

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: Mark Sanchez

Office: SF Board of Education

Campaign Address: 2762 ½ 22nd Street, SF 94110

Campaign Phone: 415-940-3169

Campaign Email: sanchez4schools@gmail.com

Campaign Website: marksanchezsf.org

Political Party: Democratic Party

Are you a Member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Club?: yes (or please let me know if my membership has lapsed)

If so, since when?: Off and on for the past two decades.

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

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.

With 27 years of experience as an educator (classroom teacher, principal, SF Board of Education commissioner), I know firsthand the challenging issues that face our students, parents, caregivers, and school staff.

I began teaching in 1993. While a teacher, I co-founded Teachers 4 Social Justice in 1999, and became the sole teacher on the San Francisco Board of Education in 2000. After serving for 8 years, I became a Principal at Horace Mann Middle School and then at Cleveland Elementary School for the next 8 years, only leaving it to become a classroom teacher and rejoin the Board of Education in 2016, again as the lone educator voice on the school board. Throughout my tenure as an educator, I have continuously worked to create quality schools for all of our children and amplify the voices of parents and caregivers, educators and all others working for our students.

I was one of the main Board of Education contributors to Supervisor Ammiano's 2004 ballot measure, Prop H (PEEF, the Public Education Enrichment Fund) that was resoundingly passed and renewed by the voters in 2014. PEEF provides an annual increase in funding for our schools of as much as \$120 million for increased student services, including librarians, nurses and athletic coaches, arts programs, universal Pre-K programs and other needed services for our city's students. As President of the Board of Education in 2008 I led the Board's efforts to pass Prop A (QTEA, Quality Teacher and Education Act) a parcel tax that has raised teacher salaries, helping to make San Francisco more affordable. I am helping to lead the fight to increase per pupil spending to reflect the national average by acquiring Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF), currently funneled to the City rather than to our public school students.

As the current President of the Board of Education, most of my time is dedicated to helping lead our district through the most devastating crisis it has ever encountered in the COVID-19 pandemic, which has forced the closure of our schools.

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

I am proud and honored to have the endorsement of many, including the following individuals and organizations who share my values regarding making public education equitable for each and every child:

ORGANIZATIONS: United Educators of San Francisco, Latino Democratic Club, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, SF Berniecrats, Coleman Action Fund

ELECTED AND FORMERLY ELECTED: Jane Kim, David Campos, Hillary Ronen, Rafael Mandelman, Gordon Mar, Dean Preston, Matt Haney, Shamann Walton, Norman Yee, Stevon Cook, Alison Collins, Gabriela Lopez, Jenny Lam, Faauuga Moliga, Tom Temprano, Shanell Williams, Bevan Dufty, Janice Li, Chesa Boudin, Eric Mar, Kim-Shree Maufus, Nancy Pelosi

COMMUNITY LEADERS:

Jeremiah Jeffries, Co-Founder, Teachers 4 Social Justice
Karen Zapata, Co-Founder, Teachers 4 Social Justice
Adam Boettcher, Educator
Susie Siegel, Educator
Liz Bamberg, Educator
Eva Morales
Sarah Brant, Educator
Matthew Reedy, Administrator
Luis Rodriguez, Principal
Adelina Arrumburo, Retired Administrator
Avni Jamdar, Director, Emerald Cities San Francisco
Bill Kappenhagen, Principal, Willie Brown MS*
Bobbi Lopez, Founder, La Voz Latina, Alameda County Central Committee
Diane Jones
Draven Lee, Educator
Evelyn Martinez, Educator
Isaac Alcantar, Assistant Principal
Jason Hannon, Administrator
Jean Robertson, Administrator
Jeff Wright
Jennifer Steiner, School Administrator
Juan Guzman, Teacher
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Superintendent*
Katie Pringle, Principal
Leah Ramsey, High School Teacher
Lisabeth Castro-Smyth, School Social Worker
Luis Barajona, Community Organizer
Marco Castellanos, Director of Financial Aid and Student Services
Matt Alexander, Faith In Action
Matt Hartford, Principal
Nora Houseman, Administrator
Ray Lapointe, Maitre Board of Directors
Roma Guy, Former SF Health Commissioner*
Sarah Twiest, Assistant Principal
Martin Ortega, Educator
Si Truong, Educator
Steven Emmi, Assistant Principal
Sunny Angulo, Legislative Aide, District 3
Troy Beckwith, Teacher
William Walker, Community Activist

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?

In the short to mid-term, the city needs to provide hotel rooms with staffing both from the city and from non-profit staff whose work is dedicated to serving the unhoused. As Board of

Education president I've been working with the city to open up school district properties for encampments while our sites are closed during the pandemic.

Since homelessness is a regional crisis, it needs to be solved in the long term with regional policies and coordination, inclusive of passing ballot measures which span counties to build more affordable housing and to provide services designed to help folks off the streets and into transitional/supportive housing/programming and ultimately into affordable housing.

This year I authored the Board of Education's policy that led to the opening of Everett Middle School for camping as part of a citywide midterm solution for homelessness. The policy allows for other school sites to be identified, particularly if our schools remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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?

In 2017, I started working with the city to open up Buena Vista-Horace Mann K-8 as the nation's first public school to host homeless families. As the need expands, I will push to open new sites to house our families with housing insecurity. As well, I authored the policy resolution that enabled the school district to work with the city to open for the first time ever one of our school sites to allow for camping and 24/7 homeless services, staffing, and sanitation stations.

I'm the Board liaison to the District/Union/City Educator Housing Working Group. We are building our first affordable educator housing (135) units, scheduled for opening in the Sunset District in 2023. We plan to build at least 1500 units over the next ten years at sites located throughout the city.

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

Increased funding for programs: As commissioner, I expanded the weighted student formula (*see below*) and moved funds to increase the number of social workers available in schools to help connect foster youth and their families to resources and community programs so they can be successful.

Increased language access: As a public school teacher, for years I have worked every day with ELL families to increase language access so that families can help their children at home and engage with schools. In my time on the Board we have worked to address this by increasing translation services, hiring more educators and staff who speak the languages reflected in our schools. Of course we have lots more work to do in this area as well as providing quality professional development that help teachers become more culturally competent and knowledgeable about the communities they serve. I have also supported having daily English language development time for students to ensure they are getting the opportunity to practice and use English with the support of their teacher.

Cut ties with policing in our schools: In addition to Undocumented, Unafraid, and United Students Resolution (*see below*), as President of the Board, I recently co-authored with Commissioners Collins and Lam the board's resolution that effectively severed the district's ties to the SFPD. The resolution gives direction to staff, centrally and at school sites, to move away from calling the police. Under no circumstances should ICE ever be called to schools. We will be putting in place very strict guidelines for staff about engaging with law enforcement only when it's unavoidable. It also puts the district on record regarding our commitment to alternative methods for de-escalation as well as a recommitment to our existing restorative practices policies. We are committed to keep all our students and

families safe and that means no police in schools and give schools the tools, resources and training necessary to address students and families in crisis. Involving law enforcement is not safe for most of our children.

We are committed to:

- Having better trained staff
- Adopting Community Schools Models at more schools to provide wrap around services for students and families
- Expanded wellness centers
- Assessment and screening of teachers and all staff who act in ways that are discriminatory toward students

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

I served for six years as a board member of LYRIC and helped the organization introduce its School Based Initiative at Horace Mann Middle School when I was principal. As school board commissioner, I authored the Board's policy to mandate elementary curriculum regarding the LGBTQ community and am deeply committed to ensuring that our youth are safe, supported; this includes representation in the curriculum, anti-bullying and support for students who need it to navigate their family and relationships during their development process and to help them be successful in school. As a queer person serving in an educational leadership position, I will continue to be a role model for youth in our school district.

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 an educator since 1992, I've promoted and taught in all my classes the notion that not only is climate change real, it presents us with an existential crisis. Through my position on the Board of Education, I have worked with a variety of individuals and groups, including the Center for Environmental Justice, to work on policies that particularly focused on intervening in the environmental injustices experienced by residents of the Southeast side of San Francisco. For example, in 2007, I worked with other Board members and Bayview leaders to confront the environmental injustices created by the Lennar Development of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard that produced a toxic environment for students.

<https://sfbayview.com/2007/10/sf-school-board-calls-on-city-to-halt-hunters-point-development/>

As we move forward, the Board of Education needs to assess how and what is being taught across the district to determine if there needs to be a Board policy mandating instruction.

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 1999 (and even until today) many educators spend down their own salary to provide school supplies for their students, and, despite years of advocacy, their demands were ignored. So I helped form two organizations, Teachers 4 Change and Teachers 4 Social Justice, to begin to address the many inequities in our schools and challenge the entrenched power structure of SFUSD in the late 1990's. Then Superintendent Rojas and his successor Arlene Ackerman were bent on continuing the levels of exploitation of

teachers. At that time, the starting teacher salary was about \$31,000. At Teachers 4 Change we made national headlines through our direct action which had teachers panhandling for school supplies. “Got-Pencils?” was our slogan. After experiencing years of frustration and being denied by an entrenched authority of the school board, Teachers 4 Change decided to fight for a seat at the table and run our own candidate. I volunteered and with their support and the support of other hard working educators, parents and students, we ran a truly grassroots campaign, raising \$6000 to win a city wide race and elect one of the only public school teachers to the SF Board of Education in recent history at that time. I have consistently worked to increase the school supply budget at all schools, and not only raised but doubled the starting salaries of all SFUSD educators to over \$63,000. Through our advocacy we have also worked to bring qualified parents, teachers and community based educator candidates to the Board of Education, including: Eric Mar, Sarah Lipson, Jane Kim, Kimshree Maufas, Sandra Fewer & Jenny Lam, Alison Collins & Gabriela Lopez.

Only School Board Candidates

1. Do you support charter schools in San Francisco? Why or why not?

I support some charter schools: Life Learning Academy, Five Keys, for example, because they truly address needs of some students that our District isn't prepared for. I don't support the expansion of charter schools in SFUSD. I do not support privatization of public schools and any public resources and institutions. I believe we should hold any that do exist accountable to high standards. Prior to her election to the SF Board of Education in 2018, Alison Collins worked with me, Coleman Advocates and others to author the resolution “In Support of Increased Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability for Charter Schools in Relation to Fiscal, Educational, and Socio-Emotional Impacts on SFUSD Students.” The resolution mandated the creation of a charter school oversight committee that is now up and running. I also support AB 1505 and support even stricter measures to limit Charter's ability to get authorization against the wishes of the local school district.

2. Do you support Common Core education standards?

In general, I do support the Common Core. Conceptually, it can provide for higher college preparedness and higher thinking skills. It allows for performance across states to be measured more accurately. As a principal during the roll out of CC, I found that it helped structure teacher collaboration and interdependency. However, with California per pupil funding languishing near the bottom in the nation, CC has been costly and has led to more reliance on more standardized testing, as well as benchmark assessments, which most classroom educators find onerous and of little use.

3. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?

As school board commissioner, I authored the Board's policy to mandate elementary curriculum regarding the LGBTQ community and am deeply committed to ensuring that our youth are safe, supported; this includes representation in the curriculum, anti-bullying and support for students who need it to navigate their family and relationships during their development process and to help them be successful in school. As a queer person serving in an educational leadership position, I will continue to be a role model for youth in our school district.

4. How will you address the needs of homeless students?

We have a responsibility to our underhoused family to do all we can to address their needs and get them the necessary support. Follow up is essential and having someone there to hold that family's hand to navigate the various systems and institutions to get immediate support for their family. To this end as a member of the board of education I authored and supported the creation of our Stay Over Program at Buena Vista Horace Mann, that was authorized by myself and fellow Board of Education members by joint agreement with the city to serve as a shelter for families, until we can get those families housed. The district is also in the midst of overhauling the weighted student funding formula program--and it's long overdue. The resolution that Commissioner Moliga and I authored moves more funding allocated to our homeless students, students residing in public housing, and students under the care of parents/guardians who are incarcerated. This additional funding will go a long way to addressing the needs of these families and I am committed to seeing that it does. Additionally, I voted for and passed the policy resolution "Our Healing in Our Hands" which increases funding to support culturally responsive health curriculum with preventative wellness services for students, including peer-led wellness programs; meeting the mental health needs of our students will directly benefit our housing insecure and unhoused students.

5. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families?

Our undocumented students deserve to attend school without fear. In 2017, I worked with our student delegate of the Board of Education at the time, Maria Zaragoza, to pass the Undocumented, Unafraid, and United Students Resolution, which significantly strengthened the school district's protections and practical support for our undocumented students including:

- Training counselors and teachers on working with immigrant and undocumented students and their families;
- Provide information and assistance to counselors and teachers to answer undocumented student questions regarding their rights to college access, financial assistance for college, working and career, and other issues that may arise;
- Gather and provide information regarding earning opportunities, internships and trainings that do not require a social security number;
- Provide contacts for resources for legal, medical, housing or other assistance

6. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support African American students?

We have expanded the weighted student formula to increase funding for different indicators that will mostly benefit African American students essentially by proxy, utilizing extreme poverty (*like residing in public housing, foster youth, students whose parents are incarcerated*). Additionally, we have also committed to defunding the police and are advocating for those resources to be directed to serve our schools and African American students in particular. With those resources we will work to improve the outcomes for students, meaning more opportunity to access the arts that are of interest and most relevant to Black students, college tours and career/internship opportunities for students. We have to do more for our African American students. I also support the expansion of Ethnic Studies for PreK to 12th Grade, including African American studies. I also voted and supported Commissioner Alison Collins and Jenny Lam's Equity Studies resolution to examine racism and dehumanizing content across curricular areas and in the books students read. We will do all we can to better serve our Black students and reduce the opportunity gap, from making sure Black history is celebrated in every school across the district to supporting the

organization of BSU's (black student unions) and AAPAC's (African American Parent Advisory Councils) in the schools that serve African American students.

I feel it's critically important to also support Black leadership in the district, which is why I helped hire Superintendent Matthews and I worked to elect Commissioners Cook and Collins and have always supported the African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative. Who leads in schools, who our educators are and who they represent means so much for all our students. Supporting and demanding principals work in closer partnership with Black families and ensure they have a seat at the table in school based decision making and that those voices are more than heard, but carried out and implemented. We have to make sure our Black students and families feel valued and supported throughout their journey in schools. We have to make sure they graduate college ready and have successfully applied to college.

7. Do you support alternatives to a student's suspension in instances of disruption or *willful defiance*?

As a teacher, principal and Board of Education Commissioner, I have always supported alternatives to suspension. As the incoming principal at Horace Mann Middle School in 2009, I was confronted with the reality that the number of suspensions the previous school year was the highest in SFUSD, with more than 300 (in a school with an enrollment of 325). Many of the suspensions were for willful defiance. In my first year as principal, we lowered the number to fewer than 70 (still too many). As principal at Cleveland Elementary School from 2011-2016, I supported the professional development goals for the site's staff to incorporate restorative practices in all classrooms and schoolwide, effectively drastically lowering the student referral rate to the office for conduct.

8. Do you support the removal of the *Life of Washington* mural at George Washington High School? Why or why not? If yes, what form of removal do you support?

It was my motion to vote to paint the mural down--it achieved unanimous Board support. And I voted again to paint the mural down when it was brought back to the Board for another vote. Main reason: racist "art" has no place in a public school. Check out this podcast I participated in regarding the effort to paint down the racist Life of Washington Murals at George Washington High School in SF :

<https://t4sj.org/writers-bloc/t4sj-paint-it-down-video-podcast/>

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	
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Have you ever sought elected office before?	X	
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Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Jeremiah Jeffries	X	
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Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	
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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 nonmonogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare.)	X	
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Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	X	
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Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	X	
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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 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

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	Bernie Sanders
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CA State Senate, District 11	Jackie Fielder
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District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
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District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
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District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
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District 7 Supervisor	Myrna Melgar
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District 11 Supervisor	None
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2019

Candidate

District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
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San Francisco District Attorney	Chesa Boudin
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2018

Candidate

Mayor	Jane Kim
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District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
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District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
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District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
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District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton
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