

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 and to our Correspondent Lee Hepner at 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 or 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: Frances Hsieh

Office Sought: Democratic County Central Committee, AD 17

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

If so, since when?: I can't remember 2005? 2006?

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ)?:
Lesbian

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'm currently the Recording Secretary for the SFDCCC and I'm running for re-election on the Social Justice Democrats slate, whose members have pledged to fight for working class and low-income San Franciscans; providing seats at the table for the city's diverse and underrepresented communities; being an ally to progressive, public sector labor; and fighting for a Democratic Party that isn't beholden to corporate, developer, and real-estate interests.

The slate's values are very much a continuation and expansion of the work that I've done while on the DCCC, to a pass contribution limits and transparency policies, expand access to the party for disabled and Limited English proficient individuals, and win back a progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors.

I have 20 years of political campaign experience supporting progressive candidates and issues, from field work to strategic direction and have been an active member of many local democratic and political clubs.

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

Former Supervisor John Avalos, Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, Former Supervisor Jane Kim. Having worked with all three of these individuals on policies and efforts to uplift working class communities and communities of color and to move public resources to benefit underrepresented communities, I respect their consistent commitment to these values. They represent the type of public employee that I aspire to be everyday.

3. 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?

Most immediately, we have to stop exacerbating this crisis by ending sweeps, opening navigation centers in every neighborhood, and expanding safe spaces with services for those who are vehicularly housed. Then we have to actually commit our resources the services people need to get them off the streets, into stable housing, and then keep them successfully housed. This includes fully funding mental health care, substance use care, building housing that is affordable for very low-income people, and housing subsidies to keep people and families housed. The DCCC can be a platform to support candidates and ballot measures that have real solutions, equitable revenue generation measures to fund expansion of safety net and other critical services, and move City investment towards greater levels of truly affordable housing in both public and private projects.

4. 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?

As a member of the DCCC, I raise up candidates, ballot measures, and resolutions that address some of the issues I raised in the previous question. As a member, I authored and supported resolutions on community efforts in the Mission and Excelsior to oppose luxury development, workers rights and calling out discrimination in the City, and fully funding free City College. I endorsed measures such as Proposition C and F in 2018 and volunteered on those campaigns. In District 11, I am a member of the Friends of CUHJ (Communities United for Health and Justice) that has advocated for 100% affordable housing projects, pushed back when market rate housing projects have threatened displacement of low-income families, and supported a workers hub to be located in the Excelsior.

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

I am a member of the Mayor's Taskforce on Race, Equity, and Inclusion, which doesn't really fight against racism and white supremacy, but serves as an avenue through which labor and community groups can work in coalition to shine a light on DHR and the Mayor's lack of movement and commitment to equity and racial justice. I am one of the Local 21 representatives to SEIU 1021's Erase Racism group, which works to identify and rectify racism in the City's labor relations. Within my union, I am a part of our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Work Group which seeks to identify both ways to hold the City accountable to uphold the protections in our MOU and solutions to combat systemic racism as well as build a model that other regions in our national union can use to engage membership and affect change in their regions.

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

I have supported efforts at both the state level and locally to fund employment training and ongoing support for low-income transgender individuals, who face greater barriers to employment. I think these services need to be expanded and also include more culturally competent language resources, since limited English proficient or undocumented transgender individuals face even greater discrimination and have access to even fewer resources. I believe we can not only use the bully pulpit of the DCCC to raise these issues, but we also have the opportunity to lobby our ex-officio members for greater resources and policy support.

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

No. I support increased density along our transit corridors. However, without stronger affordable housing regulations, this measure would only increase displacement and exacerbate our housing crisis. As we've seen from his time at the Board of Supervisors, Senator Wiener's approach to housing and land use policy only serves to enrich developer and landlord interests. Plus, any type of regulation to increase density levels in transit rich areas needs to include a plan and resources to support infrastructure and transit improvements to meet increased demand.

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

While I appreciate that the Pride parade and therefore our LGBTQ communities are getting the broad-based support and recognition we deserve, I have been troubled over the past decade of the increased visibility that corporate contingents (some that maintain anti-LGBTQ

policies!) and the subsequent reduced role of community groups. The Pride celebration has also become so heavily commercialized that it is not as accessible for the LGBTQ community members either economically or physically due to lack of accommodations. I think we have forgotten the roots of the Pride Parade - that it was a protest against police brutality and raids that sparked the gay rights movement.

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

Absolutely. I not only support it for local elections, but I also support the statewide effort to lower the voting age. Studies have demonstrated that we set voters up for a lifetime of more consistent voting if we start them in high school where they have a stable address and civics education.

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

I gave my personal endorsement to Vallie Brown. I have worked with her at the Board of Supervisors since her time as an aide to fight back against development, gentrification, and for racial equity in District 5. However, as a member of the progressive faction that took the DCCC back from real estate influence, I knew that I could not vote to endorse her, which is why I abstained in that vote.

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

I have a similar history with Suzy Loftus, having worked with her on police accountability and use of force while she was president of the SF Police Commission, which is why I voted for her #1. I was very impressed with Chesa's body of work and we align on a number of criminal justice reform issues, which is why I voted for him as my #2 choice.

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

At the SF DCCC, I voted to endorse London Breed.

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?

Yes. I was appointed by then-Chair Cindy Wu to fill Scott Wiener's vacated seat when he became an ex-officio member.

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

1) Continue to endorse and elect progressive candidates to SF elected office and pass ballot measures that level the playing field for working class and low income communities of color and hold the SF DCCC to an anti-corporate, social justice frame. In order to be successful, we must improve our communication and collaboration with progressive allied organizations and marginalized communities.

2) Expand local party reform measures to the state level, particularly contribution limits; donation transparency measures; expanding language access, especially in ADEM elections; and expanding access for diverse voices in the party.

3) Increased voter registration, education, and engagement. We must improve engagement with grassroots political clubs and community organizations and provide leadership development for democratic activists and leaders and financial support for clubs' voter outreach and education efforts.

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

I'm proud to have worked with chartered club members to pass the DCCC's policies on disabled access and language access for public meetings and events, including creating resources and a support fund for democratic clubs to comply with these policies. The next step is to expand this access to include family and youth friendly policies. Then we must raise money to make sure we have the resources to support these policies. Also, these policies don't do much good if no one knows about them, so I would like to work with our communications team on a community engagement strategy to publicize these policies and resources.

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

Yes. In fact, I worked with Vice-Chair DeJesus to pass a \$500 contributions limit policy in the DCCC bylaws. In order to give the contributions limits policy teeth, we worked with Assemblymember Phil Ting to introduce state legislation. Unfortunately, it didn't pass, but I am committed to working with him to reintroduce it. We also passed donor transparency reporting requirements for chartered clubs to try and shed light on the dark money that is funneled through some of clubs.

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

Mayor: London Breed

District Attorney: #1 Suzy Loftus, #2 Chesa Boudin

District 5 Supervisor: Abstain

Prop C (Vaping): No

Prop D (Uber/Lyft Tax): Yes
Prop E (Teacher & Family Housing): Yes
Prop F (Sunlight on Dark Money): Yes

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

I am committed to supporting whichever Democratic candidate becomes our nominee, but my two top candidates are Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders due to their positions around Medicare for All, support for workers and raising wages, and their anti-corporate positions, particularly Sanders' movement centered campaign.

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.
2. Briefly describe three achievements you have made in your Congressional district.
3. How will you make the local Democratic Party more accessible, relevant, and engaging for community members?
4. Do you support Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's *Green New Deal*? Why or why not?
5. Do you support Medicare For All? If so, how would you implement it?
6. Do you support reducing military spending, and diverting it towards domestic programs? If so, how would you help implement this?
7. Do you support reducing America's military presence in other countries?
8. What would you do to improve America's current immigration policy? Give some examples.
9. Do you support raising the Federal Minimum wage? If so, to what amount?
10. Is your campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources.

11. What are your main strategies for meeting voters?

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

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
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? <u>Esther Marks</u>	x	
4. Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	x	
LGBTQ ISSUES		
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.	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		
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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13. Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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14. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty commercial properties?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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15. Do you support a vacancy tax on empty residential properties?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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16. Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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17. Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

YES NO

18. Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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19. Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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20. Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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22. Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SOCIAL JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

YES NO

23. Do you support the death penalty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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24. Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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25. Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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?	x	
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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?	x	
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28. Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	x	
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29. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?	x	
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30. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		x
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31. Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	x	
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32. Do you support AB 5, making it harder for companies to label workers as independent contractors instead of employees?	x	
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33. Do you support the recent vote by the SF Board of Supervisors to close Juvenile Hall?	x	
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34. Do you support the rebuilding of the county jail at 850 Bryant?		x
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EDUCATION AND YOUTH

YES NO

35. Do you support expanding LGBTQ curriculum throughout San Francisco's public schools?	x	
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36. Do you support the full, continuous funding for Free City College?	x	
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37. Do you think teachers' salaries should be increased to ensure a living wage in San Francisco?	x	
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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")?	x	
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

YES NO

39. Do you support the recent bailout of Pacific, Gas, & Electric?		x
40. Do you support the dissolution of Pacific, Gas, & Electric?	x	
41. Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	x	
42. Should CEQA guidelines be reduced in order to increase development?		x
43. Do you ride San Francisco public transit on a daily basis?	x	
44. Do you support free access to public transit for seniors, disabled persons, the economically disadvantaged, and the underserved?	x	
45. Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide?	x	
46. Do you support the ongoing switchbacks on the K, N, and T Muni lines?		x
47. Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		x
48. Did you support Measure D on the November 2019 ballot?	x	

POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

YES NO

50. Did you support the recent <i>Sunlight on Dark Money (Prop F)</i> ballot measure on the November 2019 ballot?	x	
51. Does your campaign accept corporate contributions?		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	
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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?	x	
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