

San Francisco District 11 Democratic Club
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. Otherwise, you will receive time an email to sign up for timeslots using google docs.

- 1. Name: Rob Geller**
- 2. Address: 1380 Howard Street, SF, CA 94103**
- 3. Telephone/Cell phone: 415-255-3781**
- 4. Email address: gellerforschoolboard2016@sonic.net**

- 5. What is your political affiliation? How long?**

Democrat, my whole life, and I've got the McGovern pin I bought for 50 cents when I was 12-years-old to prove it! The first time I ever voted, I voted for Jerry Brown and against Proposition 13, so you can't blame me!

- 6. Please list your campaign manager and contact info? As above**

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

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

Board of Education. The explicit role of the Board of Education is Citizen Oversight, and I am a citizen of San Francisco for 30 years. I've worked for the City and County of San Francisco in Public Health Finance for 17 years, and have two children in SFUSD schools, one in her second year at Lowell High School, one going into middle school. Also, my wife is a bilingual classroom teacher, and my brother Lou Geller taught in the District for many years until his untimely passing from stomach cancer. I've had at least one child in the schools over the past 10 years, and have been active and engaged in their schools and education. I am running because I don't agree with the decisions the Board made to cut Middle School Honors and 8th-grade Algebra, and I would like to look at restoring these two valued opportunities. I'm running because I believe in the transformative power of food and would like to make San Francisco the first large district in the nation to serve its students All-Organic, Non-GMO food, and watch the children really thrive, I am running because I would like to see more music teachers in the elementary schools.

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?

The teacher housing and affordability crisis, and its impacts on teacher hiring and retention. We need to build dedicated teacher housing, and work to protect and expand rent control. Also, we need to repeal, or at least reform, Proposition 13, which has deprived schools of \$100s of billions over the past 40 years, due to Property Tax assessments frozen at ridiculously low levels. Then we could afford to raise teacher salaries so they don't have to spend 64% of their salaries on rent, which is more than twice what you're supposed to spend! The \$5 million for building teacher housing in the \$744 million Bond Measure is a good start, but we'll need much more. And the Teacher Next Door program should be offering \$200,000 per teacher, rather than \$20,000 so they can purchase homes in SF.

Finding a happy balance between fulfilling the needs of struggling students and encouraging high achievement for the most talented students, so they can reach their potential. Again, I'd like to revisit the decisions to cut Honors, gut 8th-grade Algebra and shut GATE. If Special Education keeps requiring more and more resources – total spending has gone from \$73 million to \$90 million in just the past two years – we will be able to afford less and less for the high achievers. I take seriously the mission of my agency to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans and if elected I will look into the potential synergistic environmental toxin load on childrens' health and brain development that may be creating today's unprecedented need for Special Ed services, and also make sure the schools are not contributing.

The potential overuse of technology in the classroom. School is supposed to be a shared experience, and I'm afraid the drive toward technology and "personalization" may be leading to atomization, the opposite of a shared experience. Children are supposed to use their hands, and be creative and brainstorm without a screen between them. And what happens when the power goes out? With so many people outside of school walking around focused constantly on their own handheld device, with little to no connection to anyone or anything around them, we need to overcompensate in the schools, so a sense of community will prevail as these kids grow up.

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.

Hire more teachers of color for the schools in District 11, so the unique ethnic diversity of the staff matches that of the students. And hire more principals of color, who hire the teachers. I would create and nurture existing pathway

partnerships between local schools and City College, taking advantage of proximity. I have an idea for a monthly district-wide newspaper publication, either printed or electronic, or both, written by students for students, with contributions from any student at any school. It would help create a sense of unity among the diverse District schools, and residents of District 11, so far south, would feel more connected to downtown and the rest of the city.

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:

LOCAL Measures:

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

Support

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

Support

Initiative Ordinance: Office Development in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point

Support

Initiative Ordinance: Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds

Support

Charter Amendment- Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Support I think this will inspire a lot of political engagement, and include some important youth voices.

San Francisco Community College District November 8, 2016 Parcel Tax Election

Support

Prohibiting Candidate-Controlled General Purpose Committees

Support

Initiative Ordinance - Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Ordinance

Support or Oppose—Not sure the Advisory Committee is necessary, and nothing is said about artificial sweeteners like aspartame, which also can cause major health problems. I like the 1 cent tax to the General Fund, however.

Initiative Ordinance - The Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

Support

Initiative Ordinance - Promotion of Safe and Open Sidewalks

Oppose

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

Support! We need this bond to pay for the new Mission Bay Elementary School, the Arts campus, new kitchens, teacher housing, and other important infrastructure needs.

Charter Amendment - Dignity Fund

Support or Oppose

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

Support

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

Support

Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Local Elective Office

Support

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

Support

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

Support

Charter Amendment - Housing and Development Commission

Support

Charter Amendment - Department of Police Accountability

Support

Charter Amendment - Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections

Support providing the ballot box is not the non-citizen's *only* engagement with the schools!

Charter Amendment - Public Advocate

Support

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

Support

Charter Amendment - City Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees

Support

State Measures:

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

Support !!!

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

Support

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

Support or Oppose

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

Oppose

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

Support

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

Support !! This is money the schools have counted on for years, and needs to be continued.

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

Support

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

Support or Oppose

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

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

Support ! This will help more children speak more languages, even those not in the immersion track

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

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

Support

Proposition 60: Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.
Support or Oppose

Proposition 61: State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.
Support This will help prevent price gouging. Big Pharma is pouring millions into defeating this!

Proposition 62: Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.
Support

Proposition 63: Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.
Support or Oppose

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

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

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

