the younger a voter is when they first vote, the more likely they are to keep voting as young adults. Youth advocates recognize that increasing engagement of all San Franciscans in school district governance makes for more accountable elected officials and better policy making.

9. Who are you supporting in the District 5 Supervisorial race? Vallie Brown

10. Who are you supporting in the District Attorney's race? Suzy Loftus

Only School Board and Community College Board Candidates

Please answer each question in 150 words or less.

1. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?

I support SFUSD's board policy prohibiting gender-based harassment in schools and as a school board member, I also support the education, training, and enforcement necessary to make this policy real for our students on the ground. I will push the SFUSD Office of Equity to fulfill their responsibility to work with district and school staff to ensure that all students are treated equitably in the district's programs and activities and are provided an environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and bullying.

Additionally, I believe that the academic curriculum as well as other key learning opportunities can serve to empower and educate all students, and especially LGBTQ students, about the accomplishments and needs of the LGBTQ community. Key events, such as the Annual GSA High School Day, which is planned in partnership with the Queer and Trans Advisory Council, lift up and celebrate the LGBTQ members of our community.

2. How will you address the needs of homeless students?

Our schools are a safe sanctuary for families, especially our families experiencing homelessness.

As Commissioner, I voted to support the pilot Stay Over program at Buena Vista Horace Mann (BVHM) and open it to include all SFUSD families (see Q3 above). I believe we should learn from and continue to improve on this pilot to better meet the needs of homeless and housing-insecure students and their families.

I will work to increase access to safe, caring, supportive schools, which is critical to supporting strong academic and social and emotional growth for our highest-need students. I will increase access to counselors and mental health supports, especially in the critical middle school years; expand high-quality before and after school programming; and promote the development of community schools so that students and families can get the supports they need and fully leverage the tremendous assets, including rich ecosystem of community-based organizations, that our city has to offer.

3. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families while on SFUSD and/or CCSF properties?

While at Chinese for Affirmative Action, I worked with several founding coalition organizational members including the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), La

Raza Community Resource Center through SFILN, the San Francisco Immigrant and Legal Education Network to provide legal and supportive services for immigrant families.

The districts' sanctuary commitment against cooperating with ICE is crucial. While I believe all SFUSD schools do a good job of making it clear that they do not comply with ICE requests, we need to consistently communicate this message to all SFUSD families, because rumors, news reports and overall anxiety can reduce a family's trust in our schools.

Further, SFUSD needs to continue to partner with the city and community to provide legal services and safety net programs for asylum seekers. Community schools are a model to provide supports for our students and their families. Currently, we have a legal services provider partnering with a school: San Francisco International High School and Legal Services for Children.

4. How will you address the needs of students whom have recently arrived from Central America?

I am proud that SFUSD has one of the strongest sanctuary schools policies on record across the nation, limiting cooperation between school officials and ICE and adding new services for undocumented students. Since the first surge in unaccompanied minors in 2013, long before the current crisis, SFUSD has been proactive in our stance, expanding educational, cultural, and social service support for Central American students and families in 2014 with the Caminos program. That program has expanded into the RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Supports in Education) program that serves newcomer Central American and Mexican students across the district, who face many of the same social and structural obstacles to receiving the highest quality education possible. RISE joins the longer-standing Migrant Education and Language Pathways programs which also represent ways our district seeks to respond effectively to the specific needs of all our diverse students. I believe when every student can receive the best possible education in every building, we are building not just excellent schools but an excellent school district.

5. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support African American students?

To address the achievement gap for our African American students, we need to bring more resources to support their instruction. For example, SFUSD needs to improve recruitment and retention of talented educators to serve African American students. San Francisco's Quality Teacher and Education Act (QTEA) provides additional funds for teachers in High Potential schools (including many schools that serve the majority of SFUSD's African American population). Fully credentialed teachers in these schools have the opportunity to earn an additional stipend of up to \$2,000 per year in recognition of their work. We need to devote more resources than just this stipend, and invest in teachers' professional development, planning time, and collaboration time. Further, I strongly support additional effort to recruit and retain African American educators. I plan to continue to listen, learn from, and partner with African American families to provide services for their children to thrive.

Only School Board Candidates

Please answer each question in 150 words or less.

1. Do you support charter schools in SFUSD? Why or why not?

Charter schools are a small but important part of our district's overall system of public schools. Many are long-standing programs that have been able to meet a particular need, whether re-engaging high-risk students in school through project-based learning and workforce development, or serving students with disabilities. I do not support the expansion of charter schools.

I support a system of public schools in our city that is designed to provide high quality options for all children and their families. This means a system in which all families have access to a great public school that meets their child's needs and interests and a system in which all public schools are worth choosing. Most of the time these needs can and should be met at traditional district public schools, which offer a diverse mix of programs, from dual immersion to Montessori, newcomer, arts, career pathways, project-based learning, etc.

2. Do you support Common Core education standards?

I support Common Core Standards, which seek to prepare our students to succeed in higher education and the workforce. The SFUSD Core Curriculum emphasizes literacy, flexibility, teamwork, problem solving, deep understanding, and the ability to communicate that understanding to others. While we need to continually reevaluate our approach and ensure that teachers have the supports and training that they need to implement the Core Curriculum, I believe that our district is on the right track. While there has been a great deal of controversy about the appropriate math sequencing, recent studies show that our approach has led to better outcomes for all students while also expanding enrollment in advanced and AP math classes.

