

Harvey Milk Questionnaire

Full Name: Dean Preston

Office: District 5 Supervisor/City and County of San Francisco

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Campaign Website: www.votedean.com

Political Party: Democrat

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

If so, since when?:

Not sure, several years ago.

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.

As District 5 Supervisor, and in my previous work as a tenants rights attorney and affordable housing advocate, I've focused my life on improving conditions for the working class. I've passed legislation banning evictions due to COVID-19, helped find shelter for unhoused residents in San Francisco, championed SF's groundbreaking right to counsel law for tenants, and represented hundreds of tenants facing abusive conditions. This city has become increasingly unaffordable, less diverse, and is losing much of what makes it special. Neighbors are fed up with seeing the people we know and love forced out of this city so that real estate speculators and billionaires can make more money. I am running for office to continue fighting for vulnerable people, and continue my work standing up to mega landlords and other powerful corporate interests.

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

I am proud to have the endorsement of progressive leaders at the local, state, and national level, including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Congressmembers Pramila Jayapal and Katie Porter, former Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, former state Senator Mark Leno, and DCCC Chair David Campos.

I am a housing activist first-and-foremost. I could not be more proud to have the support of the San Francisco Tenants Union and fellow progressive activists, people on the front-lines who are fighting for equity like Supervisor Matt Haney, Hillary Ronen, and Gordon Mar, Shamman Walton and District Attorney Chesa Boudin. I am also extremely proud to have the endorsement of so many labor unions, including San Francisco Labor Council, Teamsters Joint Council 7, the ILWU, SEIU 1021, SEIU 2015, California Nurses Association, National Union of Healthcare Workers, United Educators of San Francisco, AFT 2121, and many others. Visit www.votedean.com for a complete list.

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?

Affordable housing is necessary for real solutions to homelessness. That is why I'm excited for my proposal to increase the transfer tax on property sales over \$10 million to fund the creation of affordable, social housing. We need to fully fund and implement Prop C and expand Navigation Centers throughout the city, including in District 5 where many homeless are LGBTQ youth. We cannot continue to criminalize and further victimize those who are homeless.

During this pandemic, my office has co-sponsored the unanimous legislation to require hotels for all homeless people, moved dozens of women and families in D5 into a hotel when the City would not, launched the city's second Safe Sleeping Site in the Haight in collaboration with the Homeless Youth Alliance, authored a resolution to expand the definition of COVID vulnerable persons to make more homeless people eligible for housing, and much more.

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 have been a tenant attorney and affordable housing advocate for 20 years. I ran for office in large part to pursue a vision for housing justice driven by grassroots residents and activists instead of corporate interests. We must invest in housing that is truly affordable to low-income and working class people, and stand up to false solutions being offered by the same real estate industry that is driving the crisis. We need to create far more affordable housing and expand social housing in our city. I recently introduced a measure to authorize 10,000 units of affordable social housing in San Francisco, paid for by taxing the wealthiest real estate transactions in this city. We need to hold developers accountable and make sure that we are not sacrificing affordable housing for market rate and luxury construction, and protect currently housed tenants from eviction.

5. Describe your work addressing racial injustice, economic inequity, and police brutality in San Francisco. **150/150**

I have been standing with BIPOC communities fighting discrimination for decades. I championed SF's Right to Counsel which led to 80% of African American tenants facing eviction being able to stay in their homes. I am working to bring rent protections to Midtown Park Apartments.

My ballot measure authorizing 10,000 units of permanently affordable social housing carves out a local exception to Article 34, the racist constitutional amendment passed in 1950.

I'm a strong advocate for defunding police, directing resources to the African American community, honoring African American leaders (such as renaming Willow street after Earl Gage Jr, SF's first black firefighter), and banning racist policing tactics. I started my career representing victims of police misconduct. I led efforts to restart police commission meetings

and passed a resolution demanding release of San Quentin inmates. I stood with Chesa Boudin and Mano Raju to demand an end to cash bail.

