



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDCCC) is eager to learn more about your candidacy and invites you to participate in our endorsement process.

If you would like to be considered for an endorsement by SFDCCC, please complete the attached Endorsement Questionnaire and return to [info@sfdemocrats.org](mailto:info@sfdemocrats.org) by **Monday, August 13 at 5:00pm**. Our Endorsement Committee will meet candidates for interviews on **August 18, 2018**. The exact time of your interview and location will be provided to you after we review your completed Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and have determined that you meet our bottom line requirements to be considered for an endorsement. At the time of the interview, you may also provide additional information to supplement your questionnaire. You are limited to four (4) total pages, and you must provide 5 copies.

SFDCCC seeks to encourage the election of qualified local candidates who will help to advance our shared Democratic values. We are only able to endorse registered Democrats, except in the case of a nonpartisan race in which no registered Democrat has qualified for the ballot. We also seek to support those candidates who express agreement and have demonstrated support for our core issues and priorities, which are included in the California Democratic Party Platform, our Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures Manual (which can all be found at [www.cadems.org](http://www.cadems.org) and [www.sfdemocrats.org](http://www.sfdemocrats.org)).

To qualify for an endorsement interview, all candidates must indicate that they support the Democratic principles in our party platform, complete the Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire, and return it by the deadline of **August 13, 2018 at 5:00pm**.

Candidate interviews will be brief and will be open to both SFDCCC members and members of San Francisco's chartered democratic clubs. Following the Endorsement Committee interview, the full body will deliberate and vote on a final endorsement at our

meeting scheduled for August 22, 2018, at 6:30pm, at the Tenderloin Community Elementary School. Meetings are open to the general public and are live streamed on our Facebook page. You are welcome to attend or follow our progress online.

The following rules also apply to the SFDCCC endorsement process and any violation may be subject to further actions, including a revocation of the endorsement:

1. Candidates may only use the “SF Democratic Party” name and image after the full membership endorsement;
2. Once endorsed, the SFDCCC will provide a high-resolution copy of our logo which may be used in your materials **only** for the race for which you were endorsed;
3. In the case of elections in which Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is employed, listing of the SFDCCC endorsement must accurately reflect the ranked endorsement as detailed in our Policies and Procedures Manual;
4. Third parties wishing to utilize the SFDCCC name or logo in their campaign materials must submit a request to our Executive Director.

Thank you very much for your interest in the SFDCCC endorsement. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to learning more about your candidacy and your campaign.

Respectfully,  
The San Francisco Democratic Party

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.

Sonja Trauss  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(position you are seeking)

8/13/2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)



**SFDCCC Candidate Questionnaire  
Supervisory Race - November 2018**

Name Sonja Trauss

Address 603 Natoma Street, #305

City, State, Zip San Francisco, CA, 94103

Campaign Phone Number (215) 900-1457

Cell Phone Number (215) 900-1457

E-mail Address hello@sonja2018.org

What office are you running for? District 6 Supervisor

Are you running for re-election? No

What other elected positions have you held previously? None

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

· Please complete this questionnaire and bring 5 copies (for the 31 Committee members and for Democratic Clubs) with you to be distributed just prior to your interview appointment on **August 18, 2018**

· **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Please send electronic copies to [info@SFDemocrats.org](mailto:info@SFDemocrats.org) by **5:00 PM on**

**August 13, 2018**

· With the *possible exception* of a Democratic candidate filing to run after the questionnaire due date, *only* candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.

- At the time of the interview, you may also provide 45 copies of up to 4 pages of supplemental information attached to your questionnaire for distribution to SFDCCC members (materials are not to be passed out during the meeting).
- We may distribute the questionnaires in preparation for event and post them on the SFDCCC website for the public to view.
- If you have not heard from the committee by **Thursday, August 16** , please contact Executive Director, Adam Mehis at 415-626-1161 or info@sfdemocrats.org to schedule a time slot during the Endorsement Interview Meeting.

