

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: *Alida Fisher*

Office: *Board of Education*

Campaign Address: *3 Summit Street, San Francisco CA 94112*

Campaign Phone: *415-279-3382*

Campaign Email: alidafisher@gmail.com, victoriam@berkeley.edu

Campaign Website: <https://www.alidafisher.com/>

Political Party: *Democrat*

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

If so, since when?: *2018*

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.

In my 14 years as an SFUSD parent, I have been an active member in school site and district level governance. I've participated in PTAs, SSCs, PTA boards, the district-level African American Parent Advisory Committee as well as the Charter Oversight Committee. I've been Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC). I am a member of the LCAP Task Force and participate in many working groups and committees. I'm a special education advocate by profession. Much of my work focuses on the intersectionality between race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, ability level, and bias.

I work with families and staff to ensure that the needs of our students are considered and included when decisions are made. I do more than comment in committees and at board meetings; I work to ensure that we consider and support our most vulnerable students and families in every decision, resolution, and guideline.

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

I'm very proud to be endorsed by State Senate candidate Jackie Fielder, Bernal Heights Democratic Club, SF Tenants Union, and SF Berniecrats. All are dedicated and committed to bettering the lives of SF residents by working alongside community leaders on the platform of economic equity and social justice for all. I am in the process of seeking additional endorsements. The fact that many fellow public school parents are encouraging me to run and supporting my campaign is important to me. Most importantly, I have the support of my husband and four children.

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?

To address immediate housing concerns that have been exasperated by the pandemic, I believe social housing needs to be expedited. In my capacity as commissioner, I will advocate for Teacher-specific housing like the FSK development project. I would support the work that is being done with development partners, and believe that educator housing should be designated for educators, paras, and other SFUSD certificated staff. In the long term, I think we need to reevaluate our budget priorities as a city. One action could be to do away with the twitter tax break, which has compounded the gap in income inequality in San Francisco. The legislation has done its job in stimulating our economy. The funds generated by dissolving the tax break could be earmarked for a housing development program for people experiencing homelessness and those who are marginally housed.

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?

I am a special education advocate with CASE, the Community Alliance for Special Education. We are a San Francisco nonprofit that supports families of students receiving special education services advocate for their children, regardless of income level. Our rates are based on a sliding scale, and the majority of our clients do not pay for our services. The goal of our work is to ensure that students have access to appropriate supports and services, regardless of family income. While this work doesn't directly address city-wide issues of economic inequality and housing unaffordability, it does make a difference to the individual families we support.

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

As a parent of African American children, all of whom have special needs or learning differences, I am particularly passionate about these issues. In order to break the school to prison pipeline, we need to address reading instruction. The correlation between the ability to read and success is irrefutable. A student not reading at grade level by the end of third grade is four times less likely to graduate high school. For students from low income families, that number jumps to six times less likely to graduate. A study of inmates at the Brownsville, TX state penitentiary showed that 80% of new inmates were functionally illiterate, and 48% of those had hallmark signs of dyslexia. I will continue to work with SFUSD to implement Tier 2 and 3 reading interventions in every school so that all students are proficient readers by third grade.

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

I've been vocal about a need for a LGBTQ district advisory committee for families to advocate on their children's behalf. Without their voice, we are pushing policies and practices that will inevitably miss the mark when it comes to our LGBTQ+ students. We need to work in partnership with LGBTQ+ parent advocates and not speak on their behalf.

Representation matters, and as School Board Commissioner I will work to ensure students have access to books about historical and current events as well as role models that are relatable and engaging to them. Curriculum must represent the heritage and/or identity of our students in a positive and empowering manner, which is why I joined the Equity Studies Task Force. We need to cultivate a learning environment that is open to all identities by having educators adopt gender neutral language when appropriate. We need strong protections against bullying.

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

We need strong implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It seems that environmental education in SFUSD is currently treated as an enrichment. For schools that can afford to implement partnerships with local community partners or sponsor

overnight field trips, they are offered robust and memorable opportunities for experiential learning. However, many cannot. This makes for very inequitable environmental education between our schools.

