



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDFCC) 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 SFDFCC, 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.

SFDFCC 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 SFDFCC 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 SFDFCC 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 SFDFCC 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.

**Shamann Walton** (name)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shamann Walton', written in a cursive style.

(signature)

**Board of Supervisors, District 10** (position you are seeking)

**August 13, 2018** (date)



## SFDCCC Candidate Questionnaire Supervisorial Race - November 2018

Name **Shamann Walton**

Address **4900 Third Street**

City, State, Zip **San Francisco, CA 94134**

Campaign Phone Number **415-706-6246**

Cell Phone Number **707-332-3225**

E-mail Address **info@shamannwalton.com**

What office are you running for? **Board of Supervisors, District 10**

Are you running for re-election? Yes **No**

What other elected positions have you held previously?

**San Francisco School Board Commissioner, 2014-Present**

### 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](mailto: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.**

I have organized voter registration events at public housing projects and neighborhoods in District 10 to engage more residents in the political process so that their voices are heard. At my organization, Young Community Developers, we provide voter registration services when members of the community are applying for our programming. I have campaigned for only democrats my entire life and have attended Democratic Party Conventions as a voting delegate and in order to support our agenda as Democrats.

**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 an active member in the following organizations:

- Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
- American Society of Public Administrators
- Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club
- Latino Democratic Club
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- Potrero Hill Democratic Club
- San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
- Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Club
- United Democratic Club

As a native of District 10 who lived in public housing in both Bayview and Potrero Hill at a young age, this election is personal for me. I want to make sure that District 10 and San Francisco thrive and provide opportunities for indigenous populations while also providing economic opportunities through growth. With two decades of experience working with District 10 neighborhoods and building coalitions across different backgrounds and ideologies, I have proven that I am ready to hit the ground running on day one.

As president and member of the San Francisco Board of Education, I spearhead the effort to close the achievement gap for Black, Latino, and special needs students and I helped secure the

funding for the school district's first African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative. I worked to protect undocumented students, secured the financing and identified a site for our first affordable housing units for educators, and fought to make sure that Mission Bay will have its first school built in the next few years. I have helped decrease teacher turnover in our Southeast sector schools and increase graduation rates across the district (including for our Black and Latino students).

As the Executive Director at Young Community Developers (YCD), I work vigorously to build close relationships with labor to provide job and career opportunities for residents and bring 100% affordable housing units to District 10. Under my leadership, we have increased YCD's annual budget by more than \$9 million dollars and used those funds to better the lives of D10 residents by placing them in jobs and careers, developing affordable housing (100% at Candlestick Park), eliminating employment barriers and increasing education outcomes with credit recovery and tutorial services for students.

I am passionate about quality public education, options for living-wage jobs, safer neighborhoods, affordable housing, support services for the homeless, and universal healthcare. As Supervisor, I will strongly advocate for communities from low-income and working-class neighborhoods. I will work to improve our schools, bring more jobs to the district, increase access to affordable housing, bridge relationships amongst all diverse communities, stop gun violence, and ensure we have safe open spaces. These are values that strongly align with the Democratic Party.

### **Organizations**

- San Francisco Tenants Union
- Planned Parenthood Norcal Action Fund
- Laborers Local 261
- Carpenters Local 22
- Operators Local 3
- California Nurses Association (#2)
- SEIU Local 1021
- San Francisco Firefighters Local 798
- United Educators of San Francisco
- National United Healthcare Workers

### **Elected Officials**

- Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom
- Senator Scott Wiener
- Assemblymembers Phil Ting
- Assemblymembers David Chiu
- San Francisco Mayor London Breed
- San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi
- San Francisco Assessor & Recorder Carmen Chu

- SF Democratic County Central Committee Chair David Campos
- SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Sophie Maxwell
- SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Keith Baraka
- SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Tom Hsieh Jr.
- District 1 Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer
- District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin
- District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown
- District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee
- District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
- District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen
- District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen
- District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai
- Former District 1 Supervisor Eric Mar
- Former District 11 Supervisor John Avalos
- Board of Education President Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell
- Board of Education Vice-President Stevon Cook
- Board of Education Commissioner Mark Sanchez
- Board of Education Commissioner Matt Haney
- Board of Education Commissioner Emily Murase
- Board of Education Commissioner Rachel Norton
- City College Board of Trustees President Brigitte Davila
- City College Board of Trustees Vice-President Alex Randolph
- City College Board of Trustees Member Thea Shelby
- City College Board of Trustees Member Shanell Williams
- BART Board Directors Bevan Dufty
- BART Board Directors Lateefah Simon

## **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?**

Homelessness is a major issue in San Francisco, but certain neighborhoods in District 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 bear majority of the responsibility that comes with having the highest population of homeless residents. Our residents should not have to dodge needles and feces while strolling in their neighborhood and our homeless residents need supportive services to help them get back on their feet. The bottom line is that we must strategically increase resources that are used for creating transitional and permanent housing for our homeless, including creating more Navigation Centers with pathways to permanent housing and utilizing abandoned buildings to house and provide supportive services. In the long-term, this will involve building additional affordable housing, using some of our public land to build affordable projects or supportive housing, increasing the City's mental health and addiction treatment services, and ending the

practice of releasing non-violent, mentally ill and/or addicted individuals from jail directly back to the street.

We need to work with the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the Department of Public Works to bring people into supportive services instead of having homeless folks relocate after a sweep. Under my leadership at Young Community Developers, my team will be staffing the new Navigation Center located near the Cesar Chavez hairball. I am strongly in support of our upcoming ballot measure Our City, Our Home which I believe will provide the additional resources needed to help care for our homeless population and help them off the streets.

The City also needs to purchase vacant lots and small sites to build more homeless housing. Vacant hotels, old dormitories (like Academy of Arts property) should be purchased by the City and turned into housing as well. I would push our Department of real Estate to aggressively acquire property for increased housing options.

**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?**

Bayview and Visitacion Valley are some of the last parts of San Francisco with a vibrant Black community, but new developments and the rising price of homes has caused many long time residents to be pushed out to inland cities. As a native to Bayview, this topic has become increasingly personal for me as I have witnessed more and more family members and life-long friends forced to leave. It illustrates precisely why this District 10 election is so critical - if we are going to protect SF's historic communities of color we do not have time for a Supervisor who will have a steep learning curve. District 10 needs someone already in the trenches and ready to fight for our community over the details of every policy, measure, and contract from day one.

The first step to addressing displacement is to zealously work for economic empowerment within District 10's minority communities. At YCD, I have labored tirelessly to provide career development and job training that connects residents to living wage employment that allows them to stay in San Francisco. As Supervisor, I would introduce Local Mandatory Hiring legislation that requires all sectors of employment, not just construction, to hire from existing communities and neighborhoods. The policy would start out with a certain percentage requirement, with the ability to be adjusted upwards based on results and the needs of both the community and the particular company or industry. In communities that have been blighted or where population movement has led to decreased economic viability, I would also work to create "economic empowerment zones" to give small/community businesses the ability to compete while employing members of their own community.

In addition, we must aggressively use our existing laws to bring families back to San Francisco and stabilize our Black community. I know it is possible to locate displaced families and provide a path for them to return to the City because I have personally done it before. In my current

role at YCD, I have brought back 12 certificates of preference holders (COP), all of whom were Black families who had moved to neighboring cities. As Supervisor, I would continue this work by creating a City task force solely dedicated to this task.

Lastly, it does us little good to find displaced families if there is no affordable housing within the city for them to be connected to. I have experience negotiating and building 100% affordable housing while holding developers responsible for community benefit packages that support walkability, mixed-use, and environmental concerns. By using this experience to responsibly build more affordable housing, I can help provide a pathway for displaced families identified by the Task Force to return to the City.

**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?**

To me, “affordable housing” means residents are not spending over a third or more of their income towards rent. Rental prices are astronomical in San Francisco compared to the rest of our country, with prices reaching \$3,500-4000 per month on average. This is a crisis that is causing seniors, low-income families, and working-class people to be forced out of San Francisco. That is why so many residents have multiple roommates, live with family in multigenerational households, or in the worst cases, stay in abusive relationships for housing. San Franciscans deserve better -- this is not the reality that we should be accepting.

