

Full Name: Tim Murphy

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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, but very strong ally and activist of LGBTQ civil rights.

PART 1

Questions for All Candidates

1. Describe your qualifications for the office you are seeking. Feel free to add anything that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.

My name is Tim Murphy, and I have lived in San Francisco for 38 years. I arrived here by accident after being deported from Sweden (illegal immigrant). I moved into a communal flat living located in the Western Addition. My rent was \$95 per month.

I came from a large family and was primarily raised by a single mom who supported us as work in a cosmetics factory. My dad was a disabled veteran who lost both his legs while in the navy at Pearl Harbor.

I was the first son to attend college under the EOP program and eventually finished my degree from San Francisco State University in political science and later a multiple subjects teaching credential.

I have been teaching in some form most of my adult life for about 40 years. I taught in the SFUSD for 23 years as a Kindergarten teacher, 4th-grade teacher, middle school summer math and English teacher, and later as a Title I resource specialist teacher. I taught in Chinatown, Bayview/Hunters Point, and Ingleside districts.

I also volunteered to teach ESL to Salvadoran refugees in the Mission. Additionally, I taught English in Sweden, Thailand, Laos, and Japan.

Currently, I am teaching my two sons, Tawan and Panmai, at home. My eldest daughter Plyfaa attends high school at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts in the orchestra department.

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

It would be a privilege to receive Harvey Milk Club's endorsements and to act as my advisors in education concerning LGBTQ students after winning a seat on the Board.

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?

My family and I experienced homelessness in Thailand and Hawaii due to natural disasters and in Hawaii, housing discrimination from white property owners (my ex-wife is Asian). We did have financial resources and, in my case white privilege, but the brief experiences of living at a Red Cross Center and a homeless encampment at a campsite on Oahu (Waiminao) had a profound effect on me. I will never forget the generosity and compassion we felt from homeless Hawaiians sharing their food with us.

I am very concerned with homeless youth and have taken a position LGBTQ youth, and homeless families should be housed at SFUSD owned properties.

I have advocated a hybrid housing solution for teachers and homeless families and LGBTQ youth, which are the most vulnerable in the homeless population.

I would advocate hybrid school and housing at school sites.

Short-term, I would advocate for the adoption of a similar program presently used in Portugal where the government is renting short term housing from owners for a period of 5 years and making it available to low-income families.

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?

Due to the pandemic, there is now a twin inequality in both education and housing. I have supported candidates running for office with solutions for ending the homeless crisis. As a board member, I would advocate housing solutions for our homeless families and LGBTQ youth.

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

Although I am low income and grew up in poverty, I had an easier time to escape the crippling effects of racism, economic inequality, and even confrontations with police because of my white

privilege or color of my skin. BLM has raised my consciousness in addition to learning about and acknowledging my own implicit biases from my bi-racial daughter. Police brutality against Blacks and the transgender community needs to be addressed with strong police reform. However, we need to address the economic inequality and racial justice that are intertwined.

6. How have you supported LGBTQ San Franciscans, and how will you continue to do so if elected? This is an issue very dear and near to my heart. I have had close friends that died from the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, and I spoke out against discrimination. I marched, I protested and spoke out. I have always spoken out even with family and friends. As a strong ally, it is not only important but critical to speak out against LGTBQ racism. I am a strong ally against housing discrimination. I continue to be a strong supporter. Transphobia is a virus, and it will be stopped, it must be stopped, and it must end.

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 have given up my car and use an electric bicycle. I am an advocate for slow streets and am speaking out to make SF and Bay Area less dependent on cars through social media, education, and teaching my children.

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?

I often seem to take left positions. I think it was a few years ago when I stopped the Christmas Surprise by the late Mayor Lee, Former Supervisor Tang, State Senator Weiner is defeating the housing density bill for western neighborhoods. No one knew about it in the communities as everyone was preparing Christmas. I am not a Christian and don't celebrate Christmas, so I had a lot of time to organize and force a delay. I rallied close to 400 members in D4 to attend a meeting at the Sunset library. Everyone was against the density bill, which would have built luxury towers around our public parks, ocean view lots, up to 60 and 80 feet. The protest spread city-wide, and all districts demanded their own public meeting. The more people learned, the more they were horrified. The proposal didn't pass. Some months later, an ethics charge was filed against Supervisor Tang, and the SF Board of Ethics found her in violation. The following

year, D4 held its first open election in nearly 20 years, and we elected our first liberal supervisor, Gordon Mar.

Only School Board Candidates

1. Do you support charter schools in San Francisco? Why or why not?

No. It takes funding away from public schools. We need to pay teachers more. If elected to the Board, I want to have starting salaries at the same pay scale if not higher as police -\$89,000. I would lobby to use the savings from the police to pay a living wage to teachers. When I first started teaching, my salary was less than \$30,000 a year. I would also stop the micro-management of teachers and reduce administration costs. There is overlap with City and SF County with administration, and this needs to be reduced.

