



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.

Theo Ellington  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

District 10 Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(position you are seeking)  
  
8/13/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)



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

Name Theo Ellington

Address PO Box 24380

City, State, Zip San Francisco, CA, 94124

Campaign Phone Number 415-866-5501

Cell Phone Number 415-866-5501

E-mail Address Theo@theo2018.com

What office are you running for? District 10 Supervisor

Are you running for re-election?  Yes  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 SFDFCC 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 SFDFCC 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?

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.

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.

**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

No

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM**

Do you support overhauling the bail system?

Yes

No

Do you supporting rebuilding jails in San Francisco?

Yes

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

No

Do you support the San Francisco Police Department being equipped with Tasers?

Yes

No

**CHILDCARE**

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

**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

No

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

Yes

No

### HEALTHCARE

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Do you support using jails as mental health facilities and substance abuse treatment programs?

Yes

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

No

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

No

### 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

No

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?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

**LABOR**

Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

**HOUSING, TENANT, & LAND USE ISSUES**

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Should there be a moratorium on market rate housing in communities that have experienced elevated rates of displacement?

Yes

No

### **HOMELESSNESS**

Do you support civil or criminal penalties for people sleeping, sitting, or lying on the streets?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Do you support expansion of the rental subsidy program?

Yes

No

### **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?
- 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?

- 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?
- 4) How would you balance the need for more housing and the need for community input in the Planning process?
- 5) What are your top district priorities and what would be your process for establishing these priorities and engaging community?
- 6) If you are elected, what are your top concerns for San Francisco? How would you address these concerns?
- 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?

## **Part I**

**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.**

I have dedicated my career to serving the Democratic Party, fighting for our ideals, and increasing civic engagement within my community. In 2011 I founded Black Young Dems to do just that. Most notably, led the fight against the implementation of 'Stop and Frisk' in San Francisco. I also served as a delegate to the California Democratic Party, specifically working with the Black Caucus to organize the creation of several Black Young Dems Clubs throughout the State. Additionally, I am an active member in several democratic clubs across the city.

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

As a volunteer, I help neighbors in need. I formally served on the board of the Chinatown Development Center to build housing throughout the city. I currently serve as Human Rights Commissioner defending the city's anti-discrimination policy and working to build the equity agenda. I currently, serve on the board of the Bayview Opera House, and Economic Development on Third both working to revitalize our commercial corridor and bring arts programming to Bayview.

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

I was born in the heart of Bayview in the apartment above the liquor store on 3rd and Palou. I was raised by a mother who made \$30k a year in San Francisco, and my grandfather who inspired me to run for office. He was a union laborer who moved to San Francisco to escape racism in Mississippi.

I am running for Supervisor to make sure every family—not just the wealthy—can afford to live in our city. I know first-hand the cost of escalating rent prices. When I was in high school my mother and family were evicted and thrown out on the street. That's the source of my passion for affordable homes and it's why I fight so hard make sure every San Franciscan doesn't have to choose between groceries and rent. When I was

appointed to the city's Redevelopment Successor Agency, I led the creation of 1,049 affordable homes, including 242 for formerly homeless families.

Today, I'm leading the fight for us against the people who lied about the environmental disaster at the Hunters Point shipyard.

As the Director of Public Affairs for the Golden State Warriors, I held arena developers accountable to the neighborhood. Because of us, we will enjoy better transit, 3,000 new good-paying jobs, and increased tax revenue for city services.

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

London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco

Keith Baraka, Democratic County Central Committee

John Burton, Former Chair, CA Democratic Party

Malia Cohen, President of Board of Supervisors & District 10 Supervisor

Carmen Chu, San Francisco City Assessor

Bill Lee, Former SF City Administrator

Fiona Ma, CA Board of Equalization

Hydra Mendoza, President, Board of Education

Thea Selby, SF City College Trustee

Katy Tang, District 4 Supervisor

Shanell Williams, SF City College Trustee

Adam Gould, Dogpatch Business Association

Barbara Gratta & April Spears, Co-Founders, Bayview Merchants of Butchertown

Jenny Mei, Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association

Ed Hatter, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

Bruce Huie, President, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association