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

Yes. The district has made significant progress in the last few years in reducing suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary actions that cause students to lose instructional time and have long-term detrimental effects. In particular, discipline for disruption and "willful defiance" has fallen disproportionately on African American students, which is why the board adopted a ban on suspensions for those offenses. Teacher training in restorative practices, trauma-informed instruction, de-escalation techniques, cultural competency, communication skills, and other means to help students be able to succeed in the classroom are key to implementation of practices that avoid interference with student learning.

4. Do you support the removal of the “Life of Washington” mural at George Washington High School? Why or why not? If yes, what forms of removal do you support?

I supported the Board’s decision that directs school district staff to research the costs, timeline and other mandated processes (e.g., CEQA) so that the board can quickly move to cover the murals as soon as possible. I was compelled by the arguments that leaving the murals as they are contributes to a hostile environment that normalizes violence and impedes the equal educational and social opportunities of Black and Native students in particular.

Washington community members from families to students have advocated for the removal of the murals over the years. Having strong autonomous parent-family groups like African American family councils, English Learner Advisory Committees, effective parent liaisons, Parent-Teacher Organizations/Associations, and School Site Councils are all critical to ensuring that decisions over school priorities and resources are as democratic and inclusive as possible. As a Board Member, I support the democratic and inclusive process that led to the vote to remove the murals.

~~Only Community College Trustee Candidates~~

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

~~1. Have you ever visited the Queer Resource Center on the main campus? What would you do to ensure that it continues to deliver its critical services?~~

~~Only Sheriff Candidates~~

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

~~1. What programs do you support to assist inmates in acquiring life skills and education?~~

~~2. Do you support cash bail? Why or why not?~~

~~3. What would you do to ensure the safety of transgender inmates?~~

~~4. What programs do you support or are willing to create to provide resources for LGBTQ inmates?~~

~~Only Treasurer Candidates~~

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

~~1. Describe what you would do to ensure the fiscal well-being of ordinary San Franciscans with regards to the City’s investments?~~

Part 2: Yes/No Questions

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

GENERAL	YES	NO
1. Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	X	
2. Have you ever sought elected office before?		X
3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Cynthia Ngan_____	X	
4. Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?		X

LGBTQ ISSUES

5. Should the SFPD formally apologize for the abuses it committed against the LGBTQ community during the Compton's Cafeteria and White Night riots?	X	
6. Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender job-seekers?	X	
7. Do you support efforts to expand access to PrEP and the <i>Getting to Zero</i> initiative to end the HIV epidemic in San Francisco?	X	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**YES NO**

8 Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	X	
9. Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	X	
10. Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	X	
11. Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	X	
12. Do you support increasing funding for enforcement capacity for Short Term Rental platforms, e.g. AirBnB and VRBO?	X	
13. Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works?		X
14. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty commercial properties?		X
15. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty residential properties?		X
16. Do you support State Senator Scott Wiener's SB 50, a rezoning proposal to promote housing density?	X	
17. Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	X	
18. Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	X	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**YES NO**

19. Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	X	
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20. Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	X	
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21. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	X	
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22. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including, but not limited to, the SF School Board?	X	
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23. Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	X	
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SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

24. Do you support the death penalty?		X
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25. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		X
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26. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	X	
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27. Should the Department of Police Accountability have the power to investigate allegations of misconduct by members of the Sheriff's Department?		X
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28. Should a civilian oversight commission for the Sheriff's Department be created, with the power to suspend or terminate members of the department?	X	
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29. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	X	
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30. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	X	
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31. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		X
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YES NO

32. Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	X	
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33. Do you support AB 5, making it harder for companies to label workers as independent contractors instead of employees?	X	
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34. Do you support the recent vote by the SF Board of Supervisors to close Juvenile Hall?	X	
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35. Do you support the rebuilding of the county jail at 850 Bryant?		X
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EDUCATION AND YOUTH

36. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum throughout San Francisco's public schools?	X	
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37. Do you support the full, continuous funding of the Free City College program?	X	
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38. Do you think teachers' salaries should be increased to ensure a living wage in San Francisco?	X	
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39. Do you support the upcoming <i>Affordable Homes for Educators and Families Now</i> ballot measure?	X	
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

40. Do you support the recent bailout of Pacific, Gas, & Electric?		X
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41. Do you support the dissolution of Pacific, Gas, & Electric?	X	
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42. Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	X	
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43. Should CEQA guidelines be reduced in order to increase development?	X	
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YES NO

44. Do you ride San Francisco public transit on a regular basis?	X	
45. Do you support increased, free access to public transit for seniors, disabled persons, the economically disadvantaged, and the underserved?	X	
46. Do you support a plan that would provide free transportation for all San Franciscans?	X	
47. Do you support the ongoing switchbacks on the K, N, and T Muni lines?		X
48. Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency?		X
49. Do you support the local Transportation Network Company Tax on the November 2019 ballot?	X	

POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

50. Do you support the <i>Sunlight on Dark Money</i> ballot measure on the November 2019 ballot?	X	
51. Does your campaign accept corporate contributions from LLCs?		X
52. Does your campaign accept contributions from individuals with a financial interest in land use matters valued at \$5 million or more?		X
53. Do you support expanding SF's public financing program?	X	