

# 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](mailto:pac@milkclub.org) and to [correspondent@milkclub.org](mailto:correspondent@milkclub.org) no later than July 23rd.***

*In addition to this questionnaire, we invite you to participate in a recorded video interview on Zoom with Club leadership on either July 25th or July 26th 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:** Danny Sauter

**Office:** District 3 Supervisor

**Campaign Address:**

**Campaign Phone:** (415) 562-6441

**Campaign Email:** danny@dannyd3.com

**Campaign Website:** dannyd3.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.**

I'm a renter, nonprofit Director, and community organizer with a record of delivering real improvements for San Francisco by bringing people together.

I'm the President of North Beach Neighbors, a neighborhood association founded in 1981 with 300+ members. Through this experience, I've spent years organizing our community to deliver real improvements. We navigated red tape and bureaucracy to start the North Beach Farmers Market and turn a parking lot into a weekly gathering place. We fought to make sure hundreds of units of new affordable housing for seniors broke ground. We united for transit and improved safety on our streets for families and seniors. I've seen the best of what we can achieve together, but also the ugliest side of city bureaucracy and improvements that have taken too long to deliver.

In my professional capacity as the non-profit Director of Neighborhood Centers Together, I have the privilege of working with 7 of our city's community centers that serve the most vulnerable populations in our neighborhoods. We primarily serve youth, seniors, and

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

First and foremost, our campaign has sought the endorsements of community leaders within District 3. We're incredibly proud to start with the endorsements of the individuals who shape our neighborhoods through their nonprofit work, small business ownership, and years of advocacy.

Rene Colorado, Tenderloin Merchants Executive Director

Wilma Pang, A Better Chinatown Tomorrow Founder

Martha Mahony, Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground

Tina Moylan, Russian Hill Community Leader

Michael Chen, Northern Neighbors Board Member

Dale Weidmer, Telegraph Hill Community Leader

Brenda Jewett, Local Homeless Coordinating Board Member

Lynn Jefferson, Francisco Park Conservancy Board Member

Greg Polchow, Russian Hill Community Leader

Richad Manso, Nob Hill Neighborhood Leader

Tony Williams and China Halton, North Beach Kids Owners

Steve Taber, Russian Hill Transportation Leader

Marsha Garland, Founder/ Former Executive Director, North Beach Chamber of Commerce

In addition, we're proud to have just earned the endorsement of San Francisco's largest Democratic Club, United Democratic Club.

\* titles are for identification purposes only and do not denote endorsement of the organization

**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?**

Short term, we need to expand our Homeless Outreach Team. This team has a meager \$9 million dollar budget, and high rates of employee turnover. We know our social workers are the best way to move individuals experiencing homelessness into services and support. It's time we build a budget that reflects this.

Mid and long term, we need more housing specifically aimed to house formerly homeless. We know from other cities and countries that housing is the best way to end homelessness. We can get there through utilizing RoomKey funds from the state to convert hotels to supportive housing long-term, unlocking Prop C funds and putting them to work, and building more housing to increase funding for affordable housing.

**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've taken action every time I've seen economic and housing inequality in my District.

In the midst of COVID-19, I saw immigrant and black and brown-owned businesses falling behind in learning about support from both the city and federal options like PPP. I worked to guide many small businesses through the process, while advocating for the creation of a new team of Small Business Advocates at OEWD to make sure that the city is doing more to help businesses.

On housing, I've advocated for affordable housing both citywide and in my own District. In particular, I stood for hundreds of affordable and senior housing units at 88 Broadway despite neighborhood opposition.

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

We must realize that racial and economic injustice are directly tied to police violence and the decades of underfunding of our communities of color.

We need to start by taking a hard look at when police are actually the best response. Most police calls are for nonviolent incidents. Particularly, we need a new approach for Homelessness. This is critical for racial justice because we know 40% of homeless

individuals are black despite making up just 4% of our population. Social workers are the right way to support those experiencing homelessness, not police.

We also need budget justice. It is not acceptable that our SFPD budget has ballooned by nearly \$200 million in the last 5 years while other offices are underfunded and underinvested in.

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

I have sought to elevate LGBTQ voices and candidates in past elections. I'm proud to have supported many individuals including Rafael Mandelman, Phil Kim, and Scott Wiener.

In my neighborhood, I worked to increase LGBTQ representation in my neighborhood association, deliberately making my first nomination to our Board a member of the LGBTQ community.

Finally, I have always sought to increase and expand youth homelessness services - from clinics to housing - something critical given that nearly half of our youth homeless are LGBTQ.

**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 know that 40% of San Francisco's emissions come from private vehicles. To this end, I have prioritized work to increase and expand options for equitable transit in San Francisco. I led the effort to fight for two bike stations in my neighborhood, have served on Better Market Street Citizens Advisory Committee for 5 years, and have always spoken up for transformative transit work like a Central Subway extension. We must accelerate our work to deliver world-class transit in San Francisco. Our economy and planet depend on it. The current status quo pushes residents to private cars and ride-sharing.

**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?**

A few years ago, I noticed a stark increase in empty storefronts throughout District 3. When we went to City Hall, they pushed our concerns off and said things were "healthy." We knew this wasn't the case - long-time businesses were folding and new ones were kept out. So, I led the effort to canvass 400 commercial storefronts in my neighborhood commercial district in partnership with three organizations. We published an updated vacancy study and helped to shine light on the bureaucratic hurdles and inequities that were at the root of the problem, a crisis that spiked to 20% vacant storefronts even before COVID-19. The lesson was clear - don't wait for those in the establishment to take action when it needs to be done.

# Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

- Protecting Tenants and Adding Affordable Housing
- Supporting Small Business & Workers to Fuel Our Economic Recovery
- Investing in Mental Health Services & Solution to End Homelessness

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

We need to drastically reconsider the role we ask SFPD to play in our community. We need to realize that police are called to do tasks that they are not the most effective in - for example, addressing individuals experiencing homelessness. We can use cost savings from this shift to invest instead in mental health services, homeless outreach team efforts, and invest in communities of color who have been impacted deeply by police violence and underinvestment.

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

The way forward is through investment. We can leverage our city's sterling bond rating and fight for federal dollars to fund programs that put our city to work immediately and build up infrastructure that serves our community. Now is the time to invest in new transit infrastructure, affordable housing, school renovations, and community works programs.

Right now, Departments are being asked to make 10-15% program cuts. I believe elected officials need to lead by example and show solidarity with these departments that are being impacted. That's why I pledge to voluntarily reduce my own salary as Supervisor by at least 15% and put that money back towards serving San Francisco in other ways.

## 4. How best should the Board of Supervisors handle the current COVID-19 health crisis and the shelter-in-place orders for both individuals and for businesses?

For individuals, we must first expand testing access. Currently, only one site in all of District 3 offers testing for those without insurance, and they are open just an hour each day. We need equitable testing access.

We need to protect the most vulnerable on our streets by moving them into better forms of shelter, be it hotel rooms or safe sleeping sites. These sites must be monitored for the recovery and safety of the clients. Alongside this work, we need to bolster our existing

homeless response by expanding our Homeless Outreach Team and adding critical services like Public Toilets and Hand Washing Stations.

We need to think broadly about what “health” means at this moment. For children, this means adapting social emotional learning to new distance learning. For parents, this means mental wellness and support. For seniors, this means new programs to fight isolation and new food access programs.

When it comes to businesses, we need to keep our neighborhood businesses in place. This means protecting them from evictions today and rent gouging tomorrow. I will work to extend the moratorium and make sure future payments can be made with flexibility.

