

**The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
Questionnaire for November 2020**

Dear Candidates and Ballot Measure Representatives,

Congratulations on declaring your candidacy for office or your preferred ballot measure position. 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. Your participation in our Club's questionnaire 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 or your ballot position is successful.

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.

(Representatives of ballot measure positions only need to answer questions pertaining to ballot measures.)

Candidates, please email your answers to Edward Wright, our Vice President of Political Affairs, at pac@milklub.org and to correspondent@milklub.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. 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. Stay tuned for more details on this later in the month.

Representatives of ballot measure positions will be interviewed during our regularly-scheduled July PAC Meeting on Tuesday, July 14th from 7-9pm, so please return your questionnaires prior to that date. Stay tuned for more details.

Your questionnaire responses and interview answers will weigh heavily in our overall endorsement process, so please take both seriously. Please contact us at pac@milklub.org to schedule an appointment once your questionnaire is completed.

Good Luck!

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Required Information

Full Name: *Ahsha Safai*

Office: *District 11 Supervisor*

Campaign Address: *4750 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112*

Campaign Phone: *(415) 578-0252*

Campaign Email: *info@ahshaforsupervisor.com*

Campaign Website: *<http://www.ahshaforsupervisor.com/>*

Political Party: *Democratic*

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.

For the past 20 years, I've worked in the community and government to help San Francisco's working families. With Mayors Gavin Newsom and Willie L. Brown, Jr., I helped community development organizations and public housing residents effectively access government services. For almost a decade prior to my election as Supervisor, I was the Political Director for Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 87, which represents private sector janitors in San Francisco. In that role, I helped lead campaigns that forced employers to treat workers with the dignity they deserve.

I ask for your endorsement for re-election to continue building on the important progress we are making for District 11 residents and workers across San Francisco:

- Funding affordable housing, including 370 units of desperately needed affordable family housing in District 11.
- Responding to COVID-19 by procuring thousands of masks and other personal protective equipment for frontline workers and establishing policies that protect frontline workers from workplace exposure.
- Connecting San Franciscans to quality jobs through initiatives such as the first Job Center in the Lakeview neighborhood.
- Improving our environment and neighborhoods through the planting of 2,000 City-maintained street trees in our community.
- Renovating Recreation and Parks facilities including Merced Heights, Alice Chalmers and the Geneva Car Barn.
- Improving pedestrian safety by installing traffic calming measures in our neighborhoods and repaving City streets.

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

Governor Gavin Newsom; SF Labor Council; the Building & Construction Trades; the San Francisco Democratic Party #2 endorsement; Unite Here Local 2; Speaker Nancy Pelosi

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?

I propose that we build a better safety net for our unhoused fellow San Franciscans, as well as more affordable housing. As Supervisor, I worked with the city and homelessness advocates to build the first Vehicle Triage Center in San Francisco in my District, which allows for individuals to stay on the site for 90 days and access resources that would help

transition them to more permanent housing, with a \$1.4 million investment from Mayor London Breed and the Board of Supervisors. I co-sponsored the legislation that created the center because people living in their vehicles are one of the fastest growing groups experiencing homelessness. You are less likely to get someone that owns a vehicle to give that vehicle up to move on, so this is a way to have a space where they can be safe. The center has been a huge success in our fight to ensure all San Franciscans are able to live with dignity and security, and I am looking forward to seeing this program grow.

With COVID-19, we are seeing that putting homeless individuals in hotels and permanent supportive housing can be an effective way to address the homeless crisis. I support acquiring some of these properties rather than simply leasing them so we can provide long-term solutions.

I will continue my fight to build more affordable housing so we can work towards eliminating the displacement and pricing out of San Franciscans from their communities. I will continue increasing access to bathroom and shower facilities, food support, along with social services, such as job training, for our unhoused neighbors. We cannot ignore or overlook homeless people and their needs, and I am committed to building a stronger safety net which ensures that no San Franciscan gets left behind.

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?

As Supervisor, I secured over 60 million dollars for the construction of about 400 new affordable housing units. I was also able to secure a one-of-a-kind project in District 11 when the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Development Agreement for 915 Cayuga. For the first time in the City's history, a developer voluntarily agreed to have 50% of the units be below-market-rate or affordable and district constituents will be able to benefit from the project because 40% of the units will be for residents living in the community, what is referred to as "neighborhood preference."

As Supervisor I helped save 21 residential units and six mom-and-pop shops, primarily Latinx and Filipino families at 4830 Mission Street from displacement or evictions through the Small Sites Program, which helps prevent the displacement of low-income residents by purchasing any building that is on the market or listed.

I have succeeded in expanding the income bands for what is considered "affordable" or below-market-rate housing in San Francisco to include, for the first time, the so-called "missing middle" or working families. Many individuals who are working, barely getting by, and who are not extremely poor, thus, disqualified from most housing subsidy programs, would now be able to qualify for affordable housing. This means that janitors, teachers, nurses, MUNI drivers, and many more have a fighting chance of staying here in San Francisco.

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

For the last 20 years I have championed and worked with African American leaders to provide resources, investment in Black businesses and organizations, affordable housing,

criminal justice reform, and promote policy that will keep more Black families in SF. I have worked hard to uplift the Lakeview/OMI community by opening the first Job Center. As Supervisor I have appointed and supported African Americans on City Bodies and Commissions. I also fought for the creation of a library for an underserved community that has a high population of African Americans.

In 2019, I co-signed and voted for legislation to close down Juvenile Hall by 2021 and reallocate \$13 million in funds to community programs, opportunities for education, mental health rehabilitation, and job-training programs, leading to a safer and better San Francisco. I am currently working with the Mayor's office to identify organizations and programs to invest in as we discuss re-imagining policing and redirecting resources to historically underserved communities.

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

As a member of the Democratic Party, I have worked to support and empower women, LGBTQ and candidates of color to help diversify the voices in the Democratic Party.

I publicly supported turning the Tenderloin into the country's first transgender cultural district in order to create a safe place for folks in the transgender community, a place where they can feel recognized. In some parts of the United States, even in California, members of the transgender community are still extremely marginalized. Regarding the Tenderloin specifically, we wanted to recognize the neighborhood's history of protests and uprisings, specifically with transgender leaders. We want to bring the importance of recognizing issues within the transgender community to the forefront, particularly in San Francisco.

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 Supervisor, I have spearheaded efforts to protect our environment and San Franciscans' pocketbooks by crafting legislation that would require that entities dubbed "large refuse generators" ("LRGs"), which generate an inordinate amount of waste, be held accountable by being subjected to, for the first time, audits in three-year cycles and forced to either pay hefty penalty fines and fees or hire a Zero-Waste Facilitator ("ZWF") to properly sort and divert waste into the appropriate waste bin (blue, black, or green). This is a win for San Franciscans because it means that the City's worst offenders will now have to pay for their unwillingness to sort their waste streams and do their part in protecting our environment. Furthermore, this legislation sends a message to the community that I am committed to fighting pollution and protecting their right to a clean environment. In order to improve the air quality and protect the environment of District 11, I planted over 1,500 trees since January 2017 and secured \$2 million to plant and maintain trees in our community. I also invested over \$7 million in the complete renovation and cleanup of the Merced Heights and Alice Chalmers Playgrounds to provide safe, clean spaces for our youth and families.

Every member of my District deserves to live in a healthy, clean environment, and if re-elected, I will continue to build on the progress we have made thus far and fight against pollution in District 11.

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 have made it a priority to address the needs and concerns of San Franciscans by engaging with community members and various stakeholders to, among other things, overhaul the Criminal Justice system and work against the Prison Industrial Complex.

As I mentioned previously, I co-signed and voted for legislation to close down Juvenile Hall by 2021 and reallocate \$13 million in funds to community programs, opportunities for education, mental health rehabilitation, and job-training programs, leading to a safer and better San Francisco. Additionally, in 2020, I voted to approve legislation requiring the expedited closure of County Jail Number 4 at 850 Bryant Street, as well as, supporting the proposed resolution preventing the San Francisco Police Department from hiring anyone with a history of misconduct or racist behavior.

Only Supervisorial Candidates

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

The three top issues I will work to affect in my next term are affordable housing, government reform and ensuring that District 11 residents and businesses get their fair share of City resources.

Building more affordable housing is a vital step in our fight against the housing crisis, poverty and homelessness. The supply of affordable housing needs to increase in San Francisco as a whole as well as in District 11. I look forward to supporting efforts to protect affordable housing funds from budget cuts, supporting projects that deliver affordable housing and educating residents about how they can access housing opportunities.

Government reform is also a key priority. As Supervisor, I worked to close Juvenile Hall and County Jail #4 and am working with my colleague Supervisor Shamann Walton on critical justice reform efforts. Reforming some of our public health systems is also a top priority, especially when it comes to mental health. The economic downturn means large deficits in the City budget, and we must ensure the funds we spend are well used.

District 11 has often been treated like a forgotten part of San Francisco. As Supervisor, I work every day to deliver for residents and businesses in the southern part of our City. Key neighborhood priorities include: traffic safety, improving Rec and Park facilities, funding youth and senior programs, protecting immigrants and helping low-income residents access the services they need to stay in San Francisco.

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

I am fully committed to reallocating funding from police into community organizations and services, such as IT Bookman, that uplift and support the Black and Latinx communities. I believe the ultimate change needs to be investing more in our communities of color and services that get to the root of the problem, rather than in a broken system that has far too long terrorized these same communities.

I support shifting some of the role and responsibility away from the police to healthcare and social workers who are better equipped to deal with individuals suffering from behavioral health issues or homelessness, and I am in support of increased accountability by officers who use unnecessary force and am glad the DA has expanded their role in working with families who have suffered from police violence, for we cannot say we are a City that is a safe haven and progressive if we allow these injustices to occur.

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

I support the CEO tax and reform of the gross receipts tax system that is currently under negotiation. We need to do what we can to balance the budget by demanding more taxes be paid by the ultra wealthy who have for too long not paid their fair share. It was not

billionaires that saved us from this public health crisis, but the working class men and women who risked their lives to serve us. Doctors, nurses, bus drivers, grocery clerks, janitors, restaurant workers, postal employees, kept our City running and safe. We need to do what we can to support our working families and demand accountability and resources from the wealthy instead of celebrating minor pet projects. I support new revenue to help address our budget shortfalls through many of the measures being proposed for the fall to ensure our frontline workers don't bear the lion's share of cuts in pay and benefits.

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?

We must continue to encourage individuals to follow health guidelines set by the Department of Public Health. In addition, we need to find and connect resources for businesses, especially monolingual businesses that may not be aware of all the resources out there. My team and I have been working hands-on with the businesses in our neighborhood, talking to each business to assess what we can do to help.

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

Yes

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

I intend to continue to work for low-income residents and middle class families to ensure that they have a fighting chance to stay here in San Francisco. One example of my efforts is HOME-SF as lead sponsor, which increased density in appropriate locations to generate more affordable housing through private development. Another was strongly supporting General Obligation bonds for affordable housing. We have 4 large projects under way in my district totalling nearly 600 units and 65% will be affordable. We will work to expand more 100% sites, we currently have two.

I also supported putting Supervisor Preston's initiative on the ballot that would authorize the city to build or rehabilitate up to 10,000 municipally owned rental housing units that would be leased at affordable rates permanently.

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

I fully support navigation centers, and I have supported the geographic equity of navigation centers citywide. I don't believe it is the responsibility of only a few districts to carry the load of sheltering the homeless, we all have to do our part. That is why I volunteered District 11 as the first district to house the Vehicle Triage Center which provides shelter, food and services for those living within their vehicles. Safe Parking was a program homelessness advocates have been working on for decades and we were finally able to see it come to fruition last year. More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the increase in homelessness is due to people living within their vehicles and I am glad we as a city are stepping up to meet that need.

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

My colleagues and I on the Board of Supervisors stand our ground on issues that we care deeply about. The Mayor has been forced to work on the agenda set by the Board of

Supervisors such as for Mental Health SF, the closure of Juvenile Hall, the Minimum Compensation Ordinance, and in collaboration more recently on the gross receipt tax for the November ballot.

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

My closest allies include: Board President Norman Yee, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Supervisor Sandra Fewer, and Supervisor Shamann Walton

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

As Supervisor I have funded over \$3 million in programming for seniors, youth, afterschool, mental health, low-income, immigrant communities through the City's addback process with a special emphasis on our Black led organizations. I will continue supporting accessible, quality education, health care, support services for marginalized and low-income communities, senior services, and child-care, including adequately funding, expanding, and investing in these programs/services if re-elected.

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

The Department of Public Health, SFMTA and Public Works (which is currently being audited). All of these departments have been too big to fail and there has been a massive over utilization of temporary employees and they have all become top heavy.

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? <u>Lauren Chung, (415) 578-0252, lauren@ahshaforsupervisor.com</u>	YES	<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
NO

YES

Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class? (For example, a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual non-monogamous 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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-roll repeal of Proposition 13?	YES	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	YES	
Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	YES	
Have you ever evicted a tenant?		NO
Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD?		NO
Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	YES	
Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, this year?	YES	
Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco?	YES	
Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco?	YES	
Do you support this year's proposed real estate transfer tax for properties valued at or over \$10 million?	YES	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

YES NO

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

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?	YES	
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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?		
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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, I support having its political influence in the City severely curtailed	
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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, I support affirmative action	
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Do you support the California App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative?		NO
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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 Clean Power 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?		NO
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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.)

Candidate	2020
Democratic Presidential Primary	Elizabeth Warren
CA State Senate, District 11	Scott Weiner
District 1 Supervisor	No one
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
District 5 Supervisor	No one
District 7 Supervisor	Myrna Melgar
District 11 Supervisor	Ahsha Safai

Candidate	2019
District 5 Supervisor	Vallie Brown
San Francisco District Attorney	Suzy Loftus

Candidate	2018
Mayor	London Breed & Mark Leno
District 4 Supervisor	Jessica Ho
District 6 Supervisor	Christine Johnson
District 8 Supervisor	Jeff Sheehy then No one

District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton
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