

**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](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) and to [correspondent@milkclub.org](mailto: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:** Emily Murase

**Office:** District 7 Supervisor

**Campaign Address:** P.O. Box 320218, SF CA 94132-0218

**Campaign Phone:** 415.742.1860

**Campaign Email:** info@emilymurase.com

**Campaign Website:** www.emilymurase.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 over 20 years of experience serving the City & County of San Francisco as a Women's Commissioner and, later, as Director of the Department on the Status of Women where I have aspired to advance diversity and inclusion and focused on ending violence against women, including individuals on the gender spectrum. I conducted gender inclusion training of 200 gardeners of the Department of Recreation & Parks, and supported multi-year funding of CUAV, El-La Para TransLatinas, and LYRIC. My proudest achievement was helping to secure a historic \$9 million state grant to disrupt the foster care system and end the sexual exploitation of minors. I was twice elected to the San Francisco Board of Education where I created stiffer penalties for cyberbullying, promoted healthy relationships curriculum, and introduced anti-human trafficking measures.

#### **2. Do you have any key endorsements that you would like to share?**

1. State Treasurer Fiona Ma (second)
2. Assemblymember Phil Ting
3. Sheriff Paul Miyamoto
4. School Board Member Rachel Norton
5. City College Trustee Thea Selby (second)
6. Former SFUSD Superintendent Gwen Chan
7. Former Sheriff Vicki Hennessy (second)
8. Judge (ret.) and Former Supervisor Quentin L. Kopp
9. Former Department of Emergency Management Director Anne Kronenberg
10. Public Safety Advocate Suzy Loftus (second)
11. United Educators of San Francisco Founding President Joan-Marie Shelley
12. Linda Plack, Former Vice President, United Educators of San Francisco

#### **Why are these endorsements meaningful to you?**

These individual represent a board cross-section of community leaders.

#### **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?**

We need a FEMA-type response to homelessness and should be pursuing every available opportunity to draw down federal funding to address this crisis. We must focus on permanent, long-term solutions. Tiny homes offer vulnerable individuals a door with a key and cost only \$23,000 per unit. This is less than the temporary housing offered by Navigation Centers or shelters. This is especially important for unhoused women and children for whom tents as shelter only add to their vulnerability to exploitation. Tiny homes also offer job seekers one essential element to get back on their feet: a home address. I am a firm believer in the dignity of work and the city's workforce development programs should prioritize the needs of unhoused individuals.

#### **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? .**

As a school board member, I approved the first teacher housing project undertaken by the school district that will provide 135 affordable units at the site of the Francis Scott Key Annex in the Sunset District. The complex will be designed not only for teachers, but, importantly, also paraeducators who earn much less than other staff, and their families.

I strongly support the Planning Department's guiding principles for housing developments beyond 2022: (1) ensuring equity in development; (2) reducing construction costs by radically reducing red tape; (3) expanding funding for affordable housing; and (4) protecting housing for vulnerable residents. All voices within a community, especially those historically discriminated against, must be included in housing development plans. A robust community planning process must allow constituents to raise their concerns and receive staff responses to concerns.

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

Every city department was required to develop a racial equity action plan. As a member of the San Francisco cohort for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, I led strategies to dismantle institutional racism for my department. By championing women's advancement, I have been fighting economic inequities based on gender.

As a school board member, I prioritized closing the opportunity gap between African American and LatinX students and white and Asian students by changing curriculum to allow for greater options and providing additional supports. As School Board President in 2015, I presided over the Vision 2025 strategic planning initiative that is bearing fruit today. Last year, the graduation rate of African American students, at 89.5%, exceeded that of white students, at 87.8%, the district average of 88% and the state graduation rate of 86%.

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

See response to Question 1. I would like to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community is well-represented on City Boards and Commissions. I have worked with key leaders such as Women's Commissioners Andrea Shorter, Nicky Calma, and Sophia Andary.

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

As Department of the Status of Women Director, I worked closely with the Department on the Environment on the Healthy Nail Salon campaign that coupled labor rights education with safe chemicals training and targeted difficult to reach immigrant communities. While on the school board, I engaged in the Green Schoolyards Initiative that attracted new resources, including a \$250,000 national prize by Ecomedia to Rosa Parks Elementary School in the Western Addition to transform the aging cement schoolyard into spectacular vegetable gardens, a chicken coop, and outdoor learning spaces. As supervisor, I am committed to strengthening our thriving neighborhoods by reinforcing sustainability and resilience strategies.

**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?**

In 2013, the Department on the Status of Women convened the Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking. Not long after, sex workers protested the work of the Task Force as not being inclusive of their concerns. Rather than dismiss these concerns, sex workers were brought into the Task Force and formed the Sex Worker & Policy Impact Committee. A key recommendation of this committee was to craft a policy to ensure that sex workers are able to access police protection and investigative services when they are victims of crime, rather than be cited for prostitution. Community advocates including Arias Said and Carol Leigh joined me at several difficult meetings with Police Chief Bill Scott to discuss this policy. Finally, with the help of the Police Commission, the Police Department adopted the Prioritizing Safety of Sex Workers Policy. Then, with the leadership of Senator Scott Wiener and the advocacy of organized sex workers, the policy was adopted state-wide and has inspired other jurisdictions to enact similar measures.

## Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

My goals are to (1) strengthen thriving neighborhoods, (2) bolster public safety, and (3) accelerate economic growth.

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

I believe the SFPD should be reformed, transformed, and reimagined. I spent two years working with Police Chief Scott to examine gender bias affecting female sworn officers in SFPD. Police leadership, including the Chief, Commissioners, and senior staff reviewed the recommendations carefully and vowed to do annual audits for progress. I have also seen the POA empower a Women's Action Committee that guided this study and Sergeant Tracy McCray became the first woman to serve on the POA Board of Directors. I believe substantive change is possible.

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

Currently, the San Francisco budget stands at \$12.3 billion for a city with less than a million people. A crude calculation puts us at \$14,000 per person in city spending. When I started working for the City 15 years ago, the city budget was \$5 billion and \$6,666 per person in spending. We have seen a 110% increase in spending during that time.

I propose we examine our spending in detail, eliminate waste, and reallocate existing funds rather than increasing taxes. I would accomplish this by resurrecting the Reinventing Government strategy of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. When I served in the White House working on trade issues, I saw the power of regular employees coming up with solid ideas for cost-cutting and efficiency-enhancing. I would work very closely with our labor partners to preserve jobs as much as possible by identifying areas of cost-savings.

### 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?

I support and recommend that the BOS should follow the guidelines established by the Department of Public Health and the SF Mayor's Office. Compared to other cities our infection transmission has been low.

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

No. Unfortunately, the pandemic has both made car travel necessary for vulnerable individuals decimated ridership of public transit, so I do not anticipate demand for transit-only lanes in District 7 in the foreseeable future.

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

There are at least three housing developments slated for District 7 that provide important opportunities to expand affordable housing: Balboa Reservoir, Stonestown, and Park Merced. It is very important that these developments comply with affordable housing requirement.

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

No. The cost of building and operating a navigation center is prohibitively expensive. According to news reports, the Embarcadero Navigation Center cost \$12.5 million for a facility of 200 beds that is intended to be temporary. A permanent alternative is the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool that was recently announced. At \$11 million of mostly private funds, the program offers 200 individuals permanent housing in vacant apartments.

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

Professional.

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

I have worked with every member of the Board of Supervisors on violence prevention and intervention issues, including President Norman Yee, Supervisors Rafael Mandelman, Gordon Mar, Aaron Peskin, Hillary Ronen, Ahsha Safai, and Catherine Stefani, with the exception of Dean Preston as we overlapped only briefly. I served with Supervisors Matt Haney, Sandra Fewer, and Shamann Walton on the school board.

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

If add-back funds became available, I would fund participatory budgeting and other neighborhood initiatives, including supporting district merchants, senior and family services, and violence prevention programs.

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

Investigations into the Department of Public Works and Planning Department are already underway. In February 2019, a specially appointed ombudsperson Dolores Blanding issued a report of widespread bullying and harassment within the SF Municipal Transportation Agency which needs to be fully investigated and remedied.

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**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?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Have you ever sought elected office before?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? <b>Nancy Rock, Campaign Manager</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
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Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	<b>Yes</b>	
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**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 non-monogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare.)	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you support decriminalizing sex work?		<b>No</b>
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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?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?		<b>No</b>
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Do you support the split-roll repeal of Proposition 13?	<b>Yes</b>	
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Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?		<b>No</b>
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Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?		<b>No</b>
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Have you ever evicted a tenant?		<b>No</b>
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?		No
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?		No
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?		No
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?		No
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?		No
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?		No
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**IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**  
**YES NO**

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?		No
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	Yes	
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	Yes	
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions? <b>I am concerned that undocumented workers will be vulnerable under these circumstance.</b>		No
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	Yes	
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**RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**YES NO**

Do you support the death penalty?		No
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Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?	Yes	
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Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	Yes	
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Does your campaign accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations? <b>Will not accept from POA after BLM controversy.</b>		No
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Do you support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force?		No
Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed?		No
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?	Yes	
Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans?	Yes	
Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?		No
Do you support extending voting rights in local elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	Yes	
Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		No
Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	Yes	
Do support repealing California's Proposition 209?	Yes	
Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		No
Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		No

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**  
**YES NO**

Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	No position	
Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	Yes	
Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide?		No
Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?	Yes	

**PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY** **YES NO**

Did you support the Sunlight on Dark Money (Prop. F) measure on the November 2019 ballot?	Yes	
Do you support expanding SF's public financing program to all City and County elected offices?		No

Do you support Supervisor Matt Haney's ballot measure to split Public Works into two departments, each with its own oversight commission?		<b>No</b>
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate? Not at this point – we need to streamline government, not add more to our City government.		<b>No</b>
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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	Joe Biden
CA State Senate, District 11	Scott Wiener
District 1 Supervisor	Marjan Philhour
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
District 5 Supervisor	Vallie Brown
District 7 Supervisor	Emily Murase
District 11 Supervisor	Ahsha Safai

**2019**

**Candidate**

District 5 Supervisor	Vallie Brown
San Francisco District Attorney	George Gascon

**2018**

**Candidate**

Mayor	London Breed
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar & Jessica Ho
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton