

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@milclub.org and to correspondent@milclub.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: Shanell Williams

Office: San Francisco Community College (City College) Board

Campaign Address: 1296 Haight Street #22, San Francisco, California 94117

Campaign Phone: 415-375-1069

Campaign Email: williams.shanell@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.shanellwilliams.org

Political Party: Democratic Party

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

If so, since when?: 2014

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

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 currently serve as President of the Board of Trustees at City College, as a member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee and as a member of the Prop C Oversight Committee. I was elected to City College Board in 2016 and prior to being elected I was co-founder and a lead organizer for the Save City College Coalition during the accreditation crisis. In addition to serving on the board I work during the day for the UCSF California Preterm Birth Initiative as Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships to reduce disparities in pregnancy and birth for Black, Brown and API women in San Francisco, Oakland and Fresno. I am a native San Franciscan, a product of all public schools which includes SFUSD and City College. My father was a construction laborer and worked on many building projects in the City and my mother was a nursing assistant. I am working class background like many students who are served by City College. I took my first course at City College after graduating high school and transitioning out of the foster care and juvenile justice system in 2002. I have been an advocate and organizer in the Bay Area over the past 20 years have worked with numerous labor and non profit organizations. I am honored and proud to have had the support of the Milk Club in for my past elections and to have received the “ City College Champion” award from the club in 2014. I have broad supporters which includes the endorsement of all our progressive allies on the Board of Supervisors, my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, the Tenants Union and Sierra Club. If re-elected to the board I want to utilize my eight years of experience at City College to focus on serving our students during the pandemic and deep recession. I want ensure fiscal stability and the success of our bond program. I want to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion across the college which includes diversifying our faculty in partnership with our academic leaders. As a board member I have had to make hard decisions for the benefit of the future of the City College and I am ready to take on many challenges we have ahead.

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

- Sierra Club
- Tenants Union
- Building and Construction Trades Council
- San Francisco Latinx Young Dems
- AFT 2121 Former President, Jenny Worley
- City College Vice President, Tom Temprano
- City College Trustee, Brigitte Davila
- City College Trustee, John Rizzo
- City College Trustee, Ivy Lee
- City College Trustee, Alex Randolph

- City College Trustee, Thea Selby
- Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
- Senator Scott Wiener
- Assemblymember Phil Ting
- President, Board of Equalization, Malia Cohen
- Mayor London Breed
- Sandra Fewer, District 1 Supervisor
- Aaron Peskin, District 3 Supervisor
- Gordon Mar, District 4 Supervisor
- Dean Preston, District 5 Supervisor
- Matt Haney, District 6 Supervisor
- Norman Yee, District 7 Supervisor
- Rafael Mandelman, District 8 Supervisor
- Hillary Ronen, District 9 Supervisor
- Shamann Walton, District 10 Supervisor
- Ahsha Safai, District 11 Supervisor
- BART Board Director, Bevan Dufty
- BART Board Director, Lateefah Simon
- BART Board Director, Janice Li
- School Board Member, Allison Collins
- School Board Member, Jenny Lam
- DCCC Chair, David Campos
- DCCC Member, Suzy Loftus
- DCCC Member and Former Supervisor, Jane Kim
- DCCC Member, Amar Thomas
- DCCC Member, Keith Baraka
- DCCC Member, Leah Lecroix

3. What do you see as the most important short-term and long-term solutions to SF's homelessness crisis? What can you do in your office to help end homelessness?

We need to build affordable housing at the Balboa Reservoir and as a Trustee I want to continue advocating for this to happen.

Short term: Expanding navigation centers throughout the city, utilize empty lots for safe sleeping sites, provide hotel rooms for emergency shelter, tax measures to fund housing development and supportive services

Long term: Build more affordable supportive housing, Mental Health SF, expand drug treatment programs

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 believe that all of my work at City College is addressing economic inequality by providing an accessible, affordable pathway to education. It has personally transformed my life and has provided career advancement and opportunity. In terms of housing affordability in my role at UCSF I was able to work with housing advocates and health experts to secure a policy change from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to prioritize pregnant people for emergency housing before their third trimester. I support COVID-19 rent relief, repealing Costa-Hawkins and the Ellis Act, rent control expansion and all tax

measures that support development of affordable housing. As a member of the Prop C Oversight Committee I am looking forward to implementing the solutions that housing advocates and houseless individuals have identified.

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

I have worked for organizations such as the Human Rights Commission, Jobs with Justice San Francisco, the Young Womens Freedom Center, the Western Addition and Bayview Community Police Relations Board, the Safety Network Partnership and Unite Here Local 2. As a Black working class and formerly incarcerated person I have experienced in the past and have currently experienced racial injustice, economic inequity, and police brutality in San Francisco firsthand. It is exhausting and traumatizing what we as BIPOC experience and I strongly believe that our White allies with more racial and economic privilege need to carry more of the labor to address these longstanding structural and institutional issues.

