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## SFDCCC Candidate Questionnaire Mayoral Race - June 2018

<b>Name</b>	<i>Mark Leno</i>
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<b>What office are you running for?</b>	<i>Mayor of San Francisco</i>
<b>Are you running for re-election?</b>	<i>No</i>

### What other elected positions have you held previously?

*San Francisco Board of Supervisors, 1998-2002*

*California State Assembly, 2002-2008*

*California State Senate, 2008-2016*

### 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 believe public service is about producing results and speaking up for those without a voice. As a legislator, what fuels my public policy fire is an unequivocal conviction that working women and men should be able to live their lives and do their jobs with full respect, dignity and validation. I have been proud to work with many of members of the Democratic party to move forward our shared vision to ensure fair representation, find common ground, and create the best possible solutions for everyone at the table.*

*I regularly write numerous letters of support for candidates seeking state and local appointments, commissions, and positions. I will continue to walk precincts, attend events, help fundraise, contribute to local democratic clubs and support candidates for elected office or leadership positions. In my capacity as an elected official, I have supported and appointed*

*diverse members to attend the State Convention each year. I have also served as an ex-officio member of the SF Democratic Party for 14 years.*

**Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with? Please describe. Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking. Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you.**

*I am the only candidate in the race who has not only served on the Board of Supervisors, but has also served 14 distinguished years in leadership roles with an accomplished legislative record in both the Assembly and the Senate. Throughout my 18 years of public service, I have successfully undertaken some of the hardest-fought battles and most impactful policymaking by uniting stakeholders, advocates, community members, policymakers, and innovators to come up with effective solutions. I am proud of my record as a coalition-builder, and believe that this will be key to continuing healthy and constructive relationships. I have championed and fought for universal healthcare for all, renters facing unfair eviction and securing \$120 million in emergency stabilization funding for City College when enrollment dramatically dropped and the future of our public institution was at risk. I've passed landmark legislation establishing our state's \$15 minimum wage, created our city's first inclusionary affordable housing law, and solidified protections and equal rights for many who face discrimination.*

*My public service career began in 1998 where I served for four and a half years. From 2002-2008, I served in the California State Assembly, representing the 13<sup>th</sup> District, which encompasses the eastern portion of San Francisco. In 2008, I was elected to the State Senate, representing California's 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District encompassing all of Marin County, and parts of Sonoma and San Francisco Counties. Redistricting then shifted my jurisdiction to Senate District 11, which included San Francisco, Broadmoor, Colma, Daly City and portions of South San Francisco. During my time in the Senate, I was proud to chair the State Senate Budget Committee for six years.*

*I attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, then went on to become valedictorian of my graduating class at the American College of Jerusalem, where I earned a BA Degree. I also spent two years in Rabbinical Studies at The Hebrew Union College in New York. I am currently the owner of Budget Signs, Inc., a small business I founded in 1978.*

*I have been endorsed by the following organizations and elected officials*

*Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club  
American Federation of Teachers 2121  
Community Tenants Association  
Equality California  
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club*

*League of Pissed Off Voters*  
*National Union of Healthcare Workers*  
*Richmond District Democratic Club*  
*San Francisco Tenants Union*  
*San Francisco Women's Political Committee*  
*Service Employees International Union 1021*  
*Sierra Club*  
*United Educators of San Francisco*  
*United Food and Commercial Workers 648*  
*Victory Fund*

*United States Senator Kamala Harris*  
*Board of Equalization Member Fiona Ma*  
*State Controller Betty Yee*  
*Secretary of State Alex Padilla*  
*Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones*  
*State Senator Toni Atkins*  
*State Senator Ben Allen*  
*State Senator Jim Beall*  
*State Senator Jerry Hill*  
*State Senator Ben Hueso*  
*State Senator Ricardo Lara*  
*State Senator Connie Leyva*  
*State Senator Holly Mitchell*  
*State Senator Bill Monning*  
*State Senator Richard Roth*  
*State Senator Bob Wieckowski*  
*State Senator Scott Wiener*  
*State Assemblymember Kevin Mullin*  
*State Assemblymember Phil Ting*  
*Supervisor Malia Cohen*  
*Supervisor Sandra Fewer*  
*Supervisor Aaron Peskin*  
*Supervisor Hillary Ronen*  
*Supervisor Ahsha Safai*  
*Supervisor Norman Yee*  
*Public Defender Jeff Adachi*  
*Board of Education Member Matt Haney*  
*Board of Education Member Mark Sanchez*

*Community College Trustee President Thea Selby*  
*Community College Trustee Brigitte Davila*  
*Community College Trustee Rafael Mandelman*  
*Community College Trustee Alex Randolph*  
*Community College Trustee John Rizzo*  
*Community College Trustee Tom Temprano*  
*BART Board Director Bevan Dufty*  
*Keith Baraka, DCCC Member\*\**  
*Sophie Maxwell, DCCC Member\**

## **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?

*No*

## **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'm open to discussing how this would work. The conversation would pursue a framework that allows us to protect, preserve and maximize the availability of affordable housing as feasibly and effectively as possible.*

## **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?**

*Our city's homelessness crisis is out of control and often the result of mentally ill and addicted residents being left on the streets, untreated, then shuffled in out of our criminal justice system. I will focus relentlessly on the crisis of homelessness, to provide shelter and end street homelessness. I support a new mental and behavioral health center so that those in need of mental health services will no longer be recycled through our criminal justice system, or left to fend for themselves on our streets. Given that 40% of our jail inmates receive mental health services, our county jail is currently the largest mental health provider in the county. That is unacceptable and I'm committed to ending this trend.*

*My priorities are:*

- 1. Keeping those who are in a home in their home, by preventing unjust evictions, providing rental assistance and support to tenants, and creating 50,000 units of affordable, workforce, and permanent supportive housing over the next ten years. Given that 70% of those living on the streets without shelter were living under a roof before they became homeless, we must keep those who are housed housed. I will continue to fight Ellis Act evictions and other no-cause evictions.*

2. *Decriminalizing homelessness. We must stop recycling mentally ill and drug addicted people through our criminal justice system. A Mental Health Justice Center would provide an alternative for care rather than incarceration, as Mayor I will lead this effort.*
3. *Moving people off our streets, out of doorways, and into services and housing. We need many more thousands of units of permanent supportive housing. As Chair of the Senate Budget Committee I negotiated \$2 billion to build permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals in need of mental health and addiction treatment for the State of California. San Francisco's share will build hundreds of these units. If elected Mayor I will focus relentlessly on ending street homelessness.*

**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?**

*Yes, absolutely. I am proud to have successfully amended the Ellis Act, becoming the only legislator in California to have ever done so. One-size-fits-all laws like the Ellis Act do not work. I have a proven record of working with stakeholders across our city and state to create the best possible solutions to mitigate the negative effects of the Ellis Act.*

*In 2003, I introduced AB 1217 which has protected over 12,000 of San Francisco's most vulnerably housed from becoming homeless. The bill prohibits owners of single-room occupancy hotels from using the Ellis Act to evict all tenants and take the building off the market.*

*The rampant misuse of the Ellis Act by speculators for the purpose of displacing long-time residents was the impetus behind my introduction of AB 781, which would have tightened the Ellis Act speculative purchasing loophole by requiring an owner to have held the property for 5 years before an Ellis Act removal procedure could commence.*

*I also introduced SB 1439 and SB 364, which would close a loophole in the Ellis Act that allows speculators to buy a rent controlled building and empty it of long-term tenants, who are displaced through no fault of their own. This provision was being exploited and families, seniors, and the disabled were losing their long-term homes at a record pace.*

*As Mayor, I intend to continue my fight to reform the Ellis Act.*

**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?**

*Throughout my career, I have introduced legislation to protect our city's most vulnerable residents. From amending the Ellis Act to curb speculators from purchasing buildings with the*

*intent to evict residents, to protecting senior citizens from home foreclosures, to working with unions and community groups to fight foreclosures and make the home lending process more transparent and open, I have prioritized keeping families in their homes.*

*During my 18 years in public service, I have fought for both local and statewide measures to find creative solutions to fund housing projects across our city, enable opportunities to open underutilized land for affordable housing development and fight against speculators and the displacement of our residents. When I served on the Board of Supervisors in 2002, I authored our city's original inclusionary housing ordinance which requires developers to build affordable units across the city. The policy has not only resulted in over 5,000 affordable units - a significant portion of the City's overall annual affordable housing production - but is still one of our city's main sources of funding to subsidize affordable housing. I have introduced legislation to allow for the creation of teacher housing on school district sites and fought to authorize San Francisco the ability to use unique bond financing to expedite 3,300 affordable housing units. As discussed above, I amended the Ellis Act to exempt SRO's. I am committed to creating the best possible solutions to make housing more affordable and neighborhoods more livable.*

**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?**

*California is facing an unprecedented housing crisis. Our city's economy is booming, but we have not done enough planning to meet our growing housing needs, especially for middle-income families who are being squeezed out. High rents and home prices are driving public service employees, teachers, families and children and school workers out of our communities. Only about 10% of San Franciscans can afford to purchase market-rate housing, and only about 15% of San Franciscans can afford to rent market-rate housing. When we talk about "affordable housing," we're talking about housing for all of us. Given these alarming statistics, we must continue to fight for deeply affordable housing options that allow working people and families to stay in San Francisco. I believe in creating affordability of housing across all income levels, not just a lot of housing regardless of its affordability.*

*I look forward to working with stakeholders across our city to find common ground and create the best possible solutions to make housing more affordable and neighborhoods more livable.*

