

**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: Marjan Philhour

Office: Supervisor, District 1

Campaign Address: 5654 Geary Blvd., #210458

Campaign Phone: (415) 889-2735

Campaign Email: info@votemarjan.com

Campaign Website: votemarjan.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.

My background in public service began with my first political mentor, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever to serve in the US Congress. He impressed upon me this core principle: "The first responsibility of a public servant is to their constituents." In Washington, D.C., I worked with two Congresswomen, Lynn Rivers (D-Michigan) and Nita Lowey (D-New York), and with the Committee on Education and the Workforce, fighting to preserve protections for organized labor, women, educators, and the environment. I served as Senior Advisor to the California Governor's Chief of Staff and, upon returning to San Francisco, launched a career fighting to ensure a place at the table for women of color through my professional services firm which supported community engagement and campaigns. Until recently, I served as Senior Advisor to Mayor London Breed.

I was born in the Richmond and now my husband Byron and I are raising our three children here. We live in a multi-generational household. I am active at my kids' school as well as in the community. I co-founded the Balboa Village Merchants Association and started the first ever Halloween festival, the BalBOOa Fright Fest, in the Outer Richmond. I have served on the Board of the Richmond Neighborhood Center and two years ago opened a pottery studio and gift shop with my sister in our neighborhood. In this pandemic, I started the Richmond District Merchants' Cooperative with other local business owners. Our campaign has been focused on helping neighbors during this trying time and our volunteer efforts have centered around offering help with groceries and prescriptions.

I am running because I believe the Richmond needs a Supervisor who will take a hands on approach to leadership, and include the voices of all neighbors in the process. Our campaign just launched "We are the Richmond: A Neighborhood Summit" as a way to keep neighbors involved in the advocacy process. You can learn more at www.votemarjan.com/neighborhoodsummit

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

They are meaningful to me because I believe they show my track record of working with people with different points of view: State Treasurer Fiona Ma, BOE Member Malia Cohen, Senator Scott Wiener, Asm. David Chiu, Mayor London Breed, Assessor Carmen Chu, Sheriff Paul Miyamoto, School Board Members Faauuga Moliga and Jenny Lam, Former Supervisor Katy Tang, Laborers Local 261, Plumbers Local 38, Operating Engineers Local 3, and Building and Construction Trades Union. Full list can be found at votemarjan.com/endorsements

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 must create more shelter beds, as well as more transitional housing and permanent affordable housing. We must also invest in mental health services and support for substance users.

Please refer to my submitted policy briefing for my position on addressing homelessness. You can also read my thoughts on this at <https://www.votemarjan.com/long-form-pieces/homelessness-covid19>

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?

Please refer to my submitted policy briefing for my plans on addressing economic inequality and building affordable housing.

You can also read my thoughts on affordable housing at <https://www.votemarjan.com/long-form-pieces/affordable-housing>

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

*Please refer to my submitted policy document. You can also read my thoughts on these issues at <https://www.votemarjan.com/long-form-pieces/public-safety>. I believe the city workforce should reflect the diversity of our city; we cannot serve our residents if we're excluding them from job opportunities. I approach these issues as a progressive Democrat with a proven track record of elevating the voices of BIPOC. There are a number of things we should be doing on this front. The Office of Racial Equity should be empowered to audit and review city hiring across all departments, and have the ability to sign off on corrective actions. No discussion of hiring would be complete without talking about investments in health & education. In order to ensure youth are prepared for the job market, we need direct investments in health & education so that they have the opportunity to pursue *any* career. Let's expand job training at City College - my husband taught there and understands the incredible talent pool. Let's recruit for internships at SFUSD and create an apprenticeship program there. And let's make the deliberate decision to work with our community non profits who work with our BIPOC residents every day to create a professional pipeline that supports BIPOC not just through training and interviews but that integrates professional development opportunities which will support not just hiring but also equitable promotion and retention.*

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

Please refer to my submitted policy briefing for my thoughts on the new LGBTQ transitional-age youth Navigation Center and LGBTQ-specific issues around policing. I have strongly supported the (still-delayed) appointment of trans Richmond resident Jane Natoli to the SFMTA Board.

