

2014 DCCC Endorsement Questionnaire

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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please complete this questionnaire and send electronic copies to:
Alix Rosenthal at alix@alixro.com
Matt Dorsey at mattdorsey@mac.com
by 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 6, 2014.
- **Only candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.**
- You may bring 15 copies with you to be delivered to Alix Rosenthal just prior to your interview at:

Laborers Local 261
3271 18th Street
San Francisco, California
Saturday, August 9, 2014
10 a.m.

- At the time of the interview, you may also provide 15 copies of up to 4 pages of information for distribution to SFDCCC members.
- The final endorsement decision will be made at the DCCC meeting on August 13:

Milton Marks Auditorium
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California
Wednesday, August 13, 2014
6 p.m.

- While it may seem that some of these questions do not apply to the office you are seeking, they represent Democratic Party principles and since you may run for higher office where these questions will be relevant, we would like them addressed.
- We will distribute the questionnaires at the meeting and post them on the DCCC website for the public to view.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Are you a registered Democrat? **Yes**
2. When did you first register as a Democrat? **When I turned 18**
3. Who did you vote for in the last two Presidential elections? **Barack Obama**
4. Have you ever voted for or endorsed a non-Democrat in an election? Who? When? **No, I have not.**
5. Name the candidates you support or supported for the following offices:

Office	Year	Candidate #1	Candidate #2	Candidate #3
Mayor	2011	John Avalos		
Assembly District 17	2014	David Campos		
Supervisor, D1	2012	Eric Mar		
Supervisor, D2	2014	No Endorsement		
Supervisor, D3	2012	No Endorsement		
Supervisor, D4	2014	No Endorsement		
Supervisor, D5	2012	London Breed		
Supervisor, D6	2014	Jane Kim		
Supervisor, D7	2012	Norman Yee		
Supervisor, D8	2014	No Endorsement		
Supervisor, D9	2012	David Campos		
Supervisor, D10	2014	No Endorsement		
Supervisor, D11	2012	John Avalos		

6. Please provide a brief summary of your *qualifications* for this office. (no more than 200 words)

I am a graduate of San Francisco public schools and have committed my career to these schools. With that unique perspective of the lived experience of our students and families, I know what students need to succeed in our schools and have built a track record of success in accomplishing those outcomes. Since beginning my professional career working to improve the quality of public education, I have served as Co-Chair of the Proposition H Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF) Citizen Advisory Committee providing oversight for \$30M in public education funding and built a scholarship organization that sends African American males that graduate from San Francisco public schools to college Through my work at the San Francisco Education Fund I have worked shoulder to shoulder with principals, teachers, para-professionals and families to send more students to college. I firmly believe that in a thriving city like San Francisco, with the right leadership and a clear understanding of what works in education policy, we can make significant increases in student achievement, attract more teachers to the professions and make our public schools a national model for effective community schools. Having overcome significant adversity through a troubled home life and attending many schools that were considered underperforming, my candidacy represents what's possible through our public schools. I am running to ensure more

students experience those opportunities and to champion the causes of educators, families and our most disenfranchised communities.

7. Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party at the local, state and or/national level in the last 4 years. (no more than 200 words)

Besides voting for democrats in local, state and national elections, I have worked to support candidates in location elections. My significant involvement in campaigns the past four years were Commissioner Kim-Shree Mafuas' re-election campaign for School Board and the John Avalos for Mayor Campaign. In addition, I have been active with the San Francisco Young Democrats and the Black Young Democrats of San Francisco. Through my involvement in these organizations, I have been able to recruit more people to become members. Finally, I participated in the highly selective New Leaders Council program. This organization is committed to developing leaders that are typically outside of the power structure to advance progressive causes in a variety of sectors, including politics.

8. If elected, what are the three top issues you will work to affect? (no more than 200 words)

If elected to the school board, I have committed my first term to pursuing the following priorities: improving teacher retention, strengthening our wrap-around supports and ensuring more students have graduate college and career ready. We have seen in school sites across the country that when schools are able to retain top educators, provide the necessary student supports and build a college going culture that starts at the pre-school level, we are able to place young people in the best position possible to succeed. These areas are still major obstacles for our district and the solutions will only come as a result of using policy and system reforms to ensure we are strengthening the practice of our educators, having a diligent community engagement strategy and leveraging the unique resources San Francisco has to offer to advance these outcomes. I know from my experience working in schools and with policy makers on the board that no one person can accomplish these outcomes alone, but in order to deviate productively from the way we operate as a school district, we need leaders that have a forward looking strategy of what is possible for the future of our public schools.

9. What have you done to mentor women and people of color in your field? (no more than 200 words)

The only reason I am in the position to run for office today was because of the women and people of color that invested in my development. They instilled in me the idea that whatever I achieved as an individual would be an incomplete victory unless I use my position to advance opportunities for others around me. I have held true to those ideals through my work in education. Soon after I graduated from college, I returned to my high school to become an academic advisor and ensure that more young people of color were on a path to go to college. Through my work at the Education Fund we increased college enrollment by over 20% for African American and Latino students. Furthermore, I built a scholarship organization has sent over 60 African Americans to two year and four year colleges. My work to advance opportunities for people and color and women has also been reflected in my campaign. My treasure is an incredible young woman that had a history in non-profit development. She overseen my campaign with incredible skill and put together a plan that led me to me raise the most money of any candidate in my race before the June 30th deadline. My top policy advisor is a young Latino that has a background in academia and community

organizing. The unique position I am in to advance opportunities for disenfranchised communities is one of the key reasons why I've committed my career to education. This is work that I will be committed to doing throughout my life.

10. Please list the organizations and elected officials who have endorsed you.

- Tom Ammiano
- Jeff Adachi
- London Breed
- Matt Haney
- Kim-Shree Maufas
- Rafael Mandelman
- Kelly Dwyer
- San Francisco Young Democrats
- Black Young Democrats of San Francisco

ISSUES QUESTIONS

Please only mark whether you SUPPORT or OPPOSE each issue.

Question	Support	Oppose
1. Do you support or oppose a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion?	X	
2. Do you support or oppose affirmative action?	X	
3. Do you support or oppose marriage equality?	X	
4. Do you support or oppose privatization of essential government services?		X
5. Do you support or oppose public power in San Francisco?		X
6. Do you support or oppose reducing jail/prison overcrowding by decreasing penalties for minor drug offenses?	X	
7. Do you support or oppose rent control?	X	
8. Do you support or oppose San Francisco's sanctuary city policy?	X	
9. Do you support or oppose the repeal of instant runoff voting (ranked choice voting)?	X	X
10. Do you support or oppose district elections of Supervisors?	X	

Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing you on August 9, 2014.