

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Questionnaire for Candidates for November 2012

Dear Candidate,

Congratulations on officially declaring your candidacy. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club invites you to get to know us better as we seek to learn more about you. As we plan our endorsements for the 2012 election cycle, your participation in our club questionnaire allows our membership to better understand you as a candidate – who you are, what you stand for, and what you plan to accomplish in office.

*There are two parts to our questionnaire this year. Part 1 is a series of short-answer questions. We invite you to be descriptive in this section, however, please keep your responses to under 5 sentences. Part 2 is a simple Yes/No questionnaire that covers a broader set of issues than Part 1. The completed questionnaire must be returned by noon on **Monday, August 13th**. E-mail all questionnaires to pac@milkclub.org.*

*For D5 and D7 candidates, we look forward to seeing you at our candidate debates on **August 11th (D5)** and **September 4th (D7)**. For all candidates, we will be holding our candidate interview session with our Political Action Committee (PAC) members on **Saturday, September 15th** at the LGBT Center. If you have any questions, please contact the PAC Chair, Laura Thomas via email at pac@milkclub.org.*

*Good luck,
The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club*

Required Information

Full Name: London Breed

Office Sought: District 5 Supervisor

Mailing Address: 1015 Fillmore St. SF, CA 94115

Phone: 415-583-1779

Email: info@londonforsupervisor.com

Website: londonforsupervisor.com

**Are you a member of the Harvey Milk Club? no
If so, when did you first join?**

Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ)? no

PART 1: Short-Answer Questionnaire

- 1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek (include your key issues/priorities if elected and what distinguishes you from other candidates seeking the same job), plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

Having been born in San Francisco, and growing up in public housing in the Western Addition, I was a constant witness not only to the huge needs and difficulties of the people around me, but to the many committed, caring and passionate people who were working to help their fellow citizens.

They inspired me, and continue to inspire me, to make San Francisco's government a place that serves its citizens as well as it possibly can.

I have been fortunate to serve in city government on the Redevelopment Commission and Fire Commission, and to partner with city government for the last ten years in my role as Executive Director of the African-American Art and Culture Complex. Now I feel it is time to take the next step forward in making City Hall work for all San Franciscans.

I'm running to be a leader who connects the dots between our government and our communities, so everyone in District 5 and the entire city has the opportunity to make everything they want of their lives, and together those lives will make San Francisco the city we've always dreamed of.

2) How have you been an advocate for the LGBTQ community? Please provide specific examples.

As the Executive Director of the African American Art & Culture Complex, I have worked for years to make sure that equality wasn't something that we discussed, but actually words put into action through the arts. We have hosted exhibits like "We Were There," which served as a tribute to the Lesbian women who were the caretakers of the Gay men who were diagnosed with HIV in the 80s when the disease began to emerge. We have hosted the Queer Arts Cultural Festival for the past four years in June. The Queer Cultural Center, which organizes the festival are now also a resident art organization at the African American Art & Culture Complex.

I opposed California's Proposition 8, and spend a considerable amount of personal time communicating to voters in the African American community why this proposition must be defended. My Pastor, Rev. Amos Brown and I met with members of the African American Community to make it clear that we both support marriage equality.

I have employees, friends and family of the LGBT community and I will always stand for what is right in protecting them against discrimination and provide them with the same rights as all Americans.

3) LGBTQ elders face a number of challenges, including housing, accessing health care, isolation, and lack of services. Older people living with HIV face similar challenges. How do you think San Francisco should address those issues, and what would you do about them if you were elected?

My grandmother raised my brothers and I in a small apartment in public housing with a very small bathroom. My mentally challenge aunt also lived with us and it was sometimes difficult to co-exist in such a small space with so many people. Giving all San Franciscans the dignity of a quality affordable place to live has been a passion of mine for my entire adult life. During my five years on the Redevelopment Agency Commission, I voted to approve over 10,000 new housing units at Hunters Point Shipyard, voted to maintain the affordability of the King-Garvey Co-op and the Kimochi Senior homes and voted for projects from market rate home ownership to supportive housing for the formerly homeless and senior housing.

Elderly people can sometimes depend on City services more than younger citizens, and they deserve a strong advocate who is connected to the community to fight for them in City Hall. As Supervisor, elderly San Franciscans can count on me to connect them with the services they need, and be their voice with City government when it isn't serving them as well as they deserve.

