



Dear Candidate,

As the San Francisco Latino Democratic Club embarks on our endorsements for the June 2016 election cycle, your participation in our club questionnaire allows our membership to better understand you and where you stand as a candidate.

Our questionnaire consists of a series of short-answer questions (200 words or less).

Please return the completed questionnaire by 11:59 PM Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

E-mail all questionnaires to our Political Action Committee at [pac@sflatinodemocrats.com](mailto:pac@sflatinodemocrats.com). If you are unable to complete the questionnaire by April 5, please let us know ASAP.

Upon submission of your completed questionnaire, you will receive an invitation to our April 9, 2016 PAC endorsement meeting.

Good Luck!

Sincerely,  
The San Francisco Latino Democratic Club

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name as It Will Appear On the Ballot:	Rafael Mandelman
Campaign Contact Info:	415-516-7761, rafael@rafaelmandelman.com
Website:	www.rafaelmandelman.com

	Yes	No
Are you now or have you ever been a member of LDC?	X	
Have you ever sought LDC's endorsement in the past?	X	

## QUESTIONS (Please limit responses to 200 words):

- 1) Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy. Also list any endorsements you have secured from others you wish us to know about.**

I have been active in the San Francisco Democratic Party for nearly fifteen years, serving on the boards of the Noe Valley Democratic Club (three years as president), the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club (two years as president), the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club and the District 8 Progressive Democratic Club. First elected to the San Francisco DCCC in 2006, I have served as a member and vice chair of that body and have served on the Resolutions Committee of the California Democratic Party. As a member of the SF DCCC, I have at various times helped lead the Party's voter registration efforts, chaired the local Party's Resolutions Committee, and worked to strengthen relationships between the Party and our partners in labor, the environmental movement, the tenants rights movement, and the peace movement.

If re-elected, my priorities will include:

1. Helping elect excellent progressive candidates at every level of government;
2. Engaging more young people, women and minorities in the work of San Francisco Democratic Party; and
3. Developing the grassroots of the Party by encouraging the formation of new Democratic Clubs and other organizations and structures to build the Party and make it relevant to more people.

**2) What do you think are the top 3 priorities/issues of the San Francisco Latino Community? And why?**

**Affordable Housing/Displacement:** A 2015 report commissioned by the Board of Supervisors found that the Mission's Latino population, which had been at 60% in 2000 had fallen to 48% and could be expected to further decline to 31% by 2025. San Francisco's related crises of housing unaffordability and displacement are clearly being felt particularly acutely in San Francisco's Latino community.

**Police Violence/Accountability:** The killings of Alex Nieto and Amilcar Perez Lopez have underscored that San Francisco is not immune to the national epidemic of police violence. There is a need for significant reform to improve the relationship between San Francisco's police department and the communities it is supposed to serve, especially minority communities.

**Political Representation:** With David Campos and John Avalos nearing the end of their final terms on the Board of Supervisors, there is a real possibility that there could be no Latino members of the Board next year. There is currently no Latino representation on the School Board, even though Latino students make up more than a quarter of the School District's enrollment. The underrepresentation of Latinos in elected office is a problem that should be concerning for all San Franciscans.

**3) What are your plans to encourage and empower the Latino Community into the Democratic political process?**

The local Democratic Party needs to do significantly more than it has over the last four years to engage with the Latino community, through aggressive voter registration efforts and political engagement efforts. Part of that requires that we actually be responsive to the political efforts of SF's Latino community. Thus, for example, I think it was a mistake and a missed opportunity for the Party to oppose Proposition I. We also need to do more to support the development of Latino political leadership, by recruiting and supporting excellent Latino candidates.

**4) Are you active in your community/communities? If so, how?**

Yes, I am active in the LGBT and Jewish communities. I am a past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and currently serve as Chair of the SF LGBT Community Center's Board of Directors. I was a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the New Generations Board of the New Israel Fund, an organization that promotes democracy, social justice and pluralism in Israel. I have been a member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav since 2010. I am a

former president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club and currently serve as president of the District 8 Progressive Democrats. And of course I am significantly involved in the broader community as president of City College's Board of Trustees.

**5) Which candidates are you supporting or have you supported in the following elections:**

2016 SF DCCC

I'm afraid I have way over-endorsed. In the 17<sup>th</sup> AD, I have endorsed all members of the Reform Slate: Alysabeth Alexander, Tom Ammiano, John Burton, David Campos, Petra DeJesus, Bevan Dufty, Jon Golinger, Pratima Gupta, Frances Hsieh, Jane Kim, myself, Sophie Maxwell, Aaron Peskin, Wade Woods, Cindy Wu. I have also endorsed, based on personal relationships, Gary McCoy, Alix Rosenthal and Francis Tsang.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> AD, I have endorsed Keith Baraka, Brigitte Davila, Sandra Lee Fewer, Hene Kelly, Leah LaCroix, Eric Mar, Myrna Melgar, Gabriel Medina, Norman Yee

2015 Mayor - No Endorsement

Sheriff – No Endorsement

Board of Supervisors (District 3) – Aaron Peskin

Community College Board – No Endorsement

**6) Do you believe that registered/paid lobbyists should be required to recuse themselves from votes that benefit the industry or organizations that they represent?**

Yes.