**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 the recent years.

*The political organization I co-founded, YIMBY Party, is made up largely of people ages 20-40 who had not been actively involved in local politics before becoming active with the YIMBY Party. Since quitting my job as a high school math teacher in December 2014, I have been employed full time as an organizer and advocate around housing issues.*

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

*Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club, YIMBY Party, SF Bike Coalition, United Democratic Club.*

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

*In 2014, while working as a high school math teacher, I started organizing pro-housing renters to advocate for policies that would create more housing in the Bay Area in order to prevent displacement and reduce housing prices and rent levels. I was instrumental in building the YIMBY movement from just a few friends writing letters to the SF Planning Commission to a 1,500 member group in San Francisco, and many similar pro-housing groups all over the state of CA.*

*I'm currently the Executive Director of California Legal Advocacy and Education Fund (CaRLA, carlaef.org) which I founded in late 2015 when I discovered that while State Law requires every locality to build a certain amount of housing, those laws are routinely violated and that no organization was regularly enforcing those laws. CaRLA has ongoing lawsuits in Dublin, Solano County and San Mateo County. CaRLA has won or settled lawsuits in Lafayette, Marin County and Berkeley. These precedent-setting victories make future violations of the law less likely.*

*During 2016, while CaRLA was litigating its first case against the City of Lafayette for trying to build 44 luxury single family homes instead of 315 moderate-income apartments, my team and I discovered ways the Housing Accountability Act could be made stronger so we wrote these into amendments and had them passed in 2017, as SB 167.*

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

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

YIMBY Party

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- Scott Wiener, California State Senate
- David Chiu, California State Assembly
- Fiona Ma, Member, Board of Equalization

COMMUNITY LEADERS:

- Laura Clark, YIMBY Action Executive Director
- Victoria Fierce, CaRLA Co-Executive Director

**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?

Yes

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

### **CHILDCARE**

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 CleanPowerSF program and will you commit to sustaining the Board's participation and oversight through the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)?

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

Do you support employee rights to organize and collectively bargain and support enforceable organizing agreements?

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 believe the split roll for Proposition 13 that treats taxes for commercial and residential property differently?

No

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?

No

## **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

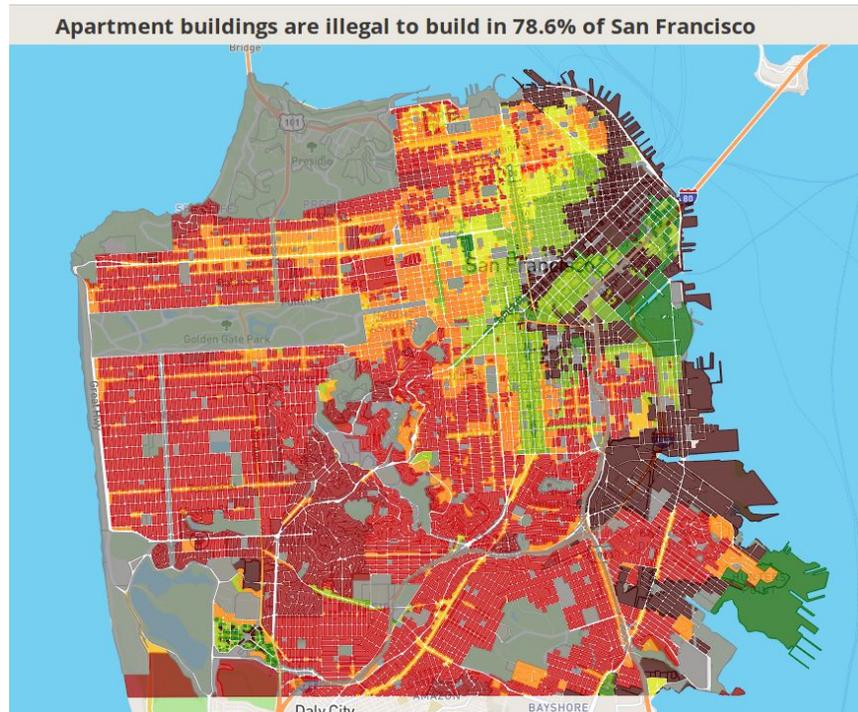
## **PART III: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ISSUES (250 Words or less)**

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

*To reduce (or eliminate) homelessness we need to build more supportive and affordable housing, more emergency shelters and also fund the recently passed right to civil counsel program to help keep people in their homes in the first place. In addition, I am supportive of the Coalition on Homelessness' ballot measure to tax gross receipts to pay for housing, shelter, mental healthcare and homelessness prevention.*

*In order to build more supportive housing, we have to increase the amount of land available for this type of housing. Currently, affordable housing is effectively illegal in almost 80% of San Francisco. I would introduce an affordable housing overlay, legalizing affordable housing everywhere in SF. Affordable housing developers have to be able to build at least 50 units at a time. This means they have to be able to build at least medium sized apartment buildings, but*

*apartment buildings are illegal in most of San Francisco. In most residentially zoned areas, current city zoning law prohibits buildings with 5 or more apartments.*



- 2) We recognize that the affordability crisis and evictions has 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?

*Housing scarcity in San Francisco is one of the main reasons we see displacement. Typically, politicians have presented San Franciscans with a false choice, which creates false scarcity. We are led to believe that market rate housing has to compete with affordable housing because we don't have enough room for both kinds of housing. In fact, we have plenty of room. San Francisco has the potential to have ten times as much land available for affordable housing as we do now if we rezone land currently limited to single-family homes, especially in the Westside, to include modest-sized apartment buildings to reduce pressures on Soma and on the Mission District.*

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

*Abundant housing is affordable housing. I am for the creation of housing across price levels to reduce the housing scarcity and to drive down prices across the board.*

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

*This question implies that the goals of community's input would be to reduce the amount of housing provided. I believe that these goals do not have to be in conflict. Residents should be able to have input on many aspects of proposed development, as long as the changes the community ask for don't reduce the amount of residential square footage, or make the project infeasible.*

*In most cities, there is community input when an area is zoned. Once the zoning is in place, the property owner/ developer/ builder can get permits for projects that meet the zoning. I would like to have that system here in SF also.*

*In California, because of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, most cities have to change their zoning and general plans as often as every seven years.*

- 5) What are your top district priorities and what would be your process for establishing these priorities and engaging community?

*My number one priority is increasing housing supply, as discussed. My second priority is to put pedestrians first by prioritizing street space for human powered transit, and taking away street space designed to be occupied by cars. Sidewalks can accommodate six times as many people as streets in any given time period. Because we have so many people seeking to move around in district six, we have to design streets to prioritize the most efficient uses.*

*Many of the people using the sidewalks are low mobility - elderly, disabled, or traveling with young children. This is why it is essential that traffic move slowly and safely in our district, and we have shorter blocks, sufficient time for walking across the street, wider sidewalks and narrower streets.*

*We should also return benches and other street furniture to our public areas. As the mother of a young child (6 months old) I already wish there were benches for me to rest with the baby. People who are elderly or disabled have a similar need. Finally - public furniture can create a welcoming public community space for residents to meet each other and share.*

*We need 15-20 foot wide sidewalks, most streets no wider than 2 lanes of car traffic and crosswalks at every intersection. We need to protect and expand our network of alleys and small streets. Finally, I would like to have timed lights so that traffic north of 16th Street and east of Van Ness goes no more than 25 mph.*

- 6) If you are elected, what are your top concerns for San Francisco? How would you address these concerns?

*I want to ensure that San Francisco changes course from being one of the least affordable cities in the world to again having a middle class and being a city where teachers, artists, firefighters, asylees or refugees can find a place to live and contribute to society.*

7) 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?

*Please see Question 5 for my priorities regarding street design and usage. Additionally, I am thrilled that recent funding measures RR and RM3 passed to help pay for BART and Muni needs.*

*As a community organizer, I am aware of the power of well organized constituent groups. To overcome opposition to transit lanes, I will work closely with organizations like SF Transit Riders, the League of Conservation Voters, and local community groups that favor better bus service to make sure they know how to make their members' voices heard at the SFMTA and at the Board of Supervisors.*

*I think the MTA should study developing its surface parking lots as [market rate housing](#), and other properties for other profitable uses. We should follow the examples set in Asian cities - where transit agencies actually make money, because of the way they develop the valuable land they own around their stations.*