

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for November 2020

Dear Candidates and Ballot Measure Representatives,

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 2020 election.

There are a few steps in our endorsement process:

- 1. Complete and submit your questionnaire by July 23rd*
- 2. Sign up for an endorsement interview*
- 3. Interview with the club on either July 25th or 26th via Zoom*

From there, our PAC will vote on endorsement recommendations on Tuesday, August 11th, with the final endorsement vote taking place at our general membership meeting on August 18th.

Your participation in our Club's questionnaire and interviews 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 three 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 or No questions covering a broad set of issues. Part 3 covers whom you have endorsed for office currently and in the past.

Please return your completed questionnaire to pac@milkclub.org and to correspondent@milkclub.org no later than July 23rd.

In addition to this questionnaire, we invite you to participate in a recorded video interview on Zoom with Club leadership on either July 25th or July 26th from 10am to 5pm. This virtual interview replaces the typical in-person presentation to our Membership, and the recording will be shared with our Members ahead of our endorsement recommendation and final vote.

To schedule your interview:

- 1. Sign up for a time slot [here](#)*
- 2. Register on Zoom [here](#)*

Your questionnaire responses and interview answers will weigh heavily in our overall endorsement process, so please take both seriously.

Good luck!

-- The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: Connie Chan

Office: District 1 Supervisor

Campaign Address: 275 6th Ave. #106 San Francisco, CA 94118

Campaign Phone: (415) 545-8706

Campaign Email: connie@conniechansf.com

Campaign Website: conniechansf.com

Political Party: Democrat

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

If so, since when?:

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

PART 1:

Questions for All Candidates

1. Describe your qualifications for the office you are seeking. Feel free to add anything that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.

I have served our City at every level and understand how policy goals at the top are implemented into operational actions for San Francisco residents. As a legislative aide spanning two decades, I have been part of the effort to move forward on a host of initiatives to improve the lives of everyday working families in our City. I believe strongly that, in the midst of a pandemic and recession, it's critical we have leaders who will center the voices and needs of our most vulnerable residents and those most impacted by this crisis. As a Supervisor I will use my years of knowledge to make sure we're putting our working, low-income and immigrant families and small businesses first.

Over the last two decades, I have worked as a community organizer and legislative staffer. I've worked with pro bono tenant attorneys to defend tenants in negotiation with landlords; as a community organizer in Chinatown, Bayview and Visitacion Valley to raise crime prevention awareness and translate and assist crime victims; with the DA's Victim Services Unit focusing on language access and cultural competency for services serving monolingual and immigrant crime victims; worked to clean up polluted neighborhoods and shut down Mirant Power Plant; improve parks and neighborhood services in Chinatown and North Beach; and advocated for policies to strengthen public education at City College.

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

I'm proud to have been endorsed by individuals, especially our Richmond District community leaders, and organizations representing the breadth and depth of our diverse community. From educators, nurses and progressive activists to current and former elected leaders who have served San Francisco for decades, in every part of our city, we are building a strong coalition that believes in this time of crisis, we need to focus on our working and immigrant families, our most vulnerable residents and those who have been hardest hit. Working together, we can make sure our recovery lifts up those who have been hurt and left behind for far too long. I would be proud to have the endorsement of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club who share the values of Harvey Milk - a community leader who knew the power of solidarity, social justice and equal rights and opportunities for all.

Kamala Harris, US Senator

Kevin Mullin, State Assemblymember, Pro Tem

Phil Ting, State Assemblymember

Malia Cohen, Board of Equalization Member* (#2 endorsement)

