

## 2014 DCCC Endorsement Questionnaire

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### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please complete this questionnaire and send electronic copies to:  
**Alix Rosenthal at [alix@alixro.com](mailto:alix@alixro.com)**  
**Matt Dorsey at [mattdorsey@mac.com](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 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? Since I was registered to vote.
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, the only exception would be when I supported Matt Gonzalez for Mayor.
5. Name the candidates you support or supported for the following offices:

Office	Year	Candidate #1	Candidate #2	Candidate #3
Mayor	2011	Myself.		
Assembly District 17	2014	Tom Ammiano		
Supervisor, D1	2012	Eric Mar		
Supervisor, D2	2014	Mark Farrell		
Supervisor, D3	2012	David Chiu		
Supervisor, D4	2014	Katy Tang		
Supervisor, D5	2012	C. Olague		
Supervisor, D6	2014	Jane Kim		
Supervisor, D7	2012	No endorsement		
Supervisor, D8	2014	Scott Weiner		
Supervisor, D9	2012	David Campos		
Supervisor, D10	2014	Malia Cohen		
Supervisor, D11	2012	John Avalos		

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

I have served as Public Defender for the past twelve years. Prior to being elected in 2002, I worked as a Deputy Public Defender for 11 years and the office's Chief Attorney for 2 years. I have personally handled over 3,000 criminal cases and have tried over 150 jury trials. I have been certified by the California State Bar Criminal Law Specialist for the past 24 years and have served on the Boards of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice and the California Public Defenders Association.

As Chief Attorney, I worked to bring the office into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Prior to 1998, the office did not have computers and a networked database. After being elected Public Defender in 2002, I worked to increase staffing and resources for the office. For many years, the office had suffered from inadequate staffing and high caseloads. I implemented effective managerial and staff support, caseload and workload standards to ensure superior legal outcomes, and training. Since being elected, the office's budget has increased from \$13 million to \$30 million.

Each year, the office and its dedicated staff helps over 20,000 San Franciscans obtain justice in the courts, and uphold our nation's Bill of Rights and Constitution. Today our office is considered one of the best in the nation.

I have also founded a number of innovative community-based programs and reforms that prevent crime. Our Clean Slate and prisoner reentry programs have helped thousands of people turn their lives around. Our award winning juvenile justice programs, including MAGIC and Legal Education Advocacy Program (LEAP) keep kids in school.

I have received top national, statewide, and local awards from the American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid and Defense Association, the California Public Defenders Association, the SF Lawyer's Committee, and the Mayor's Fiscal Advisory Committee's Managerial Excellence Award.

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)

I have supported Democratic candidates for local, state and national offices, both financially and working on their campaigns. I strongly believe in grassroots organizing, and have worked to help elect Democratic candidates using community organizing strategies I learned through my early years as a community organizer. I have attended Democratic Party events and supported the activities and fundraising events of local democratic clubs in SF.

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

Improving services for formerly incarcerated individuals to help them live productive lives. I have worked in the area of prisoner reentry for many years, and with the state realignment initiative, there is even a greater need to provide greater support to individuals returning to San Francisco from jail and prisons. I created a re-entry unit in our office, staffed with social workers who help link individuals to services, such as mental health and treatment. I plan to work to expand these services to include employment and educational support. I founded the Reentry Council, the city-wide body which coordinates the delivery of reentry services, and we have an ambitious agenda for the next five years, which will dramatically improve the delivery of services and accountability.

Improving quality of indigent defense. I have designed a program to improve the quality of legal representation to the poor. By requiring that attorneys use a series of comprehensive checklists, we can ensure that in every case, our clients are receiving the same high quality of representation. Last year, the Department of Justice awarded my office a two year \$400K grant to implement this program in SF, Alameda and nationally.

Abolishing the death penalty. I have been a long-time opponent of the death penalty and will continue to advocate for its elimination. We have sponsored community forums, the most recently featuring Sister Helen Prejean which drew 1,000 San Franciscans at the Temple Emanuel, and I was a strong supporter of Prop 34, which narrowly lost in 2012. I will continue these efforts in the next four years.

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

I have worked very hard to build one of the most diverse law firms in the country. Our office is 40% minority, 55% female and 25% LGBT. The same is true for my management team. We have received the top award from the San Francisco Bar Association for our diversity in hiring and management.

I have developed an internship program and Volunteer Attorney Program to give law students and new lawyers an opportunity to become exposed to public defense. Each year, we have over 200 law students and over 15 lawyers who serve as volunteer public defenders for four months, where they are able to handle a caseload and try cases. Many of the participants are women and people of color. These programs have been in place for the past 12 years so hundreds have participated and benefitted from these training and mentorship programs.

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

Senator Mark Leno

Assembly Members Tom Ammiano & Phil Ting

Treasurer Jose Cisneros, Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu, District Attorney George Gascon

Board of Supervisors Mark Farrell, Scott Wiener, John Avalos, Eric Mar, London Breed, David Campos, Norman Yee, Jane Kim and Malia Cohen.

## 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	
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.