**The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club**

**Candidate Questionnaire for March 2020**

*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 March 2020 primary election. 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 plus additional questions for individual offices. 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.*

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

*There will be an opportunity for you or a proxy to speak in person at the club’s PAC meeting on Saturday, December 7th from 11am to 6pm at the Women’s Building at 3543 18th Street. Please contact us at* [*pac@milkclub.org*](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) *or* [*president@milkclub.org*](mailto:president@milkclub.org) *to schedule an appointment.* ***And please note that your time will be limited to 5 minutes (including questions). So the content of this questionnaire will be the main source for endorsement consideration.***

*Good Luck!*

**Required Information**

***Full Name: Thomas Gallagher***

***Office Sought: Congressional representative, 12th District, California***

***Mailing Address:***

***Phone: 415-283-5084***

***Email:***

***Website:***

***Are you a Member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Club?: Yes***

***If so, since when?: 2014?***

***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 have been****:*

* *Massachusetts State Representative*
* *2016 Bernie Sanders delegate*
* *President, Bernal Heights Democratic Club*
* *Chair, SF Progressive Democrats of America*
* *Member, Executive Board, United Educators of San Francisco*
* *Chair of Boston Democratic Socialists of America*
* *United Nations Election Officer – East Timor*
* *Voter Registration Supervisor – Bosnia*
* *Election Observer – Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Georgia, Macedonia, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Ukraine*
* *Contesting Nancy Pelosi's foreign policy on the local level for over a decade.*

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

Bernal Heights Democratic Club – One of the two most progressive clubs in the city (along with Harvey Milk)

Michael Lighty -- Healthcare Constituency Director, Bernie2020; Past Policy Director, National Nurses United: Past National Director, Democratic Socialists of America Chosen to present Bernie Sanders’s national health care position on the 2016 Platform Committee.

Stephen Zunes -- Professor of Politics and International Studies and Middle Eastern Studies program coordinator, University of San Francisco. I know of no other SF professor as engaged in trying to raise foreign policy issues.

1. What do you see as the most important short-term and long-term solutions to SF’s homeless crisis? What can you do in your office to help end homelessness?

The federal government needs to get back in the business of constructing housing, housing that working people with average jobs can not only afford but would be proud to live in. “Public housing” should no longer be a synonym for run down structures warehousing the poor.

This housing should be built not by government borrowing, but by direct appropriation which will allow the federal dollar to go farther. In conjunction with the philosophy of the Green New Deal, this new construction policy would provide major opportunities for currently marginalized sectors of the work force to develop new valuable skills and a solid base of employment. A portion of the new construction should be set aside for the currently homeless.

I support the establishment of national rent control as well as the right to counsel in eviction proceedings, as is currently the law in San Francisco and New York City.

Short-term, the city needs to continually deal with providing services, e.g., mental health, locally to deal with what is at root a national problem. All creative efforts to make the big money corporations and people for these services are to be encouraged.

1. What are your plans to address housing affordability and economic inequality in San Francisco? What work have you done on these issues in the past?

My vantage point on national policy is described above. The organizations I have headed have always supported local and national affordable housing measures and policy.

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

I have worked in the San Francisco schools for over twenty years and been a member of the United Educators of San Francisco. No institution in America makes a stronger effort to counter racial injustice and inequity than the nation’s public schools

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

I would have to say that I have not been directly involved in this specific issue, but have always supported candidates and organizations dedicated to alleviating the nation’s vast gaps in wealth and power.

1. Do you support State Senator Scott Wiener’s SB 50, a rezoning proposal to promote housing density? Why or why not?

No. I don’t believe that capitalist market forces will build housing for the people most in need of it. And I don’t believe that building more expensive housing will make the currently existing housing less expensive, particularly in the rental market.

8. What are your thoughts on the role of law enforcement and corporations in the

annual Pride parade?

The corporate sponsorship is always grating, but I don’t see myself as having a role in the governance of the parade

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

I support lowering it to 16 for School Board, an institution intimately connected with the lives of the would-be new voters. I would first assess its impact there before expanding.

10. Who did you support in the recent District 5 Supervisorial race?

Dean Preston

11. Who did you support in the recent District Attorney's race?

Chesea Boudin

12.  Who did you support in the 2019 Mayor’s race?

Joel Ventresca

**Only SF DCCC Candidates**

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

1. Are you presently a member of the San Francisco DCCC? If so, did you obtain your position from an appointment?

2. Please explain three main goals you would like to achieve as a DCCC member.

3. How will you make the local Democratic Party more accessible, relevant, and engaged to community members?

4. Do you support limits on DCCC fundraising? If so, explain how?

5. If you served on the DCCC during the 2019 endorsement process, how did you vote for

Mayor:

District Attorney:

District 5 Supervisor:

Prop C (Vaping):

Prop D (Uber/Lyft Tax):

Prop E (Teacher & Family Housing):

Prop F (Sunlight on Dark Money):

6. Do you support a candidate or candidates for President in 2020? Why? Bernie Sanders, whose views and platform are identical to mine

**Only Judicial Candidates**

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

1. Are you presently serving on the bench? If so, how did you obtain your seat?

2. Please provide three main reasons why you should serve as judge.

3. What are your thoughts on the cash bail system, and how should it be changed?

4. Please share your perspective on racial bias and its effects on the criminal justice system. How would you reduce this sort of bias? (For example, San Francisco has approximately 5% African American residents but over 50% of its inmates are African American.)

5. If you are serving on civil court, what measures would you take to try to make civil court more affordable and accessible to people of low income and modest means?

6. If you are serving on criminal court, what mitigating factors would you consider in sentencing defendants which you feel are not given enough consideration now?

7. Have you ever been held in contempt, been the subject of an adverse finding by the Commission of Judicial Performance, or been reprimanded by the California State Bar? If the answer is *yes* to any of these, please explain the circumstances.

**Only Congressional Candidates**

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

* 1. Please explain why you are running for Congress.

Were new a congressional candidate to appear in San Francisco today who said she wasn't "a big fan of Medicare for All," referred to the Green New Deal as "the Green Dream or whatever they call it," and who supported increased military spending, we would probably say she should think about running in another district. But, as we know, this candidate has actually represented San Francisco for 32 years.

* 1. Briefly describe three achievements you have made in your Congressional district.

I wrote and organized 2008’s (successful) Proposition U that declared it city policy that its "elected representatives in the United States Senate and House of Representatives should vote against any further funding for the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq, with the exception of funds specifically earmarked to provide for their safe and orderly withdrawal."

I have created an online petition asking Nancy Pelosi to co-sponsor the Green New Deal which has over 10,000 signatures.   
<https://diy.rootsaction.org/petitions/co-sponsor-the-green-new-deal>

I was elected as #1 Sanders CD 12 delegate to the 2016 Democratic Nominating Convention.

* 1. How will you make the local Democratic Party more accessible, relevant, and engaging for community members?

As a local club president I regularly made use of my rights to introduce and speak on resolutions in foreign policy matters. I would encourage all clubs to step forward and weigh in on national policy questions.

* 1. Do you support Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s *Green New Deal?* Why or why not?

Yes. The filing of the legislation known as the Green New Deal is both a landmark achievement and a reminder of how very far we have to go. The plan deals with the massive global problems related to climate change while recognizing that when government programs negatively effect workers and communities, the government also has a responsibility to deal with the problems it has created – no matter how beneficial a program may be for society as a whole. In this case it means that when coal miners are laid off, it is our collective responsibility to ensure they are re-employed in occupations that pay them equally well.

* 1. Do you support Medicare For All? If so, how would you implement it? By supporting Senator Sanders’ proposal for its immediate implementation: ERISA waivers, elimination of private health care, sharp limitations on pharmaceutical corporate monopolies in patents and pricing, etc.
* I support an improved Medicare for All system that would guarantee health care for all and eliminate the need for supplemental health insurance policies.
* In 1994, I worked on the staff of Proposition 186, an initiative that would have created a California single payer health care system. Well ahead of its time, 186 carried but one of the state’s 58 counties — San Francisco. Nancy Pelosi, who represented San Francisco then and now, has never sponsored federal single payer legislation.
* I support the Sanders bill and immediate implementation because there are millions of people who need to be covered immediately.