We’ve seen how everyday workers - grocery store clerks, nurses, transit operators - have risen to serve our city in this pandemic. It’s time we do better to serve them, too. This means passing strong health ordinances to protect our workplaces, continuing childcare for essential workers, and expanding paid emergency leave so that family and safety come first.

Finally, I’ll work to create a team of Small Business Advisors at OEWD so that every small business in San Francisco has a dedicated point of contact to support them. That’s a big difference from the current system which leaves too many of our businesses, particularly immigrant-owned ones, without an advocate at City Hall.

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

Yes to more transit-only, rapid bus routes, protected bike lanes, safer intersections, and essential/emergency transit lanes. District 3 still does not have a true Rapid Bus lane in our district. Especially in the midst of this Pandemic, we need to make more room for them. We cannot risk clogged streets and a crushing economic burden of forcing families to buy vehicles to move around our city.

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

First, we must protect our existing affordable housing. I’ve seen too many neighbors pushed out from evictions or harassment. My office will have no tolerance for this and pursue legislation which closes loopholes that corporations exploit in pursuit of profit. I’ll work to start a Rental Registry and Licensing program. Tenants deserve transparency when they enter into agreements, and we know from other cities that evictions and safety violations go down when Registries are in place. We also need to make sure we get all affordable housing online and available in the market. We can achieve this through vacancy taxes and creative new programs to incentivize renting vacant units.

We also need to add more affordable housing in District 3. We haven’t done this and it has put our community at risk. We’ve added less than 150 net new affordable housing units in

the last 10 years. We can start with a community plan to identify available sites. In particular, I have proposed Affordable Housing at the [MUNI Kirkland Yard](#) near Fisherman's Wharf. We need a goal, which our District has never set. I admire Supervisor Ronen for setting a goal of 5,000 affordable housing units over 10 years. District 3 needs a similar vision set for its housing growth.

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

Yes. I have supported one for years and always asked for accountability of the current leadership on why District 3 still does not have one.

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

I have no interest in the politics behind pursuing solutions for our neighborhoods, and believe both the executive and legislative branches need to do more and work more closely together to deliver real improvements for our city.

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

I pride myself as being able to work with anyone and to build common ground to work towards solutions. That being said, in particular, I feel that I'll partner with Ahsha Safai often to strengthen labor protections and Matt Haney often to bring accountability and transparency to City Hall.

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

I would make this decision in tandem with the community and in the context of the moment and which areas the proposed budget seems to fall short in. I'm a proponent of the Participatory Budget process and may pursue this as a way to utilize part of the budget as well.

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

Department of Public Works. Corruption has clearly emanated from this office for years, and we see the disastrous results on our streets. In my own neighborhood, I fought for 3 years for the simple addition of 5 Big Belly Trash cans. Sensible solutions like this should not be blocked by corruption and insider deals.



**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?	Y	
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Have you ever sought elected office before?		N
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Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Alea Chedekel, Campaign Manager, alea@dannyd3.com	Y	
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Have you ever sought a Milk Club endorsement in the past?		N
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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.)	Y	
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Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	Y	
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Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	Y	
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Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	Y	
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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?	Y	
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Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services?	Y	
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Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	Y	
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Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	Y	
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Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	Y	
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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?		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?		N
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Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	Y	
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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?	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
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?		
Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed?	Y	
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		N
Do you support reparations for Black San Franciscans?	Y	
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
Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		N

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

**YES NO**

Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	Y	
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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?	Y	
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Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		
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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?	Y	
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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?	Y	
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Do you support Supervisor Gordon Mar’s ballot measure to create an Office of the Public Advocate?		N
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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	
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CA State Senate, District 11	
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District 1 Supervisor	
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District 3 Supervisor	
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District 5 Supervisor	
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District 7 Supervisor	
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District 11 Supervisor	
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**2019**

**Candidate**

District 5 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District Attorney	
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**2018**

**Candidate**

Mayor	
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District 4 Supervisor	
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District 6 Supervisor	
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District 8 Supervisor	
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District 10 Supervisor	
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