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

*I have a proven record from my combined 18 years on the Board of Supervisors and the state legislature of being able to work across the aisle to bring divergent ideas and people together to create thoughtful and effective public policy solutions. I have successfully undertaken some of the hardest-fought battles and most impactful policymaking by uniting stakeholders, advocates, community members, policymakers, and innovators to come up with solutions that have the most benefit to the largest number of people.*

*Neighborhoods should be able to advocate for community benefits to mitigate impacts of development on gentrifying low income communities. I believe these are win-win situations, where development can move forward while being responsive to the community in positive ways to address its impacts. When I authored my inclusionary housing ordinance, we brought all the stakeholders together -- for-profit developers, nonprofit developers, advocates for seniors, children, and cyclists -- every week for nearly two years. When the legislation went up for a vote at the Board, it passed unanimously. Part of shaking things up, to me, means building consensus to get things done in a way that benefits the most people rather than a select few. As Mayor, I will continue striving to bring people together in our decision-making processes, including in the way we undertake planning processes for new developments. The critical need for new housing must be balanced with a concern for protecting existing residents. We can and must do a much better job of managing growth that doesn't come at the cost of displacing communities.*

**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?**

*My top priorities will be addressing homelessness and the housing crisis driving public service employees, teachers and families out of our communities. With the crises of housing affordability and homelessness out of control, the economic growth in our city is squeezing San Franciscans more every day.*

*As Chair of the California State Senate Budget Committee, I gained invaluable experience winning budget battles that saw greater investments in California and San Francisco. I will bring this experience to City Hall to ensure we're making the most out of taxpayer dollars and seek out opportunities for federal and state funding to best address our city's greatest needs.*

*As Mayor, a top priority will be to conduct thorough performance reviews and evaluations of all department heads and their operations. Assessments of inter-agency coordination, implementation and accountability must be factored in as part of the overall discussion of progress and success.*

*Our Mayor must show strong leadership in creating a vision for our city - to balance stability in our neighborhoods, engage the community and collaborate with Supervisors across the city, maintain economic, racial and cultural diversity and lead the way for smart growth and planning with our regional partners. Undertaking this delicate balance of competing needs can only move forward if we maintain an open dialogue with various stakeholders, have strong leadership and don't settle for the status quo.*

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

*Technology has reinvented and impacted our economy, how companies employ their workforce, and raised the need to respond to emerging new policies. As our City undergoes immense change, we need transparency in our decision-making and must think holistically and comprehensively about how to balance its impact and develop a comprehensive and strategic plan to support the workforce growth, housing and transportation infrastructure demands.*

*In recent years our city has prioritized job creation – bringing tens of thousands of new workers to SF – without a comprehensive and strategic plan to support the workforce growth. The city has lacked a comprehensive and holistic approach to jobs growth, housing and infrastructural demands including transit capacity, parks, open space and schools. As Mayor I will bring this much-needed holistic approach to manage our changing City and mitigate the impacts of growth on our existing communities.*

*We need to invest in community economic development through education and training for those who are unemployed and underemployed. I'd like to see local hiring requirements for a variety of business sectors so that better paying newly created jobs go to San Franciscans, not just those from out of town. As Mayor I would also revisit all tax breaks, including the Twitter Tax Breaks, to ensure that our communities are actually receiving the benefits tax incentives are supposed to provide. We should be collaborating with corporations to see that they invest in the communities they operate in and profit from.*

**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?**

*San Francisco is undergoing dramatic change and as our population increases, so do the strains not only on our housing needs and costs, but on the infrastructural demands and capacity of all our transit systems. Without better planning, we won't be meeting the needs of residents across our city in the neighborhoods where they live. Having a more efficient, safe, and reliable public transportation system is only part of the solution to the traffic woes we are facing. We must also focus on keeping our streets accessible - not only for cars and public transit, but also for bicyclists and pedestrians to move efficiently around the city.*

*We must continue working with our regional partners in a much greater way to develop smart, sustainable regional planning that addresses the infrastructural demands and congestion on our streets and underground. During my time in the State Legislature I advocated for allowing San Francisco the option to add a Voter Approved Local Assessment (VALA) to the Vehicle License Fee, one of the state's largest sources of general-purpose tax revenues. The VALA could bring in more than \$80M to fund vital programs, including public transit, public safety, public health, social services, fire protection, and public works. As Mayor, I will bring my experience identifying new revenue streams that support a thriving system of public services for everyone.*

*Livable cities and complete streets don't happen by accident – they must be planned and implemented. A growing "Complete Streets" coalition of advocates understand that accommodating various modes of travel will ease congestion and keep our streets safe and*

*accessible for all users. In 2007, I co-authored AB 1358, The Complete Streets Act of 2007, with the California Bicycle Coalition. This bill will help local governments give their residents better and healthier lives by requiring the accommodation all users of the roadway before it is built, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and users of public transportation. Integrating sidewalks, bike lanes, transit amenities, and safe crossings into the initial design of a project is more cost-effective than making costly retrofits later.*