1. Do you support reducing military spending, and diverting it towards domestic programs? If so, how would you help implement this?

Yes. There is no area in which I am more passionate than our destructive and self-destructive military policies. In Congress, I would begin by eliminating most of the 800 American military bases abroad, terminating our endless wars, reducing spending on new armaments, and reducing America’s nuclear arsenal, preferably through treaties negotiated with other nuclear powers.

7. Do you support reducing America’s military presence in other countries? Yes (see previous answer)

1. What would you do to improve America’s current immigration policy? Give some examples.

While I support the idea of breaking up ICE and starting over, I believe that one long-run solution would be the creation of a Marshall Plan for Central America, in order to improve the situation there to the point where people would not feel the need to risk their savings and lives in order to escape their current situations.

9. Do you support raising the Federal Minimum wage? If so, to what amount? Yes, to $15/hour as a baseline.

10. Is your campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources. No

1. What are your main strategies for meeting voters?

Attending relevant political events and door-to-door campaigning.

12. Do you support a candidate or candidates for President in 2020? Why? Bernie Sanders. See previous answers.

**Only State Assembly & State Senate Candidates**

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

1. What are your top three goals as a member of the State Legislature?

2. Will you increase truly affordable housing while respecting the autonomy of local zoning and housing policies? If so, how?

3. How will you continue to advance state environmental policies that adequately address the climate crisis?

4. Will you support a permanent ban on fracking in California?

5. What are your plans for improving and expanding public transportation?

6. How will you ensure that public education is fully funded and that all schools are provided with adequate resources, regardless of locale? How exactly will you increase teachers’ pay?

7. How will you address and help remedy the record number of prison inmates? What programs will you undertake to assist prisoners before release and reduce recidivism?

8. Is your campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources.

9. Do you support a candidate or candidates for President in 2020? Why?

**Only Presidential Candidates**

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

1. Please explain why your candidate is running for President.

2. Briefly describe three major achievements your candidate has made prior to running for president.

3. Does your candidate support Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s *Green New Deal?* Why or why not?

4. Does your candidate support Medicare For All? If so, how would it be implemented?

5. Does your candidate support reducing military spending, and diverting it towards domestic programs? If so, how would you help implement this?

6. Does your candidate support reducing America’s military presence in other countries?

7. What would your candidate do to improve America’s current immigration policy? Give some examples.

8. What steps will your candidate take to ensure reproductive freedom and LGBTQ rights?

9. Does your candidate support raising the Federal Minimum wage? If so, to what amount?

10. Explain the criteria your candidate considers when appointing federal judges.

11. Is your candidate’s campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources.

**Only Ballot Measures**

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

1. Briefly explain the purpose of this ballot initiative and what it would do.

2. What would be the fiscal impact of this initiative?

3. Who crafted this initiative, and how was it placed on the ballot?

4. Who are the initiative’s principal consultants, and what is its main funding sources?

5. Who are some of the initiatives’s individual and organizational supporters?

6. Who are some of the initiative’s individual and organizational opponents?

7. Why do you think the Harvey Milk Club should endorse this initiative?

**PART 2:**

**Yes or No Questions**

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

**GENERAL                                                                                                           YES NO**

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| 1.  Are you registered to vote as a Democrat? Yes | x |  |

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| 2. Have you ever sought elected office before? Yes |  |  |

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| 3. Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |  |

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| 4. Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past? No |  | N |

**LGBTQ ISSUES                                                                                               YES NO**

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| 5. Should the SFPD formally apologize for the decades of homophobic and transphobic abuses and violence it committed against the LGBTQ community that have spanned decades. Yes |  |  |