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

I have endorsed and campaigned for numerous LGBTQ candidates and will continue to do so as a Bisexual elected official. I am also a 2020 Victory LGBTQ Institute Empowerment Fellow which is a national program and network that supports LGBTQ individuals to run for office.

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 a student organizer and Development Director for the California Student Sustainability Coalition I was part of the effort to have the entire UC system divest from fossil fuels. At City College we have a comprehensive sustainability plan that we need to continue to implement.

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?

Fighting the ACCJC to protect City Colleges accreditation.

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?
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?

As President and a member of the board I have:

- Led the transition of our former permanent Chancellor and served on the search committee with faculty, staff, students and administrators to hire our current Interim Chancellor who has 30 years of experience and will help led the college during this unprecedented crisis
- Worked closely with our administration on the process of moving all our course offerings online and providing wrap around support for students experiencing food insecurity and technology needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Campaigned for the passage of our \$845 million facilities bond which will radically transform our facilities and infrastructure
- Served on the Joint Select Committee with representatives from SFUSD and the Board of Supervisors to address issues like Dual Enrollment programs expansion and policing on our campuses
- Supported the passage of Prop W and a 10 year MOU for Free City College. I want to expand the program to workers in San Francisco and ensure this is a cost neutral program
- Advocated for State debt forgiveness of \$24 million which was due to issues with documentation of online classes
- Advocating for representation for Community Colleges on the State Workforce Economic Recovery Board.
- Advocating for Prop 13 Reform “Schools and Communities First”
- Advocated at the federal level including travel to Washington, DC to advocate for dedicated funding for Community Colleges that includes dollars earmarked for job training H.R. 6800 (HEROS ACT) and engaged federal representatives Pelosi, Spier, Feinstein and Harris
- Supported Supervisor Walton’s proposal for bridge funding and currently support WERF. We know we are in difficult times in terms of our economy and we hope that the labor community will be united in the fact that City College provides 300 million dollars of economic activity and should have more funding from the City’s general fund. Retraining our most vulnerable communities will be the key work of the college during this time.
- Serving on the MOU negotiation committee to advocate for our interests with the Balboa Reservoir. This MOU if it meets the needs of our college will be integrated with the City’s development agreement to ensure our college community is supported and not negatively impacted.
- Supported the passage of preferred name policy and gender neutral bathrooms

This is not an exhaustive list. I have been committed to City College of San Francisco remaining an accredited community college providing transfer to university, career and technical training, and opportunities for lifelong enrichment for the past eight years.

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

We have a zero tolerance policy for bullying and hate crimes at City College. We are a Sanctuary Institution and to continue to maintain a safe space I want to advocate for more funding for all our student resource centers like the Queer Resource Center.

3. How would you address the needs of homeless students?

We need to build housing for our students and expand our HARTS program which provides wrap around support services such as food vouchers and transportation support.

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

City College does not engage with ICE and as a Trustee of City College I am committed to ensuring that our collection of data does not endanger students and immigration status is protected.

4. Did you support or oppose the hiring of former Chancellor Mark Rocha? How would you describe his tenure as chancellor?

The hiring of the Chancellor is a participatory process where students, faculty, staff and administrator representatives screen and interview all the candidates and send their top candidates to the Board. The Board received three candidates and Dr. Rocha was the most qualified out of the three at that time. Six of our seven board members myself included voted to hire him. Before the search process started I traveled to Tucson, Arizona to try to recruit David Doree our former Business Dean who is beloved and talented but was turned down. I believe strongly that we did not have an exceptional pool of candidates in 2016 with the college coming out of the accreditation crisis. I would describe Dr. Rocha's tenure as starting out strong which is a perception by a number of elected and community college leaders across the State. We negotiated a fair multi year contract with AFT2121 that included pay raises and there was a good relationship with the board. It all went downhill with the administrative raises "salary gate" and the class cuts "midnight massacre" which the board was not informed of. When I became President this year I knew my first task was to address our leadership issue in the least chaotic and litigious way possible with my colleagues. This is to ensure we can stabilize the college and attract permanent leadership with experience that will be respected by our college community and across the State.

5. Do you support the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund to dedicate permanent funding for non-credit classes at City College? Yes.

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? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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?		No
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?		No
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	Yes	
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?	Yes	
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	Yes	
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	Yes	
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	Yes	
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES
YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	Yes	
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	Yes	
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	Yes	
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions?	Yes	
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	Yes	
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RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE
YES NO

Do you support the death penalty?		No
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Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		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?	Yes	
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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	Bernie Sanders
CA State Senate, District 11	Jackie Felder #1, Scott Wiener #2
District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
District 7 Supervisor	Myrna Melgar #1, Vilaska Nguyen #2
District 11 Supervisor	John Avalos

2019

Candidate

District 5 Supervisor	No endorsement
San Francisco District Attorney	Chesa Boudin #1, Suzy Loftus #2

2018

Candidate

Mayor	Jane Kim and London Breed
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandleman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton