

# The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for November 2020

*Dear Candidates and Ballot Measure Representatives,*

*Congratulations on declaring your candidacy for office or your preferred ballot measure position. 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. 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 or your ballot position is successful.*

*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.*

*(Representatives of ballot measure positions only need to answer questions pertaining to ballot measures.)*

*Candidates, please email your answers to Edward Wright, our Vice President of Political Affairs, at [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. 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. Stay tuned for more details on this later in the month.*

*Representatives of ballot measure positions will be interviewed during our regularly-scheduled July PAC Meeting on Tuesday, July 14th from 7-9pm, so please return your questionnaires prior to that date. Stay tuned for more details.*

***Your questionnaire responses and interview answers will weigh heavily in our overall endorsement process, so please take both seriously. Please contact us at [pac@milkclub.org](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) to schedule an appointment once your questionnaire is completed.***

*Good Luck!*

*The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

## Required Information

***Full Name: Myrna Melgar***

***Office: Supervisor, District 7***

***Campaign Address: 312 Clay Street, Ste 300***

***Campaign Phone: (415) 627-8399***

***Campaign Email: melgar4d7@gmail.com***

***Campaign Website: myrnamelgar.com***

***Political Party: Democrat***

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

***If so, since when?: off and on since 2015***

***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 am an urban planner with expertise in affordable housing and community economic development. I have dedicated my professional career to working on issues of affordable housing, small business development, tenants' rights and labor rights. I attended planning school on a scholarship from the AFL CIO, which was my first. I immigrated to San Francisco as a child from El Salvador, during the civil war. My family was on both sides of the conflict. My mother joined the FMLN and went underground with the revolutionary forces when I was 5 years old. She is a social worker, and organized other social workers in the women's jails with the sindicato de trabajadoras sociales. My life experience has given me a unique ability to negotiate through conflict and make progress on the things I believe in, and to understand that repression and income inequality is not a sustainable system and we need to work to bring it down.

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

Latino Democratic Club. Only one Latina has ever been elected in SF- Susan Leal, in 1994, elected City wide. After district elections were implemented, two Latinas were appointed, Alicia Becerril and Christina Olague, and both lost their elections. Representation is important to me and I appreciate the support of LDC.

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

I worked at: St Peter's Housing Committee (now Causa Justa/Just cause) organizing tenants, at MEDA, working on affordable housing and asset building for immigrants, at the Mayor's Office of Housing, managing housing programs to produce housing for low income San Franciscans.

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

For the past 6 years I have worked at the Jamestown Community Center, providing opportunities and programs for low income at risk Latino and African American youth, including leadership development and organizing, youth workforce, afterschool programming and educational opportunities. Our arts program Loco Bloco develops the leadership of youth of color through art. In response to the murder of Alex Nieto by the SFPD, we produced a theater piece with Paul Flores called "On the Hill", to give youth a voice and develop their analysis to fight against the brutality and violence of police against youth of color.

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

As a mother of an LGBTQ child, a supervisor to LGBTQ staff, and mentor to young people who were questioning and finding themselves against great societal pressures I have supported emotionally and professionally, to provide opportunities and also make room for folks to succeed. I have always worked and advocated for equality, and fought against efforts to oppress, like Prop H.

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

Climate change, our jobs/housing imbalance, our inadequate transportation infrastructure. Stabilizing our public transportation budget and adequately funding its operations is a priority for me. I would reduce the carbon footprint of personal cars and advocate for "slow streets" being permanent. I would advocate for halt all US Navy Treasure Island transfers of lands tested by Tetra Tech, to private developers.

I also support

- 1) Phasing out all diesel buses (e.g., Muni, tour, shuttles)
- 2) Public Power
- 3) SF control over PG&E distribution in SF
- 4) Elimination of parking minimums in new housing and commercial developments

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?

