

## San Francisco District 11 Democratic Club

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### Questionnaire for Candidates – November 2016 Candidates

PLEASE USE THIS TEMPLATE TO RESPOND ELECTRONICALLY TO  
*info@sfd11dems.com* by **Wednesday, August 17, 2016** by 11pm.

Our PAC meetings are scheduled for Saturday, Aug.27 & Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 from 10am-5pm each day. If you have a preferred time to schedule, please contact [info@sfd11dems.com](mailto:info@sfd11dems.com). Otherwise, you will receive time an email to sign up for timeslots using google docs.

1. **Name: Victor Hwang**
2. **Address: 123 10th Street, S.F., CA 94103**
3. **Telephone/Cell phone: (415) 595-6081**
4. **Email address: [victor@hwangforjudge.com](mailto:victor@hwangforjudge.com)**

5. **What is your political affiliation? How long?**  
Democrat, since 1986.

6. **Please list your campaign manager and contact info?**  
I am running my own campaign.

7. **What is the major source of your campaign funding? Also, please list your top 3 funders.**

My campaign is funded primarily by my family, myself, and friends and colleagues. Aside from myself and family, my largest donors are Joseph Yeh (God-uncle), Lawrence Lui (friend), and Chou Chen (family friend).

8. **What office are you running for? Please explain why you are running and what your qualifications are for this specific office?**

I am running to be a San Francisco Superior Court Judge because I think I would bring a unique and balanced perspective to the bench, having spent a career in public service.

I began my career as a public defender in East Los Angeles where I tried 50 cases to jury verdict from misdemeanors to homicide. I then worked on civil rights litigation at the Asian Law Caucus where I led efforts to improve race relations in the city's housing developments, fought on behalf of immigrant rights, and represented seniors in citizenship, public benefits, and estate planning cases.

I worked for a total of 8 years at API Legal Outreach as its managing attorney/deputy director where I led the agency's work around hate crimes, human trafficking, domestic violence, and housing. I then joined the District Attorney's office to lead its work around civil rights prosecution, focused on sexual assault, hate crimes, and human trafficking.

Based upon my 24 years of actual legal practice, I would bring a depth and balance of experience to the court having served as both a public defender and as a district attorney, having spent 11 years in our criminal courts and 13 years on the civil side.

It is for this reason that after an independent investigation, the Bar Association of San Francisco rated me to be “Exceptionally Well-Qualified” to serve as judge, the only candidate to have received the Bar Association’s highest rating in 20 years. I have also received the endorsements of all the major newspapers including the San Francisco Chronicle, Examiner, Bay Guardian and Sing Tao Daily.

**9. Identify the three most important issues for the position you seek? What are the solutions you see for these specific issue areas or how will you work to tackle them?**

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE:**

According to the California Commission on Access to Justice, the vast majority of Californians are not able to meaningfully access or defend themselves before the courts given the daunting barriers of language, education, and lack of resources to hire private counsel. In 2005, there were more than 8,300 eligible clients to every legal aid attorney in the state. Unrepresented litigants fare poorly in the system of justice if they have the courage to attempt legal proceedings at all, and the problems are only compounded if they don’t speak English as their first language. I would work to improve court self-help centers which I have worked without throughout my career and build stronger connections with the nonprofit legal community to take on the more complicated cases.

**PROCEDURAL JUSTICE:**

The vast majority of litigants without attorneys leave court without truly understanding what the court’s decision means. I would work to ensure that the court displays the patience to make sure that each litigant feels that they have had a meaningful opportunity to be heard and understand the thinking behind my ruling at the end.

**IMPLICIT BIAS:**

I would ask the courts to consider having all court staff including judges undergo periodic implicit bias training to ensure that we guard against developing stereotypes and bias against particular groups of people. Although we all like to think of ourselves as fair and unbiased, implicit bias trainings help everyone to more consciously recognize the impact of subtle stereotypes and limit their impact upon our delivery of justice.

**10. District 11 has more children, more ethnic diversity and more homeowners than any other district in San Francisco. These are just a few of the unique features of this district. If elected, describe the priorities of your office for District 11.**

I am a San Francisco homeowner who chose to enroll my three children in a public school which holds ethnic diversity and curriculum diversity (arts and music) at the core of its mission statement. My children's school is 31% Caucasian, 21% Latino, about 20% Asian American/Pacific Islander and 12% African American.

If elected, I would work in particular to make the court system as accessible and user-friendly as possible for the residents of San Francisco whether they are coming to the court as parties, as witnesses, or as jurors. I would work to expand our court child-care center so that single parents and parents of young children can fully participate in our system of justice and I would be sensitive to the needs of those seeking employment or with other pressing priorities.

As I have throughout my career, I would commit to participating in schools, community meetings and civic functions to raise awareness regarding the process of our judicial system and solicit feedback from the community on how to make it work better. The courts are a branch of government that serve the people and we, as judges, need to do our part to reduce the barriers to justice.

**11. We would like to know your position on the following ALL of the Measures, please circle or clearly mark your preference. In addition, please add short comments to your top 5 issues on why you believe this measure or proposition is of critical importance this election:**

The Judicial Canon of Ethics prohibits judicial candidates from taking positions on any issues or controversies that may come before the court. I have indicated below where I have taken past positions on particular issues or worked in areas which may help to inform my positions in the future.

**LOCAL Measures:**

Initiative Ordinance: Affordable Housing Requirements for Market-Rate Development Projects (Resubmitted)

**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance: Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on City-Owned Projects (Resubmitted)

**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance: Office Development in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point  
**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance: Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds  
**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment- Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections  
**Support or Oppose**

Previously, I have worked at an internship with the Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division: Voting Rights section to monitor attempts by jurisdictions to disenfranchise minority voters. I was also in charge of Voting Rights Enforcement while working as a civil rights attorney at the Asian Law Caucus.

San Francisco Community College District November 8, 2016 Parcel Tax Election  
**Support or Oppose**

Prohibiting Candidate-Controlled General Purpose Committees  
**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance - Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Ordinance  
**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance - The Safe Neighborhoods Initiative  
**Support or Oppose**

I currently serve on the Police Commission, but have not taken a position specifically on this initiative. I would say generally that the focus of the Commission has been to prioritize police resources to addressing violent crimes.

Initiative Ordinance - Promotion of Safe and Open Sidewalks  
**Support or Oppose**

Resolution Ordering School Bond Election in an Amount Not to Exceed \$744,250,000 and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith  
**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - Dignity Fund

**Support or Oppose**

I have previously worked in the areas of Elder Law and Elder Abuse.

Charter Amendment - Municipal Transportation Agency- Appointments to Board of Directors and Budget Process

**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - Homeless Housing Services Fund; Transportation Improvement Fund - Budget Set-Asides

**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Local Elective Office

**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance - Increase Real Property Transfer Tax on Properties of At Least \$5,000,000

**Support or Oppose**

Initiative Ordinance - Restrict Lobbyist Gifts, Campaign Contributions and Bundled Contributions

**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - Housing and Development Commission

**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - Department of Police Accountability

**Support or Oppose**

I currently serve as a member of the Police Commission which oversees the budget and functions of the Office of Citizens Complaints.

Charter Amendment - Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections

**Support or Oppose**

Previously, I have worked at an internship with the Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division: Voting Rights section to monitor attempts by jurisdictions to disenfranchise minority voters. I was also in charge of Voting Rights Enforcement while working as a civil rights attorney at the Asian Law Caucus.

Charter Amendment - Public Advocate

**Support or Oppose**

General Obligation Bond Election -Amending Earthquake Loan Bond Program to Finance Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing

**Support or Oppose**

Charter Amendment - City Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees

**Support or Oppose**

#### **State Measures:**

**Proposition 51:** School Bonds. Funding for K-12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statutory Amendment.

Support or Oppose

I currently have three children enrolled in San Francisco elementary and middle schools.

**Proposition 52:** State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds. Initiative Statutory and Constitutional Amendment.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 53:** Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 53:** Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 54:** Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 55:** Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 56:** Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 57:** Criminal Sentences. Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

I have worked as both a public defender and as a district attorney although I have not done long stints in juvenile court.

**Proposition 58:** SB 1174 (Chapter 753, Statutes of 2014), Lara.

[English language education. \(PDF\)](#)

**Support or Oppose**

In my capacity as a language rights attorney and immigrant rights attorney with the Asian Law Caucus and API Legal Outreach, I have taken positions in favor of expanding language access.

**Proposition 59:** SB 254 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2016), Allen.

[Campaign finance: voter instruction. \(PDF\)](#)

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 60:** Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 61:** State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 62:** Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

As a past President of the Asian American Bar Association and co-founder of the Minority Bar Coalition, I have organized both groups in the past to take a position against the death penalty.

**Proposition 63:** Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 65:** Carry-Out Bags. Charges. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

**Proposition 66:** Death Penalty. Procedures. Initiative Statute.

**Support or Oppose**

As a past President of the Asian American Bar Association and co-founder of the Minority Bar Coalition, I have organized both groups in the past to take a position against the death penalty.

**Proposition 67:** Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags.

**Support or Oppose**