**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* *and to our Correspondent Lee Hepner at* *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.**

Prop C does **only** the following things:

* Require all retailers — both online and in-store — to use third party age verification scanning technology.
* Limit the number of vaping products that an adult can purchase at one time in store and online to reduce “street sales.”
* Require online retailers who sell vaping products in San Francisco to obtain a permit that is regulated by the City.
* Prohibit marketing and selling of vape products to anyone less than 21 years of age – both online and in store.
* Provides clear guidelines for law enforcement.
* Provides clear guidelines for the Department of Public Health to regulate vape retailers.
* Tightens the City’s current laws around the sale of tobacco and/or nicotine products, it **does not** undo prior local initiatives or change state law.
* The Board of Supervisors submits ballot measures that only the voters can amend. This is enshrined in the San Francisco Charter.
1. **Explain why you support or oppose this initiative.**

We support Prop C because bans don’t work – Period!

We know from Prohibition that bans only increase usage on the secondary market. During prohibition the black market profited on the sale of bathtub gin and alcohol being smuggled in from bordering countries. The Vape Ban will create the same scenario except both adults and youth will be exposed to tainted products coming in from China or homemade products being sold on the black market.

We believe in **real** youth prevention, not scare tactics. The CDC has empirical evidence that tells us that comprehensive harm reduction programs are more effective in reducing youth practice when it comes to drugs and/or sexual activity the same would be true for vaping.

The opposition likes to say we are Big Tobacco, sighting one of JUUL Labs investors. This is to distract voters from the fact that they are being funded by **Republicans** and **Investment Bankers** who have an interest in protecting their investments in **BIG PHARMA** whose products – nicotine patch, gum and Chantix will become obsolete. As proof, one of their key national representatives Former FDA Representative Scott Gottlieb is now on the board of **Pfizer!**

Every year, four-hundred and eighty thousand people die annually of cigarette related deaths in the United States that equals 1,300 deaths a day. On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than non-smokers. These are the facts. While our opposition throw around statistics that do not separate actual youth users vs. those who experiment with vaping.

Prop C is the first step in addressing youth usage in a real and proven way — while providing adults with a safer alternative.

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

* Keith Baraka
* Chinese American Democratic Club
* Brownie Mary Democratic Club
* The Arab American Grocers
* The Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
* The Filipino Chamber of Commerce
* The Teamsters Local 665

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

* Mosher/Whitehurst Campaigns
* New Deal Advisors
* Nate Albee
* Long Ying International

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

Yes on C — Coalition for Reasonable Vaping Regulation

JUUL Labs,Inc.

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

Cigarettes are the single biggest source of human mortality on the planet, causing the death of over 8 million individuals every year, and Big Tobacco has been aggressively targeting the LGBTQ community for decades. In the ‘90s, Phillip Morris initiated “Project SCUM” (Sub-Culture Urban Marketing) a focused campaign to addict both LGBT individuals and the homeless; as a result, Queer people smoke at twice the rate of heterosexuals. Vaping is twice as effective in helping people quit smoking tobacco as the cessation products pushed by Big Pharma. By banning e-cigarettes City Hall is denying the Tobacco Industry’s victims an effective tool to break free.

The ban on the sale of vaping products passed by the Board of Supervisors will do nothing to keep e-cigarettes out of the hands of young people, because young people buying them don’t do so legally—at smoke shops corner stores—they buy them on the street.

This ballot measure will prevent youth access by creating the strictest regulations on sale and marketing of vaping products anywhere in the country—putting e-cigarettes behind the counter with the other nicotine products, limiting the number of units which can be purchased at a time to prevent bulk sales, and requiring an ID to be scanned at the point of sale—and fund programs to educate youth and adults about the dangers of vaping.

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club has a long history of supporting vital harm reduction initiatives—such as safe injection sites, wet houses, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)—even when those initiatives are controversial or go against the grain of popular opinion.

Prop C will ensure LGBTQ adults access to the cigarette alternatives they deserve while protecting children with strict rules and enforcement against youth sales.