2. Do you support Common Core education standards?

No. It's too much micro-managing of teachers. It creates stress on students, teachers, and parents. It promotes learned helplessness and causes depression of students, and teachers leaving the profession while increasing student drop-out rates. We need to reform our schools and measure mental health, happiness, alternative career paths with job placement, and address the social and economic injustices of BLACK, Latinx, LGTBQ students. We need to teach BLACK & LGTBQ history at all school sites across the City. We need to teach how to be anti-racist, think critically, and address the economic inequality not by teaching but providing tools to be successful.

Trevor Noah comments on his book, "Give a person a fish and he/she/they will eat for a day. Teach him/her/they how to fish and he/she/they feed a family." The problem with this? People need the tools- a fishing pole.

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

Both of my children experienced civil rights violations at a school in the Western neighborhoods. It breaks my heart, and although programs such as the gay-straight alliance is a good start, there needs to be more education with the general student population and more on-site intervention with a focus on special needs and specialized policies. I am joining as a founding member, a parent group led by Dr. Shawn Giammattei, a nationwide (possibly world-wide) parent & caregivers support group of trans children.

Students are self-segregating, which may be a result of learned unconscious bias from their parents, social media, news, and bigoted and racist political leaders. When elected to the Board, I promise to address these serious issues and devise a plan with LGTBQ and, in particular transgender support groups. I want to encourage the hiring of more trans teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, and provide teacher training programs led by LGTBQ non-profits. I would also explore renaming a school after one of the many trans leaders who were responsible for the anti-discrimination policies enjoyed by so many in the LGTBQ community but left out LGTBQ people of color.

4. How will you address the needs of homeless students? Homeless students should be given priority placement for housing. I am a strong proponent of hybrid teacher housing and homeless housing sharing SFUSD-owned properties.

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

I hope this won't be an issue once we elect a new president in November. If not, continue the current program of a sanctuary city, strict non-cooperation with ICE, and work with the Board of Supervisors, Mayor, and community non-profits to protect our students. We are in the business of education, not immigration enforcement. No student will be turned away from enrolling in school should continue.

6. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support African American students? I want the Board of Education, Superintendent, to pass a proclamation in support of Black Reparations. The Superintendent and Board of Education need to issue an apology to BLACK students and families for the decades of systemic racism, educational inequality, and the cultural insensitivity of BLACK students.

7. Do you support alternatives to a student's suspension in instances of disruption or willful defiance?

Absolutely. I remember many years ago, I was teaching a remedial math course to 8th graders at a middle school. The kids were engaged in learning fractions from my stock market class project. Kids were excited and eager with the contest, which was followed up with a trip to the headquarters of Charles Schwab downtown. I had a student who was caught with a beer, and he was expelled from school. I fought to keep him in my class to no avail. To this day, I often wondered about him. Did he drop out and quit school? What happened to him?

This is very personal for me. I had a younger brother now deceased who frequently got into trouble at school. He needed intervention and specialized services, but this didn't exist 50 years ago. He eventually quit school and had frequent run-ins with the law, which eventually led to his incarceration at youth detention centers and later a long stint at San Quentin Prison.

We need to stop students from falling through the cracks and/or ignored by schools and society. We can spend the money now or spend a great deal more in the future.

We need to end the classroom to the prison cycle. It's inhumane, morally wrong, and in the end, very costly.

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?

This is a tough question because the painter was a member of the Communist Party. I was also a Communist party member in the past. I found no evidence of the painter having or showing racism or hostility towards blacks or Native Americans. Unless there is further evidence, I believe he painted the fresco to illustrate the naïveté of white America's view of history and showing the ill-treatment of slaves and Native Americans fate should be decided by students. I am a huge supporter of the Arts, and it makes me very uneasy about destroying an artist's work if he did not display racism. I can't do this. Art is meant to be controversial, and if this mural provokes discussion and debate, then it has succeeded in its mission.

I don't want to spend any more SFUSD time or money on this controversy. We can't afford it, and it would be foolhardy to spend money defending the Board's decision in court. Washington owned slaves, and his name stays up? I would not be opposed to changing the name of the school to Martha P. Johnson, but I am certain it will produce a huge outcry and consume monies and valuable time from our school budget, which has a 70 million dollar deficit and growing.

I would incorporate a City-wise discussion of high school students taking history and art classes to determine the outcome through debate, written research projects, and invitations to guest speakers of the art community, indigenous peoples, and BLACK art historians.

The Board is not qualified to make such a decision.

Thank you,

Tim Murphy

Pronouns: he/him/his