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

I have always made it a priority to support LGBTQ San Franciscans, particularly through initiatives to expand affordable housing and stop evictions and displacement.

Housing LGBTQ youth is a major issue in District 5. One thing we must do is implement Prop C. I was an early backer and my team led District 5 outreach. I support navigation centers in every district. I am committed to finding a permanent home for the Homeless Youth Alliance, who provides services to our young and unhoused communities.

We also need to be sure that our LGBTQ community has the same opportunities for employment as others. Employment discrimination remains widespread, especially against the trans community. When women, LGBTQ, and people of color do not feel comfortable or safe in their work environments, this is an injustice with broad and lasting impact.

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 bold plans to address these issues, like a Green New Deal for San Francisco that centers on public transportation, freedom from fossil fuels, municipalizing PG&E, and launching a robust Green Jobs program.

San Francisco should have a goal of free and fast MUNI (and a robust regional bus system) that, to the greatest extent possible, replaces cars that rely on fossil fuels. We must boldly advance pedestrian and bike improvements, not just to save lives, but to promote biking and walking as primary modes of transportation. I'm proud to have established several slow streets in District 5 and to be leading on the new Fell street bike lane by the Panhandle that's under construction as I write this.

And all that said, we also need to fight like hell to kick the climate deniers out of office at the federal level before it's too late.

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?

My entire career has been taking on established power structures to achieve progressive change.

Prior to taking office, I worked as a tenant attorney and founded California's only statewide tenant organization. I worked continuously for tenants against established power structure,

profit-driver speculators and developers. Always with the power of a grassroots coalition with me, I led the fight to save rent control in 2008 and a decade later, authored and championed Proposition F, our city's groundbreaking law to provide legal representation for all tenants facing eviction. I continue to fight for the full implementation of voters' will to this day. In this work, I've directly taken on the real estate industry, perhaps explaining why they spent nearly over \$170K in bogus hit pieces against me last year in my race.

Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

Affordable housing and tenants rights. We need to fully implement Prop F (right to counsel), create 10,00 units of social housing, and hold developers accountable. We also need to make sure nobody is displaced because of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Homelessness. The revenue from 2018's Prop C must be spent in a timely fashion according to the plan approved by voters. I will continue to support the safe sleeping site that my office helped to establish, and fight for more hotel rooms for unhoused people. Expanding affordable housing is a key part of any plan to transition people into permanent housing. I continue to oppose sweeps.

Defunding Police & Racial Justice: We must defund the police and invest in racial justice and specifically the African American community. I voted against the interim budget because of increased police budget, and I will fight to defund rather than increasing police increases.

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

I am a strong supporter of defunding the police department and believe we can reallocate budget dollars from the SFPD towards youth services, homelessness services, social workers, mental health workers, and affordable housing. I am proud to have co-sponsored a resolution introduced by my colleague Supervisor Shamman Walton to redirect funds from the SFPD to the Black community beginning with the 2020-2021 budget cycle.

I also strongly support diverting police resources into community-based initiatives wherever possible..

On June 2nd, in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis, I called for a hearing on law enforcement restraint techniques that restrict breathing or blood flow posing a serious risk of

injury or death and for legislation to permanently ban the technique. The very next day, Chief Scott moved forward with policy changes on use of force.

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

We need to balance the City budgets in ways that are equitable and sustainable and do everything we can to bring a fair recovery for all residents and small businesses of San Francisco. We can steer through the economic crisis by supporting workers, small businesses, and vulnerable residents.

I want to be clear: I oppose cross the board cuts, even in a pandemic and recession. We need to go after more revenue at the ballot and target cuts to things like Police, not social services.

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 am a member of the Economic Recovery Task Force which is working to guide the City through COVID-19, mitigate the economic hardships affecting vulnerable San Franciscans, and build an equitable future. Specifically, we are focused on jobs and business support, helping people reenter the workforce and ensuring small and medium sized businesses adapt; helping meet the needs of vulnerable populations through the recovery; and economic development, including rebuilding commercial corridors while protecting existing communities.

