

San Francisco District 11 Democratic Club
Questionnaire for Candidates – November 2016 Candidates

PLEASE USE THIS TEMPLATE TO RESPOND ELECTRONICALLY TO
info@sfd11dems.com by **Monday**, August 22, 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:** Gwyneth Borden
2. **Address:**
3. **Telephone/Cell phone:** 415.948.7032
4. **Email address:** gwyneth@bordenforbart.com

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

Democrat; my whole life, but officially since I registered to vote at 18.

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

Nicole Yelich, nicole@nicoleyelich.com, 415.806.8913

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

At this point it's individual donors. My top two donors are my friends Kirsten Strobel and Roberta Economidis. I didn't include a third, because there's a number who have given me \$250.

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

Each day I take both Muni and BART to work, so I'm acutely aware of the challenges our transportation network faces. I choose to live car free in San Francisco, but I have the resources to choose other options if transit is delayed or breaks down -- but many users of our system are not in the position to choose another option. I want to ensure that BART makes the necessary investments that help those who not only depend on BART, but public transit in general. The more traffic congestion there is on the roads because people drive instead of taking transit, means those who are transit dependent are adversely affected.

Serving on the Board of SF's Municipal Transportation Agency, I set policy and direction for the MTA. This work has given me a deep understanding of the region's transportation needs and inspires me to fight for more investment in BART's core infrastructure.

As Executive Director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association, one of our greatest challenges is lack of late night and early morning transportation for those who work in the hospitality industry. The affordability crisis demands that we remove barriers for working men and women, who are trying to provide for their families and stay in San Francisco, and public transportation is key.

Over the years I have done a lot of work in transportation advocacy, from working with the business community to support important regional transportation projects ranging from BART to SFO to high-speed rail. In 2003, I helped author the city's Transportation Sales Tax Measure (Prop K), and I was proud to have been instrumental in getting it passed; today's transportation improvements are being paid for by Prop K.

Having been a San Francisco Planning Commissioner, I understand the importance of land use planning and transportation being done together. We cannot locate people and jobs without considering the impact or need for transportation infrastructure to get workers and residents to places they need to frequent in their daily lives.

If elected, I'll focus on improving BART's core infrastructure, updating its technology so that it can operate more efficiently, get plans underway for a second transbay tube, and focus on making improvements that are responsive to our housing and job growth plans.

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 top two issues facing BART are repairing its aging infrastructure and updating its outdated technology, including the train control system, which is why I am supporting the BART Bond. There's \$9.6 billion in need and the bond is only for \$3.5 billion, so we still have a way to go, but passing the bond would be a start.

The third issue is the need to have a second transbay tube. BART was laid as a single track system, which means when a train breakdowns or an incident happens on the track, nearly the entire system is shut-down. Additionally, the tube is stressed by congestion, which is why the system cannot run late night or early on weekends because it needs that time to make repairs. I would lead the charge to begin the planning process to make this second tube happen.

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 live only a few blocks from the District 11 line. Every day I take the Mission bus lines with District 11 residents who are accessing the Mission and points in SOMA and downtown. One of the many reasons that I have been such a big supporter of the Mission Street transit only lanes is because it takes so long to get from the Excelsior District to the heart of the Mission and other points throughout the City. I am also aware that the current system work is impacting Balboa Park BART station riders who now must take a shuttle to reach points north and south on the weekends, and already suffering from the longest travel times to reach points around the city. I will work to monitor how this is going and seek feedback from the community to ensure the information flow and shuttle system is working. I will also focus my energies to ensure the Balboa Park BART Station pedestrian and bike improvements finally happen, since that corridor is terrible for pedestrians and bicycles and it's taken too much time to improve this.

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:

Given the office I'm seeking, the most important measures are the BART Bond and the Transportation/Homeless Services Sales tax and its accompanied expenditure plan. Given the affordable housing crisis, the Affordable Housing Earthquake Retrofit measure is critical. Finally, my fifth priority is supporting the City College Parcel Tax, since I believe its continued success and vitality is crucial to San Francisco.

I have not decided my position on all the ballot measures, so I am choosing to not to respond. I honestly haven't reviewed any of the state measures. I've noted the ones above that I care about most above. I'm happy to answer specific questions at the endorsement meeting about my political philosophy.