As a renter myself, I understand the plight of this City’s tenants. Building more affordable housing needs to be prioritized, and, as Supervisor, I plan to build thousands of new affordable units for all income levels. I also believe we must preserve our existing rent-controlled units and create legislation that expands rent control. Lastly, I support the idea of municipally owned or controlled housing. San Francisco owns various public lots that have the potential to be developed and converted into affordable and below market rate opportunities for families. We should utilize our public land to build affordable projects such as teacher housing through public-private partnerships with nonprofit developers.

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

As a City, we need to streamline 100% affordable projects that will ensure our most vulnerable communities will be able to stay in San Francisco and that may include forgoing community input. When it comes to market rate housing, we need to push for higher percentages of affordable housing within each development while considering community input especially if we are placing developments in communities that have been impacted the most by gentrification. While I was serving as the President of the Board of Education, I worked closely with the Board of Supervisors and community members to implement the first teacher housing developments for our educators.

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

The residents of District 10 have long been neglected by City Hall, however, residents have an incredible eagerness to be heard and involved in decisions that affect the future of their families and neighborhoods. My campaign recently started a series of events called “Neighborhood Chats” where people come tell me what they want to see from their next Supervisor and I plan to continue these engagement sessions if I’m lucky to be elected. Some of the priorities that have been regularly coming up are: 1) the Environment: I will make sure the Navy and Tetra Tech are held accountable, pay for a complete and immediate clean-up of the Shipyard, retesting of existing housing built on the Shipyard, and provide adequate healthcare for our impacted residents; 2) Transportation: while our eastern neighborhoods have experienced the highest growth, our transportation infrastructure has not kept up with this population expansion. It is critical that we invest in San Francisco’s roads, transit system, and other vital infrastructure as housing units are added in District 10 including creating east-west connections and rapid lines to downtown; 3) Affordability: making sure our longtime residents are not displaced and our younger generations can afford to stay in the district.

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

My top concerns are the homelessness crisis, the affordability crisis, and improving our City’s public infrastructure - which includes better public transportation and public education. I believe this City’s officials must recognize it is our job to fix the affordability and homelessness crisis and increase available resources for strategically creating transitional and permanent housing for our homeless population. This includes working with communities to create more Navigation Centers, using abandoned buildings to house and provide supportive services, building additional affordable housing, using and acquiring public land for these purposes, increasing the City’s mental health and addiction treatment services, and ending the practice of releasing non-violent, mentally ill and/or addicted individuals from jail directly back to the street. We need to create local mandatory hiring policies across all sectors of employment and more job training programs to connect residents to living wage jobs, push developers to include a higher percentage of affordable units in their developments, and work with small property owners to legalize accessory dwelling units to maximize our affordable housing supply.

It is also important for us to recognize that our public infrastructure, including our public transportation and schools, has not kept up with our population growth. As we continue to develop on our City’s finite peninsula, it is imperative that we enforce the Transportation Sustainability Fee on new developments so that developers and city planners stay conscious of/address the effect a population increase will have on the neighborhoods they build in. As Supervisor, I will continue working directly with the SFMTA to bring reliable and accessible transportation to residents. I will also continue to bring quality public schools into our growing neighborhoods (as President of the Board of Education, I implemented plans to build a new school in Mission Bay).

**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?**

It is critical that San Francisco's roads, transit system, and other vital infrastructure expand as housing units are added. This includes investing in more public and alternative transportation options so our roads are less congested and bringing efficient public transit options to areas currently lacking public transit such as creating east to west connections and rapid bus lines to downtown. Specifically for District 10, we need to expand the T-Line and immediately provide more express buses that go through community and connect to downtown and commercial corridors across the City. I would also push to take the T-Line underground in the future, which would ease traffic congestion, allow for more cyclist and make transportation more rapid. Once we do that, we can get more cars off the street.