I've also been fighting for more testing resources in District 5 and specifically in the Fillmore. We know nationally the African American community is among the most vulnerable and we need to prioritize ramping up testing to prevent the spread among African Americans and other people of color in SF.

We also need to do a much better job than we are currently doing educating the public on health orders and doing monitoring so that we ensure compliance with health orders.

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

Yes. This is a transit first city and we need a robust transit system that moves people reliably, affordably, and without overcrowding. That said, I want to emphasize that it is essential to have real community input and involvement before launching permanent transit improvements, including transit only lanes.

Since taking office, I've taken the lead working with MTA on a number of projects. We are currently supporting efforts to launch a MUNI only lane on Masonic, though I oppose including

private shuttles in those lanes, a disagreement currently between my office and MTA. We announced significant safety improvements at Masonic/Oak, launched Slow Streets on Page and Golden Gate, and I have publicly stated my support for building out our network of car free streets. My office and the MTA led ongoing efforts to establish the Fell street bike lane, the first new protected bike lane of the Slow Streets program, which is scheduled to open soon. I will continue fighting to make sure that San Francisco is a transit first city, and stop letting Uber and Lyft take over our streets, causing traffic and accidents without giving anything in return.

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

It has depended on the vote but I most closely align with Supervisors Ronen, Haney, Walton, Mar, and Peskin.

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

When I took office my plan was to allocate add-back funds with a strong equity lens, with focuses on homelessness programs, programs serving the Fillmore, and programs for low-income people. We are currently facing huge budget cuts across the board, however, and it is not clear what add-back funds we will have to allocate.

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

At this point, which department is not in need of an audit? I think that a good place to start would be the big ones, including the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Public Health. The amount of oversight right now is clearly not sufficient, which is why I support programs like the public advocate. In a time when we are faced with serious budget cuts, we need far better transparency and oversight.

PART 2:

Yes or No Questions

(Please check Yes or No for each question.)

GENERAL
YES NO

Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	X	
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Have you ever sought elected office before?	X	
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Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Ian James, Campaign Coordinator (415-601-7362)	X	
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Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?	X	
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LGBTQ ISSUES & SEXUAL LIBERATION

YES NO

Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class? (For example, a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual nonmonogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare.)	X	
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Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	X	
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Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	X	
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Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	X	
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TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS

YES NO

Do you support immediate rent cancellation and mortgage forbearance for all tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19?	X	
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Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	X	
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Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	X	
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Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	X	
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Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	X	
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Have you ever evicted a tenant?		X
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Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?		X
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Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	X	
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Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?	X	
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	X	
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Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	X	
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Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	X	
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IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES
YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	X	
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Do you support San Francisco's Sanctuary City status?	X	
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Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	X	
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Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans to serve on City boards and commissions?	X	
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Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	X	
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RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

YES NO

Do you support the death penalty?		X
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Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		X
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Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	X	
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Does your campaign accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		X
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Do you support disbanding the SFPD and requiring officers to reapply to a newly constructed, less violent police force?	X	
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Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed?	X	
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Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		X
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Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans?	X	
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Do you support the implementation of supervised injection/consumption sites?	X	
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Do you support extending voting rights in local elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	X	
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Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		X
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Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	X	
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Do support repealing California's Proposition 209?	X	
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Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		X
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Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		X
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

YES NO

Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	X	
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Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program?	X	
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Do you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide?	X	
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Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		X
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PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

YES NO

Did you support the <i>Sunlight on Dark Money (Prop. F)</i> measure on the November 2019 ballot?	X	
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Do you support expanding SF's public financing program to all City and County elected offices?	X	
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Do you support Supervisor Matt Haney's ballot measure to split Public Works into two departments, each with its own oversight commission?	X	
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar's ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate?	X	
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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
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CA State Senate, District 11	Jackie Fielder
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District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
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District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
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District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
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District 7 Supervisor	Vilaska Nguyen
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District 11 Supervisor	John Avalos
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2019

Candidate

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

Candidate

Mayor	Jane Kim and Mark Leno
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District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
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District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
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District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
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District 10 Supervisor	Tony Kelly
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