NGSS is a good first step towards parity in environmental education. I am excited to see environmental education formalized into curriculum standards and frameworks! By including environmental education into our math, science, and history curriculum, we are offering students the opportunity to learn from real world examples. Making curriculum relatable to students is a very powerful way to engage them and create real, sustainable change in our world.

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?

As an advocate for children with special needs, I often run into the mentality of “encroachment.” Many families fear that supporting children with disabilities will take resources away from their child(ren)’s education. I have found the opposite to be true. Education isn’t a zero sum prospect. As John F. Kennedy is quoted as saying, “a rising tide lifts all boats.” Training an educator to differentiate instruction helps that teacher support all students. Providing an educator with positive behavior intervention strategies helps that teacher manage his or her entire classroom, not just the students identified with challenges. This allows more time to be spent on instruction for all students. Research shows that diversity helps us become more thoughtful and innovative. It helps us become better problem solvers. And for those of us raising kids in San Francisco, it helps prepare our kids for the reality of our city.

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.
2. Should SFPD be reformed, transformed, reimagined, defunded, or abolished? And why?
3. How exactly will San Francisco balance its budget during this current economic crisis?
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?
5. Do you support expanding transit-only lanes in your district?
6. What strategies will you use to preserve and expand affordable housing in your district?
7. Do you support a navigation center in your district?
8. How would you characterize the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government in San Francisco?
9. Who do you currently see as your closest allies on the Board of Supervisors?
10. If district add-back funds are available in the future, where and how would you allocate them in your district?
11. Which of San Francisco's governmental bureaucracies is in most need of an audit and why?

Only School Board Candidates

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

I agree with the NAACP's 2016 resolution that calls for a moratorium on charter school expansions as well as additional oversight for existing charters. I would prefer charter school funders to work collaboratively with SFUSD to improve outcomes at our existing schools rather than look to open new schools. Charter schools provide a layer of budgetary stress for many districts, including many here in the Bay Area. The Public Interest released a report in May titled, "The Cost of Charter Schools for Public School Districts," which found in the 2016-2017 school year, charter schools cost Oakland Unified School District \$57.3 million. This reduction coupled with Prop 39, has strained many school districts to the brink of insolvency. We can't allow that to happen here in San Francisco, which is exactly why I joined the Charter School Oversight Committee- to ensure accountability and transparency in SF Charter Schools.

2. Do you support Common Core education standards?

I support the idea behind Common Core education standards. I appreciate the shift away from rote memorization and rigidity to problem solving, growth mindset, meaningful discourse, and engagement with peers. Having national standards helps districts prepare graduates with the skills they need to be successful in our 21st century society. It's important to ensure that our students are ready for college and the workforce. However, I am worried about the amount of testing to which we subject our children; I am not a fan of the annual SBAC assessment that students take each spring as it takes valuable resources away from the teaching environment.

Also, common core instruction has highlighted the need for more effective reading instruction and earlier reading interventions. Texts are more complex, and even math exercises are predominantly word problems. Therefore children not reading at grade level find difficulty in more subjects.

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

We adults need to stand up for students. Bullying isn't okay, and needs to be addressed head-on. Ignoring bullying, or being a bystander, further marginalizes the student who is being bullied. All schools should have clear expectations, including School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, that clearly state bullying will not be tolerated.

Representation matters. I am excited that SFUSD hires and supports diverse staff. It's important for students to have role models and allies at school. I am grateful for programs such as LYRIC's School-Based Initiative, and particularly the Middle School Initiative. Creating safe spaces of allyship for all students is critically important.

Also, there isn't a district advisory committee of LGBTQ families to advocate on their behalf. The absence of the LGBTQ+ family perspective definitely needs to be addressed. After all, how can we expect to enact effective, inclusive policy without partnering with community representatives?

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

There are currently 1,442 SFUSD students experiencing homelessness, and thousands more are marginally housed. The stress of housing insecurity impacts learning outcomes for our students. By increasing our focus on wraparound supports, we can help our students focus on academic success.

We need more collaborative programs like the Buena Vista Horace Mann sleepover program that allows families experiencing homelessness to sleep in the school's second gymnasium. Short term, I believe each school should have at least one full-time social worker to help families navigate various city departments and access services. Long term, we need to invest in more mental health supports in our schools.

Students experiencing homelessness have legal protections, such as the McKinney-Vento Act. Each and every school should have multiple personnel trained in the intricacies of the act, and how to use the law to support and protect our most marginalized students and families.

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

By supporting and advocating for policies that protect undocumented students and their families such as our Sanctuary City ordinance and programs such as RISE SF. RISE SF offers professional development to schools to support newcomer students, as well as legal referrals and education surrounding sanctuary policies. As Commissioner, I will work to ensure wraparound supports are available at all schools to support undocumented students as well as their families. Our newcomer students have experienced significant trauma in their journey to San Francisco, and we must provide them the resources to cope with their experiences while learning to thrive here.

I believe that every school site administrator should be familiar with the Undocumented, Unafraid, and United Students Resolution that was passed by the board in May 2017. The resolution created an Immigrant and Refugee Liaison position at each middle and high school. I will work to ensure all positions are filled.

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

We have to address the systemic and institutional barriers in public education. As commissioner, I will begin by implementing an equitable budget. Our budget is a value

statement; for too long, Black and brown students have been disenfranchised and deprioritized. SFUSD must allocate resources towards robust implementation of policies such as Restorative Practices (RP). All personnel need to be trained in cultural humility. Educators must understand the impact of trauma on our students. The resources required to fully implement these large-scale initiatives are significant, but necessary to improve outcomes for our most underserved students. Partnering with the City and County to re-allocate SFPD resources towards preventative programs such as RP, implicit bias training, de-escalation training, UDL training, mental health supports, and academic reading interventions would lead to improved outcomes for our Black students. We also need to reinstate full funding to the African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative (AAALI).

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

Absolutely; much of my work addresses the intersectionality of race and special education services. The use of "willful defiance" is race coded language most often directed to African American students. If we are truly to meet the needs of all of our students, that has to begin with educating school personnel to be anti-racist.

Currently, SFUSD has been sanctioned by the California Department of Education for over-identification of African American males into special education under the eligibility of "emotionally disturbed" and high rates of suspensions for African American students. It is crucial that our educators have the cultural competency to avoid the damaging, longstanding practice of subscribing to and perpetuating stereotypes that alienate students and families of color.

Behavior is a form of communication. We need to move away from reactionary punishments and labels towards proactive supports that engage students in a manner that helps them succeed.

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?

Yes, paint it down. I was there as a parent advocate, and I was one of those voices standing in solidarity with the Washington students who were calling for the removal of the mural. I don't believe it's fair to expect Black and Native American students, their families, or visitors to the school to feel comfortable walking by a depiction of historical violence against their ancestors. The mural highlights historic oppression. We should be celebrating the achievements of Black and Native American cultures instead of reinforcing negative stereotypes. All students have the right to feel safe, supported, and respected at their school. I supported and continue to support painting over the mural.

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 think 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.)*

GENERAL

YES NO

Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Have you ever sought elected office before?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? ___Victoria Mariolle my campaign manager can be contacted at victoriam@berkeley.edu or (510) 593-0936 _____	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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.)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Have you ever evicted a tenant?	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES
YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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?		No
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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?		No
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Do you support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force?	Yes	
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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?	Yes	
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Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		No
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Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans?	Yes	
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Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	Yes	
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Do you support extending voting rights in local elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	Yes	
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Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		No
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Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	Yes	
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Do support repealing California's Proposition 209?	Yes	
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Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		No
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Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		No
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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?	Yes	
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Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	Yes	
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Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide?	Yes	
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Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		No
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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?	Yes	
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Do you support expanding SF's public financing program to all City and County elected offices?	Yes	
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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?	Yes	
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate?	Yes	
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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	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	Myrna Melgar/Vilaska Nguyen
District 11 Supervisor	John Avalos/Ahsha Safai

2019

Candidate

District 5 Supervisor	No endorsement
San Francisco District Attorney	Chesa Boudin/Suzy Loftus

2018

Candidate

Mayor	London Breed
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
District 8 Supervisor	No endorsement

District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton
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