I have spent decades hiring, mentoring, and providing professional development opportunities to people of color, women and young people. As a manager with the City from 2004 to 2011 I hired women and people of color almost exclusively, while also including professional development and advancement opportunities for staff. During my work with nonprofits: at the Mission Economic Development Agency, I led the creation of the agency's workforce program, that provided entry into the workforce for Latinos, women and youth. At Jamestown Community Center, I led the expansion of our youth workforce programs, quadrupling the capacity of the agency to provide mentorship and work opportunities for high risk Latino and African American youth. As an alum of Emerge, CA, I have stayed active in the network recruiting women to run for office, mentoring and supporting young women to get the support and training they need to run for office and win. As one specific example: I was working as an organizer for the AFL CIO in Stamford CT, which was deeply racially segregated (Black/white). We decided to support Chiquita Stephenson, a young Black mother who was running for the school board, which was all white. I was her campaign manager, and organized the folks in the community to support her against a much better funded white conservative man. There was so much racism and misogyny thrown against Chiquita during that campaign. We prevailed and she ended up serving on that School Board for 8 years, and her voice and experience led to important changes.

## Only Congressional Candidates

1. Please explain why you are running for Congress.
2. Do you support Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's *Green New Deal*? Why or why not?
3. Do you support Medicare For All? If so, how would you implement it?
4. Do you support reducing military spending, and diverting these funds towards domestic programs? If so, how would you help implement this?
5. Do you support reducing America's military presence in other countries?
6. What would you do to improve America's current immigration policy?
7. What steps will you take to ensure reproductive freedom?
8. Do you support raising the Federal Minimum wage? If so, to what amount?
9. Is your campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources.
10. What are your main strategies for meeting potential voters during this campaign?

## Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

1). Affordable housing: District 7 is 2/3 homeowner occupied. I will work on creating financing options and process improvements to support residents in adapting their homes to age in place while creating new rent controlled units. I will also work with community stakeholders, our state representatives and city departments to support the production of co-op housing, a model that is a more affordable homeownership option that we have not adequately invested in. Additionally, I will work to support tenants in rent controlled housing, making supports available to prevent evictions.

2). Transportation: Work on system reliability and safety through insuring proper staffing. Support long term investment and capital planning of MUNI. Ensure that the CTA includes the Westside in the long term planning, particularly along transit corridors and where development is expected like the Balboa station, the M stop in front of SFSU and Stonestown.

3). Small business development: Extend our efforts to provide more flexible permitting, support Supervisor Gordon Mar's legislation to cancel permitting fees during the pandemic, provide additional funding for technical assistance to small businesses, and work with OEWD and nonprofit CDFIs to extend more financing options for small businesses.

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

Yes. Because our communities of color and communities of transgendered of color are at risk. I also support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings and anticipate that our campaign will not accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations. I furthermore support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force.

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

First and foremost there are items that the San Francisco Budget should not cut out of the budget. We must preserve and expanding City services and operations in the areas of human services, services to families, senior, and transportation. San Francisco needs to support new revenue measures to fund the budget. We must implement school parcel taxes, gross receipt taxes and property transfer tax. San Francisco should also increase taxes on big businesses that aren't paying their fair share.

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?

For individuals, the Board of Supervisors should advocate for public schools to not open up in August amidst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also for individuals, the Board of Supervisors need to continue funding and advocating for free COVID-19 testing for SF residents throughout the pandemic. We must continue to provide food and shelter assistance to our most vulnerable residents: the unemployed, the unhoused, the elderly and youth.

For businesses, the Board of Supervisors should reduce fees and regulations that complicate and impede on the ability to do business. The Board of Supervisors should also support financing to small businesses, particularly to businesses owned by woman and people of color. These businesses need financial support to withstand these tough conditions and succeed on the other side.

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

Absolutely.

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

Please see my response to Q1 about my legislative priorities.

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

I support securing a safe parking site with low entry barrier and wrap around support services. The latest homeless count in D7 found 168 individuals in the spring of 2020 experiencing homelessness and the great majority living in RVs and cars. I will work to secure a safe parking site where there are people who live in their cars or RVs and need safe and clean places for hygiene can also get hooked up to comprehensive services to get permanent housing and any programs they need.