Chesa Boudin, SF District Attorney*

Sandra Lee Fewer, Supervisor

Aaron Peskin, Supervisor

Gordon Mar, Supervisor

Dean Preston, Supervisor
Matt Haney, Supervisor
Norman Yee, Supervisor
Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor
Hillary Ronen, Supervisor
Shamann Walton, Supervisor
Bevan Dufty, BART Board Director*
Shanell Williams, CCSF Trustee President*
Tom Temprano, CCSF Trustee Vice President*
Brigitte Davila, CCSF Trustee*
John Rizzo, CCSF Trustee*
Thea Selby, CCSF Trustee*
Mark Sanchez, President, Board of Education Commissioner*
Gabriela Lopez, Board of Education Commissioner*
Faaauga Moliga, Board of Education Commissioner*
David Campos, Chair, SF DCCC*
Gloria Berry, SF DCCC member*
Peter Gallotta, SF DCCC member*
Mark Leno, Former State Senator
Art Agnos, Former Mayor
Jane Kim, Former Supervisor
Eric Mar, Former Supervisor
Sophie Maxwell, Former Supervisor
Jake McGoldrick, Former Supervisor
Mabel Teng, Former Supervisor

*For ID purposes only

Organizations:

AFT 2121
Affordable Housing Alliance
California Nurses Association
Chinese Progressive Association Action Fund
League of Conservation Voters
Richmond District Democratic Club
SEIU 1021
SF Berniecrats
SF Democratic Party
SF Latino Democratic Club
SF League of Conservation Voters
SF Rising Action Fund
SF Tenants Union

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

San Francisco's homelessness crisis is a humanitarian one. I am invested in strategies to reduce homelessness and support unhoused people getting off the streets and into stable

housing. Homelessness is a symptom of a systemic problem: the lack of economic and racial equity, the lack of equitable access to healthcare, and lack of access to food security for many generations of working people.

We need to advocate for federal and state funding and provide coordinated and equitable city services and resources for San Francisco's homeless residents to help them have safe shelter, supportive housing, food and job security, as well as accessible general public health care and free education and job training.

For the short term, we must move our homeless population to hotel rooms so they can have safe shelter to social distance and if necessary quarantine.

For the long term, despite the growing homeless population in the Richmond neighborhood, we have yet to invest resources in our community. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to homelessness, so we need a multi-pronged and individualized approach to address the range of reasons that people become homeless. I am committed to fighting for the resources and initiatives that will get unhoused residents to have a pathway to be housed and get back on their feet.

4. What work have you done to address economic inequality and housing unaffordability in San Francisco? What will you do to address them if elected?

My work in city government has centered around connecting everyday San Franciscans from all walks of life to city services and resources to meet their needs. I started as a volunteer interpreter for pro bono tenant attorneys to be an aide in city government to connect monolingual Chinese speaking immigrants to city services, and advocating for policies that address housing and equity issues in San Francisco.

If elected as Supervisor, I support and will advocate for the preservation and production of 100% affordable housing, focused on low- and middle-income residents. We also need to preserve existing affordable housing as possible, which means we need to preserve current stock of rent-controlled units and place further rent control regulations on units, including below market rate rental units built after 1979. I support a balanced approach to development that prioritizes protections against displacement for vulnerable tenants.

5. Describe your work addressing racial injustice, economic inequity, and police brutality in San Francisco.

We cannot address these issues without recognizing they are interconnected. Systemic racism isn't just about our justice system - it's about a lack of access (and often outright barriers) to educational opportunities, good jobs, affordable housing and medical services. I strongly believe we need diverse voices, not just in the room but at the table, to make sure our policies reflect the unique challenges that face our diverse communities. As an cis, straight immigrant woman of color, I know my experiences are different from members of the LGBTQ community and different from those of BIPOC women (to give just two examples). It's important we include and value all experiences so our policies are not only morally right but effectively deliver change.

Throughout my public service career, I find sincere partnership and deep support whenever I work with communities of color. I know the only way we can make the changes to better our communities is when we stand in solidarity with each other. Now more than ever, we must stay united in the crisis of tackling the pandemic and dismantling systemic racism.

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

As an aide in city government, I have worked to make sure I consistently raise awareness on LGBTQ issues among API community, especially Chinese speaking community by advocating same-sex marriage equality, equal workers rights, gender neutral restrooms and more. I have also worked to advocate and campaign for candidates, especially API candidates running for office who would support LGBTQ issues, and denounced any candidates including Chinese American candidates like Josephine Zhao for Board of Education and Ellan Zhao for Mayor (who are not related), who would not support LGBTQ issues.

