

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

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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](mailto:info@sfd11dems.com). Otherwise, you will receive time an email to sign up for timeslots using google docs.

1. **Name:** Stevon Cook
2. **Address:**
3. **Telephone/Cell phone:** 415-531-2732
4. **Email address:** stevon.cook@gmail.com

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

I have been a member of the Democratic Party since I was 18.

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

Kate Meader, Store Front Media [katem@storefrontpolitical.com](mailto:katem@storefrontpolitical.com)

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

UESF  
SEIU 1021  
Education Advocates

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

Many issues families and residents face today – affordability, homelessness, public safety, social inequities – are challenges that I’ve had to overcome most of my life. As a third generation San Franciscan and SFUSD graduate, I know what’s truly possible when public schools lift up our students and create opportunities for every child to succeed. I will bring that unique experience and track record of success as an education and community leader to ensure I’m fighting for our families and that every student has the opportunity to unlock their potential.

I’ve worked to increase access to college and career opportunities for all students in San Francisco. As Executive Director of Mission Bit, I’ve expanded computer science education to our most underserved communities. My in-depth and personal knowledge of our public school system and experience building coalitions to support youth gives me the skills and insights to reform our schools to improve outcomes for all students.

**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?**

**Improving Teacher Retention:** We lose 50% of our SFUSD teachers in their first five years of service. Our attrition rates are greatest at schools with higher concentrations of students living in poverty. Our best opportunity to interrupt these trends is to put our educators in a better position to grow professionally and give them meaningful access to experienced educators who can serve as mentors.

**Broader Participation:** San Francisco public schools have the capacity to serve 96,000 children, but we're currently only serving 57,000. Part of this is because of San Francisco's shrinking middle class, but another contributing factor is that people are leaving the city to avoid being assigned to a low-performing schools. I believe we can achieve broader participation in public schools that will result in greater diversity and increase the amount of parents choosing public over private schools.

**Community Collaboration:** San Francisco is filled with thriving industries, numerous non-profits and a large number of organizations committed to improving community outcomes. We need a strategic way to leverage these partnerships to address the long standing issues of generational poverty as well as put are top performing students from every community in the best possible position to compete in today's economy.

**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.**

Many of the initiatives I plan on championing during my time in office, I'm confident will have beneficial outcomes for residents of District 11. Some of them are:

**Black, Asian & Latino Studies:** We have a ethnic studies program that aims to capture the experience of all people of color, but I believe we need to create courses committed to unique experience of slave descendants and different immigrants that have large presentations in our city.

**School Assignment:** I believe we can achieve broader participation in public schools that will result in greater diversity and more parents choosing public over private schools. At the center of that strategy is to ensure we can create great schools in every neighborhood and creating an assignment system that has more predictability. Under our current system, schools on the southeast of the city are more racially and economically segregated than they've ever been and families are leaving the district because they're not satisfied with their assigned school.

**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 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**

No position

Initiative Ordinance: Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds

**Support or Oppose**

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

**Support or Oppose**

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**

No position

Initiative Ordinance - The Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

**✓Support or Oppose**

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**

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**

Charter Amendment - Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections

✓ **Support** or **Oppose**

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**

**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**

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

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

**✓ Support or Oppose**

**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

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

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

✓ Support or Oppose