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

Please refer to my submitted policy briefing. Per widely-recognized studies, the most important thing San Franciscans can do for the climate is to support infill housing and related transit.

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?

When I ran my public affairs and consulting firm, many times I would work with candidates who weren't considered frontrunners. There were times when the established power structure did not appreciate that I was working for a candidate who was not the establishment's candidate (all candidates were democrats in these races). In those cases I received threats that my business would be in danger if I did not drop those candidates. I stood by my clients (who ultimately won) and I think that in and of itself established positive change.

Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

Housing, homelessness and emerging from COVID with lives and the economy as intact as possible.

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

Public Safety and Police Reform are both core functions of local government. We can't play one off the other - I believe that we need to implement the Obama DOJ's 21st Century Police reform recommendations and streamline duties performed by officers (which will include bringing in social workers and unarmed officers in different scenarios.)

Please see my thoughts on these issues at

<https://www.votemarjan.com/long-form-pieces/public-safety>

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

All departments will need to cut their budgets across the board to address the current economic crisis. In addition, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors Gross receipts ballot measure, if passed this November, will help bridge the budget shortfall. I support this measure.

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 believe the City is doing all it can to address keeping individuals and businesses afloat during this crisis. With limited resources we have yet to see if this will be enough. Grants and loans for businesses are critical, but so is relaxing permitting rules and fees so that businesses have a chance at staying in businesses. We must continue to support individuals so that they can stay in their homes and also continue to provide unemployment benefits.

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

Yes there are areas where this is needed, however during this pandemic we need to re-examine what is needed at this time given the reduction of automobiles and people out in public.

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

As a candidate for Supervisor in San Francisco's Richmond District, I am committed to preserving and strengthening rent control, fighting unfair evictions, transitioning those without homes into permanent and supportive housing, and addressing the extraordinarily high rents that push families and working people out of San Francisco. We need to build more homes without displacing anyone. We need to see more access to affordable housing available to a broad spectrum of incomes. The COVID-19 pandemic has made reliable access to safe housing more important than ever.

Some San Francisco politicians say they're "for 100% affordable housing" but "opposed to market-rate housing." It's a winning line. But it doesn't make sense.

You can't be for one and against the other, if you want meaningful amounts of affordable housing to actually be built. In fact, I would go so far as to say that supporting "only 100% affordable housing" is

tantamount to opposing [inclusionary housing](#), which in San Francisco acts as the primary funding mechanism for 100% affordable housing.

Here's how you can actually support 100% affordable housing.

"100% affordable housing" means a housing development consisting entirely of subsidized homes. The subsidy is paid for with a separate pot of money, which might be public or private.

Where does that other pot of money come from? It doesn't come from the Federal Government in the era of Trump tax cuts. It doesn't come from the State of California in the era of austerity budgets. And as we head into what appears to be a historic recession — perhaps even an economic depression — the budget of the City and County of San Francisco is going to be squeezed more than ever. The public pots are empty. This is why the Richmond District hasn't built measurable amounts of affordable housing for years.

The secret is that the pot of money for 100% affordable housing largely relies on the creation of private, market-rate housing. Sometimes the terms "market-rate" and "luxury housing" are used indistinguishably. But this housing isn't expensive necessarily because of any fancy fixtures or appliances. It is expensive because San Francisco is a desirable place to live, and space is limited.

When someone rents a new market-rate apartment in San Francisco, they are (by law) paying a premium to subsidize affordable housing. We want this to happen. We need this to happen. And this mechanism doesn't rely on increasingly uncertain tax revenue to function. Again, we want this to happen if we want to subsidize affordability in San Francisco.

The actual subsidy happens in one of two ways. Typically, a developer builds an apartment building with some market-rate units and some affordable units under [San Francisco's Inclusionary Housing Program](#). This is one of the best ways to preserve a healthy spectrum of incomes in a neighborhood. The developer uses the higher rents from the market-rate units to subsidize the lower rents in the affordable units. Inclusionary Housing is the law in San Francisco. Sometimes, a developer builds a fully market-rate building and uses the profits to pay a fee that is used by nonprofit and affordable developers to build 100% affordable housing on another site in San Francisco. Opposing this activity means opposing affordable, rent-restricted units. Ideology is getting in the way of helping the people who need it the most.

To pay for affordable housing without depending on the increasingly slim government resources we're facing, we need market-rate housing to subsidize it. That's where the subsidy comes from. This isn't "build, baby build." This isn't a "giveaway." Instead, this is how we fund enough affordable housing to make a difference in the lives of San Franciscans.

Take away these two funding options, and you take away meaningful affordable housing production in San Francisco. This is precisely what has happened in the Richmond District over the past twenty years. By opposing market-rate housing, we have failed to allow the creation of significant affordable housing. We have let the perfect be the enemy of the good, with terrible consequences for affordability.

To be clear: there are mechanisms for funding a small number of 100% affordable units without using the process described above. These include:

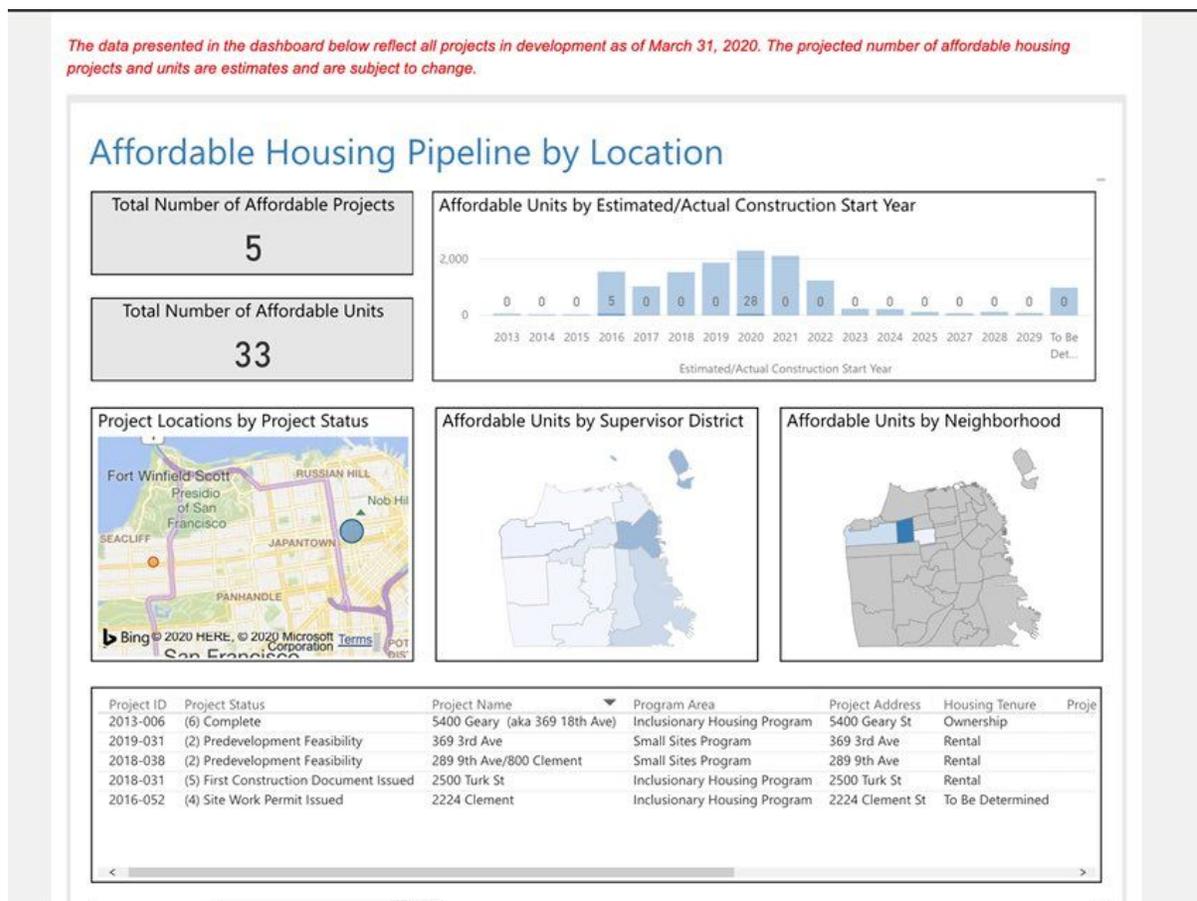
Identification of surplus publicly owned land (the subject of a [ballot measure last November](#))
Identification of "small sites" the [City can purchase and transform](#)

Housing bonds! Mayor Breed and Board President Yee [pushed the largest housing bond in our history last November](#), \$600 million financed by the city [Low Income Housing Tax Credits \(LIHTC\)](#)
 Zoning reform like [Sen. Scott Wiener's successful SB-35](#)

All of these are important resources and there are certainly neighbors who have (or will have) the security of a home because of them. We can't discount them totally. I approve of all of them. But let's be clear: they require taxpayer dollars and often end up costing [\\$800,000 per unit to build](#).

And none of these small solutions begins to address the depth and scale of the problem we are facing.

After years and years of promises, how many affordable units have been made available to Richmond District tenants? The answer is scandalous. Over a 15-year period from 2013 to 2028, we expect to build a total of just five affordable units and acquire 28 existing market-rate units to convert into affordable housing. In a neighborhood with nearly 60,000 residents, this is, simply put, a disaster. An abject failure.



Source: sfmohcd.org/affordable-housing-pipeline (D1)

"I'm in favor of building, but only if it's affordable," is one of those lovely things that sounds good, but means the opposite. If the "100% affordable" mantra leads to next to zero affordable units built, what's the point?

[I wrote about this issue four years ago](#). Please have a look — the fundamentals of what I wrote then are still true. Essentially nothing affordable was built between then and now — worse than even I imagined. Every year we refuse to act, construction prices go up and more of our fellow neighbors get priced out of their homes. Here are some things we need to do right away to ensure actual affordable homes are built in the Richmond:

Make the construction of this kind of affordable housing legal and “by-right” in the Richmond District, meaning that as long as it fits our extensive zoning criteria, it can be built.

Get behind market-rate developments that are required to subsidize affordable units.

Encourage our California elected officials to get behind increased funding for affordable housing.

Push back on the narrative of “induced demand” offered by supporters of the status quo.

Their argument, that building market-rate (even with inclusionary) generates displacement, is [unfounded](#). Gentrification without affordable housing options leads to displacement, and gentrification is here in the Richmond because we haven’t done enough, not because we have done too much.

We can do better in the Richmond. There are suitable sites throughout the Richmond that will enhance the character of our neighborhood, not least by demonstrating our commitment to equitable housing options for essential, underpaid members of our community and all those who need it.

Please read my thoughts on affordable housing at <https://www.votemarjan.com/long-form-pieces/affordable-housing>

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

Yes.

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

At this time, it seems that ideology is getting in the way of finding real solutions for residents. I would like to see more collaboration.

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

I don’t have the support of the majority of the Board of Supervisors. I don’t believe that means they couldn’t one day be allies. Supervisor Catherine Stefani has endorsed my candidacy for Supervisor.

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

We must ensure that organizations that help our most vulnerable receive add-back funds. This would include organizations like the Richmond Neighborhood Center, Self Help for the Elderly, and the Richmond YMCA.

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

I believe we need to audit all departments to ensure transparency in our government operations and contracting.

PART 2:

Yes or No Questions

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

	GENERAL	
	YES	NO
Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	x	
Have you ever sought elected office before?	x	
Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Muir Consulting	x	
Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	x	
LGBTQ ISSUES & SEXUAL LIBERATION		
	YES	NO
Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class? (For example, a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual nonmonogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare.)	Y	
Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	Y	
Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	Y	
Do you support decriminalizing sex work? <i>The issue in the Richmond is around human trafficking - victims of course should never be criminalized.</i>	Y	
TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS		
	YES	NO
Do you support immediate rent cancellation and mortgage forbearance for all tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19? <i>Both tenants and property owners should not need to pay rent or mortgage if affected by COVID.</i>	Y	
Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?		N
Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	Y	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	Y	
Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	Y	

Have you ever evicted a tenant?		N
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD? <i>There are many caveats around public safety and public health that require case-by-case analysis by encampment.</i>		N
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	Y	
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year? <i>I supported it when it was on the ballot however given where we are with COVID (and the BOS has postponed this it seems) we need to revisit its implementation.</i>		
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco? <i>If it would make our processes for landlords and tenants more efficient, then I would support a system that was transparent.</i>		
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	Y	
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	Y	
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES
YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished? <i>It was only created relatively recently and we already had other mechanisms in place.</i>	Y	
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	Y	
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	Y	
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions?	Y	
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	Y	
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RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

YES NO

Do you support the death penalty?		N
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Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		N
Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	Y	
Does your campaign accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		N
Do you support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force?		N
Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed? <i>The POA's political influence is severely curtailed. It should work to repair its relationships, attitudes, and activities to regain the trust of this community. Union representation is important to working people all over the country and limiting union representation could set a dangerous precedent.</i>		N
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers? <i>It is my understanding that SFPD does not have qualified immunity, and that their positions never grant them qualified immunity. Supervisors do not have a say in whether or not they should be granted qualified immunity. It is my understanding that the DA can choose to file charges or not.</i>		
Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans? <i>Black San Franciscans were promised a right to return and that promise was not kept. I support keeping that promise - which means creating housing that is accessible and affordable and that will add to the socio-economic and racial diversity of San Francisco so that we can make good on our promise to Black San Franciscans.</i>		
Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	Y	
Do you support extending voting rights in local elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	Y	
Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		N
Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	Y	
Do support repealing California's Proposition 209?	Y	

Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		N
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Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant? <i>As long as it is part of a larger plan to protect our city workers, reform our criminal justice system, and provide a safe place for people who are incarcerated.</i>		
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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? <i>As long as there is a feasible alternative for residents, YES.</i>		
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Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	Y	
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Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide? <i>If financially feasible I would support this - as long as our most vulnerable communities can continue to benefit from free transportation. If doing so would bankrupt our system, then no. This is not among the top-ten priorities of current riders.</i>		
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Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?	Y	
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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? <i>I believe we need more sweeping change around campaign finance reform - despite new rules, organizations find ways to circumvent the rules and it's not fair or equitable.</i>		N
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Do you support expanding SF's public financing program to all City and County elected offices?	Y	
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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? <i>As long as it can be done in a way that will increase efficiency.</i>		
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate? <i>This is no longer on the ballot.</i>		
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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.)

*****AS A CANDIDATE FOR SUPERVISOR MYSELF WHO DOES NOT CURRENTLY HOLD ELECTED OFFICE, I HAVE NOT MADE ENDORSEMENTS IN LOCAL SUPERVISOR RACES AS NO ONE HAS SOUGHT THEM OUT FROM ME, PROBABLY BECAUSE I AM NOT IN THEIR DISTRICT. However, I would imagine the purpose of this question is to confirm allyships - you can probably see that by looking at who has endorsed my opponents coupled with the fact that I have been endorsed by one Supervisor, Supervisor Catherine Stefani*****

2020

Democratic Presidential Primary	Harris and Warren
CA State Senate, District 11	Wiener
District 1 Supervisor	
District 3 Supervisor	
District 5 Supervisor	
District 7 Supervisor	
District 11 Supervisor	

2019

Candidate

District 5 Supervisor	Brown
San Francisco District Attorney	Loftus and Tung

2018

Candidate

Mayor	Breed
District 4 Supervisor	Ho
District 6 Supervisor	Trauss/Johnson
District 8 Supervisor	Did not endorse

District 10 Supervisor	Ellington/Walton
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