I know there is a lot of work that needs to be done among the API community when it comes to LGBTQ issues. We already know that LGBTQ youth suffer some of the highest depression and suicide rates. And API transgender youth are three times more likely to attempt suicide than cisgender API LGBTQ youth, and while API LGBTQ youth may have lower depression and suicide rate, they still have more likely to share their sexual orientation with their families. If elected, I want to continue to advocate for LGBTQ issues, education, and resources especially for API youth and families, and most definitely directly speak about the issues in Chinese to the Chinese speaking residents in San Francisco as I am biliterate.

7. Describe your work addressing the climate crisis, and what specific steps you would take if elected to confront climate change and environmental injustice.

The climate crisis has hurt our communities for decades and disproportionately affects low-income and marginalized communities, especially our communities of color on the southeast corner of our city. I knew this as an aide to Supervisor Maxwell and led the legislative effort to shut down the Mirant Power Plant that hurt the communities of color living in its proximity.

Today's joint health and economic crisis are compounding this reality. Environmental justice requires economic justice — we can't have one without the other. Investing in a greener future will support, not hinder, economic recovery.

To maintain environmental gains in spite of the current crisis, I support greater outreach to build CleanPowerSF's customer base while also supporting programs to include more low-income residents so more can use the program's clean energy.

San Francisco must be responsive and resilient to a variety of climate change's impacts including drought and sea level rise. I support urgent work to increase accessibility to open space, protect from earthquakes and future sea level rise, and ensure plans reflect community involvement throughout the process. This includes finalizing and delivering plans for protecting Ocean Beach and the land around Great Highway in a sustainable manner.

San Franciscans also pride themselves in values of tolerance and equity. We must unpack and examine how these values have been applied to our waterfront and do the real work of fighting for environmental justice and equitable access to waterfront open space and amenities.

We must act now to address these future challenges.

8. Describe a time when you worked against an established power structure or entrenched authority to achieve progressive change. How was this positive change accomplished?

Shutting down Mirant Power Plant was years in the making, efforts from community activists' protest, legislative process championed Supervisor Sophie Maxwell and supported by her colleagues at the time on the Board of Supervisors, and legal negotiation with PG&E and state agencies by our City Attorney on behalf of the City. But PG&E then just it is now an established corporation that monopolizes power (pun intended) in San Francisco and the State of California. I understand that it takes time, and sometimes many more tries before we can make change for our social economic and environmental justice but I also know that as long as we don't give up, keep at it, build the people power, together we will make that change. I have the know-how and experience to bring people, and all stakeholders together to make the change for the Richmond, and for San Francisco.

Only Supervisorial Candidates

1. What are your top three legislative priorities if elected.

Progressive policies to protect working class San Franciscans are needed now more than ever in order to recover from the pandemic and recession. We must 1) expand wage-worker protections, 2) make sure our small businesses are prioritized in any business assistance programs, and 3) continue and expand protections for tenants and to keep people housed. We need to ensure our workers are paid a living wage and have a voice to fight for safer working conditions. We will also need to set up a local wage-worker protection system to help workers who are impacted through job losses or reduction in income, especially during disasters, to apply for benefits provided by our state and federal programs.

It is my priority that every day working San Franciscans have a representative who they can trust to represent their values and needs. Now more than ever, we need to lead reforms for greater transparency and spending accountability both in City Hall and across departments, so San Franciscans can have confidence their government is working for them — not corporate interests.

2. Should SFPD be reformed, transformed, reimagined, defunded, or abolished? And why?

At a D1 candidate forum, weeks before the murder of George Floyd, we were asked whether we'd pledge to increase the SFPD's budget — I was the only candidate to say, "No." I support fundamentally restructuring our police officers' role in our community so that they will no longer be involved in homeless sweeps, mental health and wellness calls, or behavioral

discipline of our students. Instead, we need to have health care professionals and social workers provide the services that meet these needs.

I also support the current proposal to redirect funding to supporting our public health care and public education systems that will serve our immigrants, communities of color and working people, but this conversation must not end this year. We must be vigilant, and continue to build on the momentum of this moment to make the changes we all deserve in the interest of public safety. Our communities can no longer wait for police reform — we have to keep fighting until public safety and justice are delivered.

3. How exactly will San Francisco balance its budget during this current economic crisis?

In the face of a \$1.7 billion budget deficit, we must prioritize resources to equitably serve working people, small businesses, and vulnerable communities. To support our city's recovery from this pandemic, we need to invest in our public health care system, public schools, and key economic and job development opportunities.

Meanwhile, American billionaires have made \$434 billion more, and American corporations have received \$135 billion in taxpayer bailouts during this pandemic. It is relevant to San Francisco because we have one billionaire out of every 11,600 people living in our City, and a corporate landlord like Veritas has received \$3 million from the Paycheck Protection Program. This is how we know our economy, including our local economy is rigged. So we need to reform our local business tax and make corporations and their executives pay their fair share to support our small businesses, city services and programming immediately. As a result, while I understand ballot measures are going through the legislative vetting process at the moment, I support tax measures proposed by the Board of Supervisors, including the gross receipt tax measure which is also now supported by the Mayor, these measures will allow immediate tax reform.

4. How best should the Board of Supervisors handle the current COVID-19 health crisis and the shelter-in-place orders for both individuals and for businesses?

We must learn the lessons of COVID-19 and remember that for San Francisco to stay strong and thrive, we must invest in working people first.

I agreed with the Board of Supervisors' effort to place our homeless population in hotel rooms so they have safe shelter for social distance and if necessary quarantine during this pandemic.

Moreover, we must expand wage-worker protections, including unionizing workers, especially among mid-size and larger scale corporations. This will ensure our workers are paid a living wage and have a voice to fight for safer working conditions. We will also need to set up a local wage-worker protection system to help workers who are impacted through job losses or reduction in income, especially during disasters, to apply for benefits provided by our state and federal programs. And if they were left out by those programs, they should be covered by local funds. Our City can also directly help all workers impacted by business

shutdowns through increased investment in Free City College. Job training and professional certifications can be offered to help laid-off workers retool their skills for jobs and industries that will be in demand.

Of course, we have to make sure our small businesses are prioritized in any business assistance programs by providing them technical and legal assistance to apply for state and federal relief funds. Our small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and we can help them sustain and grow through small business tax credits for local ownership and production; streamlining the small business permitting process with technical support; and business tax code reform that holds corporate and chain businesses to equal if not higher standards as our local merchants. We also need to continue our efforts towards public banking to further invest in small businesses, and expand the Legacy Business program to recognize more longtime anchors of our neighborhoods.

5. Do you support expanding transit-only lanes in your district?

I do, when the process includes having the Richmond community and key stakeholders at the table. Public transit in San Francisco is a critical part of the City's infrastructure, therefore, I support tools like transit-only lanes that make public transit more reliable, efficient, and safe for our community. However, the planning process should always be inclusive and with considerations of the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, immigrants, communities of color, and small businesses. All must be done with language and cultural competency.

6. What strategies will you use to preserve and expand affordable housing in your district?

The current pandemic and recession has shifted the narrative around housing in the city and state. We need to keep current tenants in their homes and assist them in weathering the likely coming recession. I will lead rent relief efforts, explore purchasing and renovate hotels in order to house our homeless population, and look to further expand renter protections to keep people in their homes. I supported expanding the ordinance that suspends evictions related to loss of income due to COVID-19.

To better prepare San Francisco's housing stock for when we recover from the pandemic, our city desperately needs more housing. The westside should carry its fair share of the load. Transit-rich corridors like Geary Street can support more density which foster vibrant communities for all. However, this doesn't mean giveaways for developers. We don't need more vacant luxury housing held as investments.

My vision for housing development also includes community benefits such as ground-floor space that meets the needs of the neighborhood residents, environmentally sustainable design, union labor and local hire, and more. I will push the City to invest more deeply in the small site acquisition program to preserve rent-controlled apartment buildings and prevent evictions.

7. Do you support a navigation center in your district?

Yes. The Richmond District has not received our share of city resources, despite the growing homeless population in the neighborhood. We know that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to homelessness, so we need a multi-pronged approach to address the range of reasons that people become homeless. I am committed to fighting for the resources and initiatives that will get unhoused residents off the streets and into shelter. I support the expansion of shelters and navigation centers, permanent supportive housing, and mental health and substance use treatment facilities for long-term stays in my district.

8. How would you characterize the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government in San Francisco?

After more than 15 years of working in San Francisco city government, I often find the need for more checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches. This is why I would like to 1. re-examine the role and authority of our City Administrator, and the ability of providing oversight on our city departments with integrity; 2. increase transparency on the budget process to allow more public conversations before the budget is proposed by the Mayor. This will allow us to have more opportunities for checks and balances on how our city departments operate and how our budget is prioritized and being spent.

9. Who do you currently see as your closest allies on the Board of Supervisors?

Currently I have the endorsement of 9 of the 11 Board of Supervisors, and I look forward to working with members of the Board with the supervisors remaining and re-elected in 2021.

10. If district add-back funds are available in the future, where and how would you allocate them in your district?

I will first work with the Richmond community groups to identify the needs of our Richmond neighborhood, and I will work with labor leaders and citywide organizations to understand our needs across the City. Then I will work in partnership with the Richmond community, labor community, and colleagues at the Board of Supervisors to fill the gap of services and meet the needs.

11. Which of San Francisco's governmental bureaucracies is in most need of an audit and why?

Agencies like the Department of Public Works, Department of Building and Inspection, and SF Public Utility Commission, that are currently under the FBI investigation, are in need of an immediate audit. The use of public funds must only serve the public good. We should also look into auditing our public health and transit agencies who are providing essential and critical services especially during this pandemic.

PART 2:

Yes or No Questions

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

GENERAL	YES	NO
Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	X	
Have you ever sought elected office before?		X
Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? <u>Julie Edwards of MJE Strategies is my campaign consultant, Kelly Groth is my campaign manager.</u>	X	
Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?		X
LGBTQ ISSUES & SEXUAL LIBERATION	YES	NO
Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class? (For example, a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual nonmonogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare.)	X	
Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	X	
Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	X	

Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	X	
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TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS

YES NO

Do you support immediate rent cancellation and mortgage forbearance for all tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19?	X	
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Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	X	
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Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	X	
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Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	X	
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Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	X	
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Have you ever evicted a tenant?		X
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?		X
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	X	
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?	X	
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	X	
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	X	
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	X	
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	X	
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	X	
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	X	
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions?	X	
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	X	
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RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

YES NO

Do you support the death penalty?		X
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Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		X
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Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	X	
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Does your campaign accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?	X	
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Do you support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force?		X
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Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed?	X	
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Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		X
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Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans?	X	
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Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	X	
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Do you support extending voting rights in local elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	X	
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Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		X
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Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	X	
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Do you support repealing California's Proposition 209?	X	
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Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		X
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Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		X
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

YES NO

Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	X	
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Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	X	
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Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide?	X	
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Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		X
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PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

YES NO

Did you support the <i>Sunlight on Dark Money (Prop. F)</i> measure on the November 2019 ballot?	X	
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Do you support expanding SF's public financing program to all City and County elected offices?	X	
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Do you support Supervisor Matt Haney's ballot measure to split Public Works into two departments, each with its own oversight commission?	X	
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate?	X	
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PART 3:

Support of Other Candidates

(Please answer whom you support or supported in each race. If you made a ranked endorsement or voted for more than one candidate using IRV, please indicate the rankings.)

2020	Candidate
Democratic Presidential Primary	Kamala Harris/Elizabeth Warren
CA State Senate, District 11	Jackie Fielder
District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
District 7 Supervisor	No endorsement
District 11 Supervisor	No endorsement

2019	Candidate
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
San Francisco District Attorney	Suzy Loftus

2018	Candidate
Mayor	Jane Kim, Mark Leno
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton