



By signing below, you acknowledge that you will comply with the SFDCCC's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and you will not utilize the SFDCCC name, the San Francisco Democratic Party, or its logo without written permission.

Amy Farah Weiss
(name)

Mayor
(position you are seeking)


(signature)

3/11/2018
(date)

Name Amy Farah Weiss

Address 1194 Guerrero Street

City, State, Zip San Francisco, CA 94110

Campaign Phone Number 415.254.0521

E-mail Address info@weissformayor.com

What office are you running for? Mayor

Are you running for re-election? No

What other elected positions have you held previously? N/A

PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (200 words or less)

Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party?

Yes

Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party and/or increasing civic engagement in the democratic process at the local, state and or/national level in recent years.

I am the founder and co-administrator of a 9,000+ member Facebook group, Vote 1-2-3 SF, that was initiated during the 2015 Mayoral election in support of a ranked-choice voting slate. Vote 1-2-3 SF is social media's #1 location for substantive discussion regarding local, statewide, and national policies that impact San Francisco voters.

I am working hard to “redesign the track” of campaigning in San Francisco so that we can focus on policies and actionable initiatives in the Democratic Party rather than the status quo of personalities, insider politics, and fundraising. Regardless of whether the DCCC endorses me, I hope that you work with me to promote and build upon the “Mayor Outcomes Tracker” I have developed for this campaign (and as a framework for future campaigns). I hope that DCCC members join me in framing the special election in June 2018 as a "trial run" for a potential 4-year term when San Francisco votes again for Mayor in November 2019. To that end I have developed an outcomes trackers so that voters, democratic organizations, and media can gauge the progress of our next Mayor by what they have accomplished from June 2018-June 2019. Please take a look at the 12 categories and 41 measurable goals that I have developed and help me further develop this framework for how to gauge quantifiable progress in performance areas that are important to our residents: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vote123forequity>

Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with? Please describe.

Since the November 2015, I have dedicated my life to strategically stabilizing our encampment and shelter shortage crisis as the Founder and Director of the Saint Francis Homelessness Challenge. For over two years I have been assessing the policies, budgets, and programming of City Hall Departments (DPW, DSHS, SFPD, DPH, HSA, SFMTA, etc) and their role in perpetuating the status quo of costly misery. I have worked with encampment residents, impacted neighbors/businesses, service organizations, City workers, Department Heads, and elected officials to research, develop, and pilot community-integrated solutions that can be scaled up to stabilize the encampment and shelter shortage over the next year by re-directing bloated budgets that are aimed at addressing the symptoms of the crisis while allowing the causes to fester. It is a complex plan, but one that truly engages and benefits the entire community and will foster healing at the root of our neighbors, neighborhoods, and systems in crisis.

I have been researching, assessing and influencing development and land use policy since 2011, when I raised an eyebrow to the City’s short-sighted economic development plan and tax breaks that led us to Tech Boom Displacement 2.0. Now established leaders are steering us towards Tech Boom Displacement 3.0 with the Central SoMa Plan before we have stabilized from policy decisions that benefitted developers, negligent property owners, big banks, and corporations at the expense of people and people. We need someone in Room 200 who is a systems-thinker with a pragmatic vision for a truly equitable and sustainable economy.

Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking.

For 20 years I have worked in service toward individual, organizational, and collective well-being as an educator, service provider, strategist, community organizer, and nonprofit Founder/Director. I have work experience in the fields of mental health, transitional housing, homelessness, harm reduction, youth development, sustainability, neighborhood development, and organizational development. I know how to take a concept such as “end homelessness” or “develop affordable housing” and collaboratively implement community-focused solutions with a budget, timeline, and measurable outcomes.

After graduating with an interdisciplinary master’s degree in Organizational Development from SF State in 2010, I developed an award winning service-learning to support strategic planning and evaluation for nonprofit organizations and graduate students.

In 2011, I joined neighborhood activists to prevent local businesses from being displaced by a Chase Bank and learned how to shape City Hall’s policies for development as an advocate for social/economic equity. I founded Neighbors Developing Divisadero as a nonprofit to develop a “strategic yes” to inclusive, enriching, and sustainable development.

After the 2015 election I founded the Saint Francis Homelessness Challenge to develop and pilot community-integrated solutions to San Francisco’s encampment and shelter/affordable housing-shortage crisis and served as a Board Member and Operations Manager at San Francisco Community Land Trust.

Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you.

I received over a dozen endorsements in 2015, including from SFWPC, SF Tenants Union, and SEIU 1021. This year, I was not invited to speak to SF Tenants Union or SEIU 1021 even though I am an even stronger candidate with a ready-to-implement plan to stabilize our encampment and shelter shortage crisis for thousands of our unhoused residents.

For the 2018 election I have been endorsed thus far by the SF Berniecrats (#2) and Affordable Divis.

PART II: YES/NO QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Do you support the divestment of public funds from Wells Fargo and other financial institutions involved in speculative and questionable banking practices? **Yes**

Do you believe that the government should provide foreclosure relief for borrowers who were victims of unethical financial service practices? Yes

Do you support the creation of a local municipal bank in San Francisco? Yes

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM

Do you support overhauling the bail system? Yes

Do you supporting rebuilding jails in San Francisco? No

Will you commit to “ban the box” legislation to ensure that the formerly incarcerated are given an equal opportunity for housing and employment? Yes

Do you support the San Francisco Police Department being equipped with Tasers? No

EDUCATION/YOUTH

Will you commit to fully fund the implementation of Free City College, which the voters overwhelmingly approved in 2016? Yes

Do you support expanding affordable childcare to low- and middle-income families? Yes

Do you support expanding child care to include children aged 0-3 years old? Yes

ENVIRONMENT

Do you support San Francisco's independence from private energy providers and commit to begin building out the City's own renewable energy generation sites by 2020? Yes

Do you support SFERS' (San Francisco Employees' Retirement System) full divestment from fossil fuel interests? Yes

HEALTHCARE

With the opiate crisis worsening nationwide, would you support the creation of safe injection sites in San Francisco to support harm reduction? Yes

Do you fully support retaining and expanding the number of subacute beds in San Francisco? Yes

Do you support using jails as mental health facilities and substance abuse treatment programs?
Mental health and dual diagnosis stabilization should be the purview of a different type of institution working in tandem with the criminal justice system.

CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES

Do you support speaking out in public against all forms of racism, discrimination, hatred and violence, and standing in solidarity with movements that promote equity, including Black Lives Matter? **Yes**

Will you protect the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of society regardless of their gender identity and the gender assigned at birth and ensure equal access to all public facilities? **Yes**

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

Will you support Sanctuary City policies and Due Process for All -- limiting the ability for local authorities to collaborate with Federal government on immigration enforcement which incites fear in immigrant communities? **Yes**

Do you support the San Francisco Police Department's involvement with the FBI through the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which includes surveillance of San Francisco residents? **No**

Will you fully support funding for deportation and detention defense to protect San Francisco residents from removal proceedings? **Yes**

LABOR

Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs? **No**

Will you work to reduce the number of exempt classifications and seek to convert these positions to civil service? **Yes**

Will you support Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for non-profit organizations that hold contracts with the City? **Yes**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Will you commit to fully funding San Francisco's public financing program? **Yes**

Do you plan to or have you applied for public financing in this race? **Yes**

HOUSING, TENANT, & LAND USE ISSUES

Do you support a split roll for Proposition 13 that treats taxes for commercial and residential property differently? **Yes**

Would you support overturning Costa Hawkins to support the right for localities to pass rent control laws? **Yes**

Should there be a moratorium on market rate housing in communities that have experienced elevated rates of displacement? **I am advocating for a new type of financing mechanism that would increase the number of inclusionary units in market rate development to 50%**

HOMELESSNESS

Do you support civil or criminal penalties for people sleeping, sitting, or lying on the streets? **No**

Will you commit to placing and funding Navigation Centers in every Supervisorial district? **Yes**

Do you support expansion of the rental subsidy program? **Yes**

PART III: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ISSUES (250 Words or less)

1) What specific policy changes would you propose to address the issue of chronic homelessness in San Francisco?

Homelessness/Shelter Shortage Crisis Outcomes
Outcomes Tracker for June 2018 – June 2019:
surveymonkey.com/r/vote123forequity

- Stabilize 1,000-3,000 of San Francisco's unsheltered residents currently living in tents, RVs, vans/cars, make-shift structures, and sidewalks through the development of community-integrated safe organized spaces as a ladder to traditional housing and shelter options.
- Develop and begin to implement a strategic plan to redesign our current emergency shelter system to support housing goals, mental health, increased autonomy, and dignified shelter.
- Develop an actionable multi-year plan to create sufficient amounts of affordable housing/shelter units with appropriate levels of case management and support for each individual to live in the least-restrictive, most autonomous setting

possible.

2) Do you support the reform or repeal of the Ellis Act? If so, how would you like to see it changed? If not, why?

I support the reform of the Ellis Act to close the loophole that allows speculators to buy rent-controlled buildings and immediately begin the process of evicting long-term renters.

I have also been a long-time advocate for Right of First Refusal legislation, which was first introduced at the BoS many years ago by then-Supervisor David Chiu. While working at the San Francisco Community Land Trust as Operations Manager, I was briefly involved with CCHO efforts to revive First Right to Purchase under the name of “Community Opportunity to Purchase Act”. As Mayor I will help increase funding to nonprofit housing providers, the City’s Small Sites Program, and the Housing Accelerator Fund to acquire 5-25 unit properties before they can be put on the market. This will help prevent displacement through Ellis Act evictions.

3) We recognize that the affordability crisis and evictions have particularly impacted our marginalized communities and communities of color. How do you plan to address preserving these communities? How would you address the issue of the displacement of low-income communities in San Francisco?

[Affordable Housing development/Anti-displacement Outcomes](#)

Outcomes Tracker for June 2018 – June 2019:

surveymonkey.com/r/vote123forequity

- Re-introduce First Right of Refusal Legislation to allow nonprofits and tenants the first opportunity to purchase their building when it is placed on the market
- Develop a program through MOHCD to support the financing and construction of thousands of ADU's (additional dwelling units) that can be built within 37,000 city-wide parcels identified by the Planning Department.
- Develop an online registry of rent-burdened SF workers and families who are seeking affordable housing at 30% of income through the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.
- Develop a comprehensive program to activate vacant residential units (with both incentives for small property owners and vacancy taxes/fees to the extent possible of local law).

- Streamline the permitting process in order to build the 35,000+ units that have already been entitled by the City.
- Develop financing mechanisms at the local/state level through revenue measures and/or tax credits that enable the subsidizing of affordable housing development.
- Advocate for height/density bonuses to include at least 50% affordable housing (stratified for 15% to 120% AMI) through financing partnerships with market-rate developers.
- Support the development of a Second Homes/Pied-a-Terre tax on residential property that is left primarily empty.
- Support the repeal of Costa Hawkins to expand rent control to buildings constructed after 1979.
- Develop a program to ensure that tenants receive support for affordable temporary housing accommodations during building renovations to prevent the uptick in “renovations”.

4) What is affordable housing to you? Should the current AMI (area mean income) levels for low-income and middle-income be redefined? And how?

Affordable housing should be no more than 30% of income for our workforce and residents. As a member of a low-income family of three that currently has a combined income of \$85,000 (with the combined salaries of a public school teacher and a nonprofit worker), it is rare that we can find any BMR opportunities on MOHCD’s DAHLIA system for which we qualify, and we certainly cannot afford market rate housing.

As I mentioned above, my goals as Mayor will be to:

- Advocate for height/density bonuses to include at least 50% affordable housing (stratified for 15% to 120% AMI) through financing partnerships with market-rate developers.
- Develop financing mechanisms at the local/state level through revenue measures and/or tax credits that enable the subsidizing of affordable housing development.

5) How would you balance the need for more housing and the need for community input in the Planning process?

As Director of Neighbors Developing Divisadero (2011-2015), I developed online surveys with our 900+ mailing list and network of neighborhood organizations to solicit feedback for projects at the proposal stage. For the 444 Divisadero project, I sent results of survey data to the Planning Department and the project sponsor, and the developer met with me and thanked me for doing the preliminary research. Our survey results were also written up by the Chronicle in the July 6, 2015 article "It's Divisadero's Turn, With Condos Proposed for Car Wash Site":

"A survey of neighborhood residents showed widespread support for on-site affordable units, according to Amy Farah Weiss, who founded a group called Neighbors Developing Divisadero. Out of 130 residents who responded to the questionnaire, 63 percent supported a statement that Supervisor London Breed, who represents the area, should push for 33 percent on-site affordable housing."

As Mayor, I will lead the development of new online platforms and technology to increase participation and transparency in the planning process. I will also support common sense policy initiatives such as 2017's ADU legislation that allowed for additional dwelling units to be built in RH-1 Zoning without a conditional use permit. Our goal should be to enact strong anti-displacement measures for re-development that prevent tenant displacement, but also address where we can reasonably upzone to 3-4 stories and increase density in current RH-1 zoning (as opposed to the dramatic city-wide upzoning proposed by SB 827).

6) What are your budget priorities for San Francisco and what would be your process for establishing these priorities and engaging community and the Board of Supervisors?

1. Ensure that NO ONE is living on our streets without a safe organized space to belong in community that meets essential human needs. I have an actionable plan to stabilize 3,000 people by June 2019 who are currently living in subhuman conditions on the streets into community-integrated Transitional Villages in the least restrictive, most autonomous setting possible for each individual in a way that increases both individual and community well-being, health, and safety at a fraction of the cost of the City's current \$30 million budget for SFPD and DPW response to encampments.
2. Develop a comprehensive program through MOHCD that supports the activation

of units that are being kept empty by 1) Creating a tenant pool lottery by expanding the DAHLIA system for SF workers who are currently paying more than 50% of their rent or having to live outside of the City, 2) Working with small property owners with vacant units to support tenant screening/management, property management, and building maintenance, and providing mediation support when necessary if property owners rent to SF workers at a maximum of 30% of income, and 3) Developing a vacancy tax/impact fee to the extent possible by local law and working with our state legislators if necessary.

3. Increase funding for community-integrated unarmed crisis de-escalation programming (e.g. Concrn), arts and culture programming that supports community engagement and “eyes on the streets”, and bathroom access and street cleaning services (with economic opportunity for employment-challenged residents, e.g. Downtown Streets Team) in high-incident neighborhoods.

7) How do you envision the relationship between the tech/innovation sector and local government?

Technology for Open Source Government Outcomes

Outcomes Tracker for June 2018 – June 2019:

surveyMonkey.com/r/vote123forequity

- Fund and support the implementation of open source voting technology
- Fund the development of technological platforms that allow for more transparency, participation, and representation in legislative decision-making
- Develop our public broadband and WiFi infrastructure as a public utility with local hire programs that support job creation for SFUSD, CCSF, and SF State graduates

Transit First and Vision Zero Outcomes

- Develop a task force for the creation of a city-regulated platform for transit co-ops that is pro-worker, pro-passenger, and pro-environment

8) What plan do you have to address the increased traffic congestion in the City and balance the sometimes conflicting needs and uses on our roads?

Dianne Feinstein is calling for a second bay bridge, but we can't even begin to have that discussion until we can regulate the 20,000+ cars that are traveling into the City from the East Bay and beyond for TNC driving gigs. Yes to increased taxes, fees, and restrictions, including Dennis Herrera's efforts to collect a business tax from out-of-town TNC drivers.

Transit First and Vision Zero Outcomes

- Require the same standards for TNCs as Taxis for Airport pick-up and drop off (e.g. Fingerprinting, proof of insurance, and yearly vehicle inspections)
- Demonstrate support at the local/state level for increased data collection and regulation for TNCs
- Work with stakeholders to explore ways to decrease moving violations for TNCs (e.g. obstructing bike lanes, driving in bike lanes, illegal u-turns in business districts, illegal use of transit lanes, failure to yield for pedestrians, etc.)
- Develop a task force for the creation of a city-regulated platform for transit co-ops that is pro-worker, pro-passenger, and pro-environment platform (in alignment with what is being proposed in London by the New Economics Foundation)
- Conduct a study on congestion pricing as a potential mechanism to influence behavior in high traffic areas (such as downtown) and raise revenue for public transit.