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

We always need to work together and right now there is a division. We should work in consortium with each other and should not be compromised by corruption.

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

Current President of the Board of Supervisors Norman Yee, Gordon Mar, Sandy Lee Fewer, Shamann Walton and Aaron Peskin.

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

I would allocate those funds in preserving and expanding services to D7 families, children, seniors, and transportation. We need to provide enrichment and educational programs to low-income families, especially funding mental health resources for individuals. We desperately need services for seniors, especially food security and independent living.

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

The Department of Building Inspection and the Department of Public Works because there has been ongoing investigations of corruption for years.

The SF Ethics Commissions because of the need for transparency. However, I believe we can use the resources we already in place to audit them, rather than create a new bureaucracy.

The San Francisco Police Department is in need of an audit on data of arrests and use of force data. There needs to be further transparency and accountability from the San Francisco Police Department and we need to ensure our San Francisco residents are safe.

Lastly, I believe ALL departments need an audit by the Office of Racial Equity to assess the promotion, hiring, advancement and professional development opportunities for people of color and women. The leadership of our City does not reflect our diversity and it is because of entrenched and systemic impediments in advancement.

## Only School Board Candidates

1. Do you support charter schools in San Francisco? Why or why not?
2. Do you support Common Core education standards?
3. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?
4. How will you address the needs of homeless students?
5. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families?
6. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support African American students?
7. Do you support alternatives to a student's suspension in instances of disruption or *willful defiance*?
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?

## **Only City College Board Candidates**

1. What specific experience do you have with the City College of San Francisco?
1. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?
2. How would you address the needs of homeless students?
3. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families?
4. Did you support or oppose the hiring of former Chancellor Mark Rocha? How would you describe his tenure as chancellor?
5. Do you support the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund to dedicate permanent funding for non-credit classes at City College?

## **Only BART Board Candidates**

1. What are your plans to keep BART safe from viral spread during this COVID-19 crisis?
2. What are your plans to keep BART financially solvent during this COVID-19 crisis?
3. Will you vote or have you voted for fare increases? Should BART parking fees be increased across the East Bay and/or elsewhere?
4. Should BART police be defunded, disarmed, or banned entirely? Why or why not?
5. Do you support a regional sales tax to fund transit? Why or why not?

## **Only Ballot Measures**

1. Please include any and all contact information for your ballot measure position.
2. Briefly explain your position on this ballot initiative and why it should pass or fail this election cycle.
3. What would be the fiscal impact of this ballot measure if it passes?
4. Who crafted this ballot measure, and how was it placed on the ballot?
5. Who are your ballot measure position's principal consultants, and what are your main funding sources?
6. Who are some of your ballot measure position's individual and organizational supporters?
7. Why do you believe the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Club should support your ballot measure's position?

## **PART 2:**

### **Yes or No Questions**

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

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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? _____BMWL and campaign manager Adlah Chisti_____	x	
Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	x	
<b>LGBTQ ISSUES &amp; SEXUAL LIBERATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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.)	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	
<b>TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do you support immediate rent cancellation and mortgage forbearance for all tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19?	x	
Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	x	
Do you support the split-roll repeal of Proposition 13?	x	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	x	

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 Clean Power 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.)*

**I have a system for endorsements and this is it:**

**I will support the most progressive candidate always, except if that candidate is a cis hetero white man, in which case I will instead support in this order, the most progressive:**

- Black man**
- Black woman**
- Person of Color**
- Gay person**
- Woman**

**If a cis hetero white progressive man is running against any of the above or a white cis hetero woman, I will make no endorsement.**

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>2020</b>
Democratic Presidential Primary	Elizabeth Warren
CA State Senate, District 11	No Endorsement
District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
District 5 Supervisor	No Endorsement
District 7 Supervisor	Myrna Melgar
District 11 Supervisor	Undecided

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>2019</b>
District 5 Supervisor	No Endorsement
San Francisco District Attorney	Suzy Loftus and Chesa Boudin (1 and 2)

**Candidate****2018**

Mayor	Jane Kim and London Breed (1 and 2)
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	No Endorsement
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton