

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: *Aliya Chisti*

Office: *City College Board*

Campaign Address: *130 Grafton Avenue San Francisco CA 94112*

Campaign Phone: *415-216-7303*

Campaign Email: *aliyachistisf@gmail.com*

Campaign Website: *aliyachisti.org*

Political Party: *Democratic*

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

Yes

If so, since when?:

2020

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 am running for CCSF Board of Trustees to elevate the voices of students and teachers, and to represent my community in the leadership of CCSF. I have over a decade of experience as an educator, working in schools, or on policies that impact schools. As a legislative aide on the Board of Supervisors, I drafted the “Ban the Box” legislation to prohibit the use of criminal-justice information on applications for private colleges in San Francisco. While pursuing my MA in Education Policy from Columbia University, I served as a student senator and developed a pro-diversity admissions policy. My thesis paper also focused on the burden of student debt. As a Fulbright Scholar in North Macedonia, I served as an ESL teacher and also drafted a policy paper analyzing the failure of top-down approaches in advancing higher education reform. Currently, I oversee the Free City College Program at the

Department of Children Youth and Their Families and led the successful execution of the ten-year MOU for the Free City Program.

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

AFT 2121

Latinx Young Democratic Club

Jeremiah Jefferies, Teachers for Social Justice

Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer

Alex Randolph, CCSF Board of Trustees

Bryan Daley, Former CCSF Student Trustee

I am committed to representing the voices of teachers and students. As a former teacher, having the support of teachers is deeply important to me. Also as a former teacher, having the support and voices of students behind me is essential.

I am proud to have the support of educational advocates such as Trustee Randolph and Supervisor Fewer. Trustee Randolph was instrumental in advocating for the Associate of Arts in Social Justice Studies: Feminist, Queer, and Trans Studies for Transfer program at CCSF. Additionally, I admire Supervisor Fewer's leadership on addressing LGBTQ+ issues during her time on the Board of Education and through her work on the BOS.

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?

Thousands of CCSF students in a survey indicated that they were either housing insecure or homeless. Research indicates that LGBTQ+ students are more likely to face food and housing insecurity, as well as homelessness, at significantly high rates. Within my role as a Trustee, my short-term goals will include identifying resources for CCSF students, particularly our LGBTQ+ students that are experiencing housing insecurity, investing in direct financial resources to support students, such as mental health services, and in programs like Homeless At Risk Transitional Students to better support our students. I will advocate to increase resources to support our students experiencing housing insecurity through the Queer resource center at CCSF. I will also advocate for a more thorough study and analysis conducted on the basic needs of students.

Long-term solutions include investing in our educational systems so that underrepresented students can ultimately become self-sufficient. I also believe we must create more housing and other strategic partnerships to support students in accessing rental subsidies, assistance, and to support in eliminating red tape.

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 will always be a strong voice for addressing economic inequality and housing unaffordability in San Francisco. I grew up in Lakeview and have watched my neighbors be pushed out. My commitment to public education is rooted in a devotion to creating equity, access, and agency for all people, especially when it comes to housing. My values as a teacher are rooted in addressing economic inequality and supporting other low-income students. In my role as a legislative aide, I advocated for tenants to prevent evictions.

My platform is rooted in equity. As a CCSF Board of Trustee, I would prioritize resources for the most historically marginalized students, and advocate for policies that build pathways for all students who enter our doors to identify the skills, knowledge, and experience to navigate their lives with agency. As mentioned previously direct resources to students is incredibly important and investing in wraparound programs offered by the college. The Free City program currently either covers tuition or provides a grant to students that are eligible for the state tuition fee waiver. Students that are eligible for the state tuition fee waiver have incomes that are significantly below the federal poverty line. Although the additional grant through the Free City program helps, I will advocate to invest in greater financial resources to this group.

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

Growing up as a low-income, Muslim woman of color, I've experienced first hand the impacts of racial injustice, economic hardship, and the feeling of criminalization. These experiences shape my priorities and commitments. I am committed to racial and economic justice, and bring an intersectional lens to my advocacy and policy work. I drafted the ban the box legislation, which removed questions about criminal justice information on private college applications. Additionally, I've worked on efforts to mobilize No on H, a ballot measure that was passed to prevent loosened restrictions on use of tasers by police officers. I have also attended meetings with the Street Violence Intervention Program (SVIP) to learn how to reduce street violence and homicides in SF.

As a teacher, a policymaker, and an advocate, I center racial and economic justice, and believe deeply that police brutality is just one of the many manifestations of criminalization that I am committed to disrupting through my work in education.

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

I bring an intersectional lens to my work and advocacy. This means racial, economic, and justice for those in the LGBTQ+ community are all intertwined in my experiences as an educator. I also have experience mentoring my former students that were questioning or finding themselves. I have also served as an ally to Muslim community members that identify as LGBTQ and am a member of Muslims for Progressive Values. In my capacity as a Trustee, I will continue to ensure we invest in the Queer resource center and that we continue to provide LGBTQ studies to our community.