- 4) San Francisco is facing declining federal funds for HIV care and prevention, yet there are more people living with HIV in San Francisco now than ever. How should San Francisco deal with this? Should we continue to dedicate General Funds to HIV services?

There are few diagnoses more devastating or disrupting of a person's life than HIV. Since the beginning of the disease, those afflicted have needed the support of their community to get through an extraordinarily difficult ordeal. Caring for our citizens living with HIV/AIDS can be an opportunity for us to show our greatest strength, that we are a City of community and support rather than fear and marginalization.

As a city, we must continue to provide that support for our citizens who need it. We are already a worldwide leader in community support for HIV patients, and must remain one. We should absolutely continue using general funds for HIV services, and also make sure that every City initiative focused on health care, clinics, and hospitals has been looked at with an eye toward those of us who are living with HIV/AIDS.

- 5) How should San Francisco respond to the US Attorney's harassment and closure of licensed medical cannabis dispensaries in San Francisco? What would you do, if elected, to stop these closures?

Although the Board of Supervisors doesn't have legal authority over the US Attorney's Office, those who sit on the Board can show the world that the system of medical cannabis is working as we in San Francisco always said it would.

It's no surprise that people from outside the City are still stuck in the past on this issue, but like on so many other issues, leading from the front can be a difficult task that only the most determined should undertake.

San Francisco must continue fighting for the cause of medical cannabis, to change minds and to showcase a helpful and forward-thinking policy. The harassment will stop when the harassers can see the folly of their position. We must send the message of support to the Obama administration so that it is clear, that this is about compassion, dignity for those who are helped by having access to medical cannabis.

- 6) Supervised injection facilities or drug consumption facilities have been shown to reduce new HIV and hepatitis infections, overdose deaths, and public drug use, and to increase linkage to medical care and substance use treatment and save money, yet they remain controversial and illegal. Do you think San Francisco should offer supervised injection services and if so, how would you help make that happen?

Addiction is a disease, and as someone who has lost a sister to a drug overdose, I will support supervised injection facilities, which include support services on site for those, that want help in

turning their lives around. When my sister told me she wanted help, I had to help her right away, otherwise, she would have been back on the streets. Sadly she lost her battle with addiction and I want to make sure that those who have an addiction have a much easier way to access services once they decide they want help. The support services that would provide treatment must meet people who have addictions where they are, in the streets, or provide easy access to safe facilities where there is no fear of law enforcement.

- 7) San Francisco nightlife and entertainment brings billions of dollars into the San Francisco economy. What do you plan to do to protect and expand the entertainment industry in San Francisco?

I spent many years enjoying the nightlife in SF. I am still very close friends with many of the club owners and the club promoters who have recently expressed frustration with city policies around nightlife. As supervisor, my goal would be to expand nightlife hours and maintain public safety by ensuring that nightclubs have appropriate trained security, are up to building code and that they do not exceed capacity.

- a. Optional: share a favorite San Francisco nightlife memory.

My Halloweens in the Castro were always the highlight of my year! My friends and I would go all out with our costumes, which included wigs, the right shoes or boots, make up, accessories, the works!!! We knew we were a hit when we couldn't walk down the street without someone asking us to pose for photos.

One year, when me and my best friend Eric decided to be Rick James and Teena Marie, we were on our way home at about 3am with no buses or taxis in sight. We decided to hitch a ride and the driver who stopped said he would give us a ride, but we had to sign "Fire and Desire." Of course, we had no choice but to accommodate his request, because there was no way I was going to make it home walking San Francisco's hills in my 4 inch heel boots, and Eric certainly wasn't going to do any better in his 2 inch heel boots either. So we sang our hearts out, and it was clear the driver was tone deaf because he gave us a ride despite our talent to hold a tune. We laughed about it for weeks! I sure miss Halloween in the Castro.

- 8) What would you do to raise revenue for underfunded city services? How would you support government and private initiatives to bring in more funds to maintain vital services?

Raising taxes is no one's idea of a good time, but making sure government is as efficient as possible is my idea of how we can find the money we need to provide the services our citizens require.

Not every program works exactly as intended, but sometimes programs seem to stick around long after their usefulness has run out, or after the needs of the City have changed and left them behind.

Other individual City offices, such as MUNI, need constant monitoring to ensure that any money that is being spent there is being spent wisely, and if it isn't, we can find any number of places where it could do a lot of good for San Franciscans.

- 9) What is your strategy for increasing affordable housing options in San Francisco?
What is causing the problem and how do you propose to address it?

Because this is such a fantastic place to live, too often the market in the City pushes developers to build extremely expensive homes, but there is no one cause to the lack of affordable housing; it is a complex problem requiring detailed solutions.

First, we must make sure that the funds the City has set aside in the affordable housing trust fund is being used for its intended purpose. Then we must create a culture in City government where the focus is on what housing the people of the City need.

As Supervisor, I will work not only with developers, but with the Planning Commission and my former colleagues at the now dissolved Redevelopment Agency Commission to ensure that the changes in our City reflect the needs of the people, not whoever has the best government connections, as seems to have been a factor in too many recent decisions.

- 10) What is your vision for enhancing access for all to San Francisco's public and green spaces?

The natural beauty of our City, and how our lives are intertwined with nature and the outdoors, is part of what makes San Francisco the world's most beautiful city. We need to give our citizens the means to experience all of that majesty.

Getting citizens access to these spaces means real fixes for MUNI, where drivers and riders make decisions that get repairs done faster than the bureaucracy, it means neighborhood shuttles from senior housing to public spaces, and it means everyone from developers to community groups incorporating the City's parks into their plans.

We also must commit in the budget process and in the planning process to being a City of natural wonder. We are asked to make these choices about our priorities every day when new projects are proposed, either to expand the green spaces in San Francisco or encroach upon them, and those decisions should be made by people who understand the role the outdoors play in the lives of San Franciscans.

PART 2: Yes/No Questionnaire

Please check **Yes** or **No** for each question.

GENERAL	YES	NO
1. Are you registered to vote as Democrat?	X	

2. Have you ever run for elected office before?		X
3. Do you have a campaign consultant? If so, who: Maureen Erwin and Maggie Muir	X	
4. Have you ever sought the Milk Club endorsement in the past?		X

LGBTQ ISSUES

5. Do you fully support same-sex marriage equality?	X	
6. Do you support anti-discrimination laws for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people?	X	
7. Do you support including full transgender health benefits in Healthy San Francisco and other San Francisco health programs?	X	
8. Do you support city funding for employment development for transgender individuals?	X	

ELECTIONS

9. Do you support ranked choice voting?	X	
10. Did you support public financing in mayoral and supervisor races?	X	
11. Do you support public financing for other citywide races?	X	

TENANT, HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

12. Do you support rent control?	X	
13. Do you support repealing the Ellis Act?	X	
14. Have you ever been involved as homeowner, buyer, or agent in the eviction of a tenant?		X
15. Do you support the 8 Washington development project?		X
16. Should the current low-income housing set-aside in new housing development be increased?	X	

RACIAL AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

17. Do you support driver's licenses for undocumented persons?		X
18. Did you support voting rights for noncitizen residents in school board races (most recently Prop D in 2010)?		
19. Do you support the sanctuary city ordinance and 2009 amendments?	X	
20. Do you support initiating a "stop and frisk" policy in San Francisco, similar to the one in effect in New York?		X
21. Do you support the protection of due process for immigrant youth accused of crime?	X	
22. Do you support the DREAM Act?	X	

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH, AND LABOR ISSUES

	YES	NO
23. Do you support the change to a city gross receipts tax?	X	
24. Do you support capital punishment (death penalty)?		X
25. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work?		
26. Did you support Sit/Lie (Prop L in 2011)?	X	

27. Do you support reducing simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor?	X	
28. Do you support the legalization, taxation, and regulation of adult recreational use of marijuana?	X	
29. Should San Francisco fully fund substance use treatment on demand?	X	
30. Do you support a woman's right to choose and access a safe and legal abortion under all circumstances?	X	
31. Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott?		X
32. Do you support the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights?	X	

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ISSUES

33. Do you support parental notification for birth control?		X
34. Did you support JROTC in SFUSD Schools (Prop V in 2008)?	X	
35. Do you support free Muni for youth in San Francisco?	X	
36. Do you support raising local revenue to support City College (parcel tax)?	X	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

37. Do you support draining and restoring the Hetch Hetchy?		X
38. Did you support the Clean Energy Act in 2008 (Prop H)?	X	
39. Do you support the SFMTA Central Subway plan?		
40. Do you support changing lower Market Street into a public transit/bike-only street?		X