District 10 Urbanists

Generation Change

Laborers Local 261

Local 648, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

Local 798, San Francisco Firefighters

Operating Engineers Local 3

San Francisco Apartment Association

SEIU Local 87

**Part III**

### **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?**

Affordable homes are those which ensure that our neighbors and residents don't have to pay more than 20% of their income for rent. We must start by redefining AMI locally. Most AMI rates are determined federally, but San Francisco is an outlier and can redefine income levels that more accurately reflect our affordable housing crisis. Too many people are being forced to live in less desirable conditions or make tough decisions like whether to buy food or pay for rent. This is not sustainable. We need to build more affordable housing in this city. Particularly in D10, where the next wave of development will occur.

### **4) How would you balance the need for more housing and the need for community input in the planning process?**

Our community, especially in D10, is demanding more housing with a loud and clear voice. During my time as Commissioner for the Redevelopment Successor Agency I had the opportunity to hear them, and we funded and built 1,049 affordable housing units across the city, including 242 for formerly homeless families. At the time, we were able leverage tax increment financing to fund affordable housing projects at every income level. As a former board member of Chinatown Community Development Center, we built hundreds more new units of housing throughout the city. As supervisor, I will continue the same path, responding to the demands of my community who want more places to live. Three years ago, our neighborhood (Bayview) was finally granted a Citizens Advisory Committee where most of the development projects must go for input. This has proved to be very effective. We do indeed need more housing, but the public input process is vital.

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

- Addressing the needs of our district's homeless families.
  - Expand navigation centers to include satellite wellness programs in conjunction with local medical clinics.
  - Rehabilitate existing housing and begin to build modular housing to connect homeless families.
  - We must end the endless loop of criminalizing homelessness and the mentally ill.
  - Establish metrics for city departments to encourage better interdepartmental communication between SFPD, SFFD, DPH, HSA and others that spend tax dollars on city services.
- Creating affordable homes for every San Franciscan.

- Build more homes for folks at every income level. We simply must increase the supply of available housing.
- Build housing without displacing communities by using the abundant vacant/blighted property and land available in D10.
- Expand public housing through the Small Sites Acquisition Program, and explore the use of a public bank to fund the building of new homes.
- Prioritize building housing along Third St. and other transit corridors.
- Encourage all Supervisors to take an inventory of “Opportunity Sites” (including: surface parking lots, clustered gas stations, vacant lots, areas with an abundant of fast food restaurants)
- Making our streets safe and clean.
  - The need for clean streets presents an opportunity to work with DPW and DPH to provide jobs for the long-term unemployed or even homeless population when appropriate. Other cities like Denver, have successfully implemented this model.
  - Cleaning our streets means more than just putting out more garbage cans. Our city has expanded its recycling program, which presents a prime opportunity to work with the Department of the Environment and Recology and community based orgs to create more incentives for residents and companies to recycle.
  - For safe streets, I believe in community policing, where officers get out of their cars and walk the beat. In addition, the officers become active members of community associations, groups, and organizations.
  - I would also propose expanding the community ambassadors program with a focus on walking areas that are considered hotspots for car break-ins.

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

Same as Number 5

**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?**

My goal is to reach San Francisco’s Zero Car goal and projects like Vision Zero ahead of schedule.

In order to do that, the primary goal of our Transit Plan should be connect the southeast side of San Francisco to the rest of the city. Transit should not divide neighborhoods,

but bring them together. One significant transportation problem facing Bayview is a lack of efficient T-train service. We need to increase the frequency of the T, limit switchbacks at 23<sup>rd</sup> street, and allow all the trains to service the entire neighborhood from Dogpatch down to Vis Valley. Lastly, we need to increase the speed of service by giving trains priority (signal override) at stoplights. Trains and other transit for that matter should be given priority so that service runs on time.

We supported and will continue to support Regional Measure 3, advocating for a more transit system, including water transit and services.

Finally, we need more east to west connections to ensure transit riders and bicyclist have access to/from Bayview and Potrero Hill. The congestion along 3rd Street and Illinois is brutal and have proven to be very dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. The necessary improvements need to be made for these two main streets to be safe.