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| 6. Do you support public funding for employment development for transgender job-seekers? Yes |  |  |

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| 7. Do you support efforts to expand access to PrEP and the *Getting to Zero* initiative to end the HIV epidemic in San Francisco? Yes |  |  |

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

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| 8 Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services? Yes |  |  |

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| 9. Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13? Yes |  |  |

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| 10. Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act? Yes |  |  |

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| 11. Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act? Yes |  |  |

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| 12. Do you support increasing funding for enforcement capacity for Short Term Rental platforms, e.g. AirBnB and VRBO? Yes |  |  |

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| 13. Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works? No |  |  |

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| 14. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty commercial properties? Yes |  |  |
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| 15. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty residential properties? Yes |  |  |

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| 16. Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco? YesY |  |  |

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| 17. Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco? Yes |  |  |

**IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES                                                                        YES NO**

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| 18. Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished? Yes |  |  |

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| 19. Do you support San Francisco’s Sanctuary City status? Yes |  |  |

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| 20. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes? Yes |  |  |

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| 21. Do you support localities allowing noncitizens to vote in local elections, including, but not limited to, the SF School Board? Yes |  |  |

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| 22. Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services? Yes |  |  |

**SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES                        YES NO**

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| 23. Do you support the death penalty? No |  |  |

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| 24. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement? No |  |  |

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| 25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings? Yes |  |  |

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| 26. Should the Department of Police Accountability have the power to investigate allegations of misconduct by members of the Sheriff’s Department? Yes |  |  |

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| 27. Should a civilian oversight commission for the Sheriff’s Department be created, with the power to suspend or terminate members of the department? Yes |  |  |

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| 28. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites? Yes |  |  |

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| 29. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work? Yes |  |  |

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| 30. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott? No |  |  |

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| 31. Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike? Yes |  |  |

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| 32. Do you support AB 5, making it harder for companies to label workers as independent contractors instead of employees? Yes |  |  |

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| 33. Do you support the recent vote by the SF Board of Supervisors to close Juvenile Hall? Yes |  |  |

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| 34. Do you support the rebuilding of the county jail at 850 Bryant? No |  |  |

**EDUCATION AND YOUTH                                                                                    YES NO**

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| 35. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum throughout San Francisco’s public schools? Yes |  |  |

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| 36. Do you support the full, continuous funding for Free City College? Yes |  |  |

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| 37. Do you think teachers' salaries should be increased to ensure a living wage in San Francisco? Yes |  |  |

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| 38. Do you support the March 2020 ballot initiative known as the San Francisco Affordable Housing/Jobs Balanced Development Act (“M2”)? Yes |  |  |

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES                                    YES NO**

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| 39. Do you support the recent bailout of Pacific, Gas, & Electric? NO |  |  |

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| 40. Do you support the dissolution of Pacific, Gas, & Electric? Yes |  |  |

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| 41. Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program? Yes |  |  |

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| 42. Should CEQA guidelines be reduced in order to increase development? No |  |  |

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| 43. Do you ride San Francisco public transit on a daily basis? Normally yes, not during the campaign |  |  |

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| 44. Do you support free access to public transit for seniors,  disabled persons, the economically disadvantaged, and the underserved? Yes |  |  |

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| 45. Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide? Yes |  |  |

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| 46. Do you support the ongoing switchbacks on the K, N, and T Muni lines? No |  |  |

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| 47. Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA? No |  |  |

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| 48. Did you support Measure D on the November 2019 ballot? Yes |  |  |

**POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY                                YES NO**

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| 50. Did you support the recent *Sunlight on Dark Money (****Prop F****)* ballot measure on the November 2019 ballot? Yes |  |  |

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| 51. Does your campaign accept corporate contributions? No |  |  |

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| 52. Does your campaign accept contributions from individuals with a financial interest in land use matters valued at $5 million or more? No |  |  |

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| 53. Do you support expanding SF’s public financing program? Yes |  |  |

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| 54. Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's charter measure to prohibit a mayoral appointment within 90 days of an election? Yes |  |  |