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

I believe climate change is one of the major challenges facing my generation and those that follow. I will always use my platforms to promote and advocate for climate justice. Within my role as a trustee, I will advocate for more opportunities and partnerships for students to gain skills for the Green economy, invest in programs that provide green jobs curricula, and I will advocate for environmental justice for marginalized and underrepresented populations. Finally, I will advocate that projects funded through the \$845 million recently passed bond are environmentally sound.

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?

Growing up as a low-income, Muslim woman of color, I have spent my entire life navigating and working against racist and classist power structures. I have had opportunities to make change in the halls of San Francisco City Hall with my work on “ban the box” on private college applications, and Free City, as well as in the halls of Columbia University.

While attending Columbia, a predominantly white and wealthy institution, I successfully advocated for changes to the admission policy to foster a stronger commitment to diversity. I accomplished this by building strong relationships with all stakeholders, and presenting well researched and concrete ideas. I connected with my fellow student advocates to ensure their needs and priorities were uplifted; I engaged with administrators and faculty to understand institutional constraints and processes, and I learned to navigate power structures to achieve my goal.

This is one of many examples from my life and career. While the scenarios change, what remains constant is my commitment to equity, justice, and collective action.

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 the Lead Analyst for the Free City College Program, I am deeply committed to ensuring the successful execution of this program. My primary goal in this role has been to cultivate and build this partnership with City College. Since Free City is the first real direct partnership between the City and CCSF, I serve as a bridge between these two large bureaucracies. Defending City College has come from my experience and skills in policy analysis to translate to city partners how the funding formula works and some of its negative consequences, explaining how AB 19 is implemented to breakdown misconceptions, and ensure partners are aware of the integral programs at CCSF for students such as the food pantry and snack program. This experience has taught me that there are city agencies that are curious to partner and support City College. For example, although my role is to primarily oversee the Free City program, I have facilitated cross-departmental partnerships with City College to improve enrollment at City College. Additionally, my entire family and I have benefitted from programs provided by CCSF.

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

I will take a strong stance against any bullying of LGBTQ students or traditionally marginalized communities. I will support events and other services that can help students explore and better understand diverse queer and trans identities. Specifically, events that focus on the leadership of LGBTQ+ people of color. I also support the addition of all-gender restrooms at CCSF to increase inclusivity and accessibility. As a Trustee I will listen and take seriously any complaints on bullying and fight to ensure concerns are addressed and students and staff are humanely treated when having the courage to speak up. I hope to contribute to a responsive culture at CCSF where students who are LGBTQ or other marginalized communities feel they will be heard and valued.

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

As I mentioned above, I will work to ensure that resources are provided to the Queer resource center and the HARTS program at CCSF. In a survey, 49% of CCSF students said that their greatest barrier to student success was financial resources. I will advocate for policies that provide direct support services for historically underrepresented student populations that can support in addressing food and housing insecurity, cost of books and transportation. I also think case management and mentorship programs are key for student success. I will also find ways to make sure that Free City is available to students that are currently homeless and do not meet the residency requirement for the program.

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

I will always stand with our undocumented students and will ensure that our policies and communication to our students is reflective of that stance. Additionally, we need to continue to support the Dream Center, AB 540 counselors and coordinators, and support students with applying for the California Dream Act Application, and protect transitional studies at CCSF. Undocumented students were explicitly excluded from receiving any aid from the CARES grant, which is unacceptable. We must identify additional financial resources, especially during this time of COVID-19, for our undocumented students who are under attack by our government.

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

I oppose the hiring of former Chancellor Mark Rocha. Chancellor Rocha eroded trust by failing to have a transparent decision-making process. He slashed hundreds of classes without a clear transparent process and caused great harm to the college community.

A new City College Chancellor must have the ability to build trust with the CCSF community. The next Chancellor must display clear institutional knowledge, a deep understanding of CCSF and the broader San Francisco community. The right Chancellor will have the trust and support of CCSF faculty and students. Looking within the institution for a candidate will allow us to identify someone with vast expertise and commitment to the CCSF community.

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

Yes. A strong community education system meets its students where they are and inspires a commitment to education, either through traditional bachelors degrees, vocational programs, or language access. Instead of cutting into base funding for our community colleges, which is currently insufficient, we need dedicated funding sources to ensure that CCSF is accessible for everyone by maintaining its ability to support historically underrepresented student populations, provide lifelong learning and enrichment courses, and support in facilitating a strong economy.

We must continue to identify and fight for additional resources to financially support the broad educational mission of CCSF. I will also fight to ensure a strong system of checks and balances to monitor the use of dollars.

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?	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? _Sabreena Khan _____	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?	Y	
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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
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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?	Y	
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?	Y	
Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?	Y	

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?		N
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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?	Y	
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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	Myrna Melgar
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District 11 Supervisor	Ahsha Safai
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2019

Candidate

District 5 Supervisor	Vallie Brown
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San Francisco District Attorney	Suzy Loftus
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2018

Candidate

Mayor	London Breed
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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	Shamann Walton
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