

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. 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:

Keith Baraka

Campaign Contact Info:

415-577-6858

Website:

www.keithbaraka.com

Yes No

Are you now or have you ever been a member of LDC?

No

Have you ever sought LDC's endorsement in the past?

No

QUESTIONS (Please limit responses to 200 words):

- **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.**

Diversity, visibility and representation are very important to me.

As a life-long Democrat I feel very strongly about the SF Democratic Party representing the strong diversity of San Francisco, but it does not.

There are no African-American men currently elected to the Democratic County Central Committee, and there hasn't been for a very long time.

I feel I am uniquely suited to serve on the DCCC. I have been the proxy for State Senator Mark Leno for several years. Six years ago, I ran a very strong race for DCCC and came in 13th, in a very tough race with the top 12 winning seats.

I know the DCCC members. I know how important the outreach is to the communities and the Democratic Clubs. I know how critical is the work to register and educate voters, and how crucial and symbolic are the voter registration drives at the swearing-in ceremonies for new American citizens.

For nearly 15 years, I lived as a renter in SF until I experienced an owner move-in eviction. Now, I am a struggling, working class homeowner, so I am uniquely positioned to understand both positions on these issues that so often polarize the voters of San Francisco.

I am a strong union member serving in the San Francisco Fire Department, so I understand the value of a strong working class. As one of the few out gay men in the SFFD who has struggled to create a group to support, mentor and recruit the LGBT members of the SFFD: SF ResQ. During this process I've seen the importance of taking tough messages to our political leaders and asking more of them, challenging them to better lead.

As Senator Leno's DCCC proxy I have been actively involved in the volunteer mechanisms of the DCCC, a role not many proxies embrace. As a strong, nearly successful DCCC candidate, I know what it takes to run a principled and effective campaign.

In addition to my time volunteering for the SF Democratic Party for the past 15 years and founding SF ResQ within the SFFD, I have served on the Board of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic for the past 8 years. I have volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician for and raised funds as a rider for the SF to LA CA AIDS Ride. And I have actively volunteered in many political campaigns in SF: Willie Brown, Mark Leno, David Chiu, Scott Wiener, Bevan Dufty, Theresa Sparks for Supervisor, Kamala Harris as well as many others.

I pride myself on being able to see both sides of an issue and to bring people together. I am one of only two DCCC candidates jointly endorsed by both the Alice B. Toklas and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Clubs. I understand the weight of this trust and plan to work with both clubs to move the agenda of the SF Democratic Party forward.

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

1. Registering voters. Weekend before last I had the extreme pleasure of registering voters at an outdoor event in Golden Gate Park. If elected to the body I will work to continue and expand our current voter registration efforts. That means going into communities that have been historically overlooked.

2. Engaging and educating the electorate. This could be executed using forums, lectures, or town hall meetings sponsored by our party and democratic clubs. One of the things I enjoy most is learning about the issues facing our community. I'm an avid listener, and member of both KQED and KALW public radio. I would work to provide these kinds of educational forums within our party just as I did as Programs Co-Chair for Alice. I understand a lot of production is required for the aforementioned stations so they wouldn't be at the same level but the overall goal of informing and educating would be the focus.

3. Endorsements. Securing the endorsement of the SF Democratic party is arguably the most important endorsement for a candidate or ballot measure. I would take this responsibility very seriously and weigh all the aspects of the candidate or

measure before arriving at a decision.

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

It's important to reach out to and encourage all members of our community, that is what I like about Democrats, we're all in this together.

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

Yes. I serve on the DCCC as Mark Leno's proxy, I have done this for the last several years. I have also been an Alice B Toklas LGBT Dem Club board member for the last 8 years. I started an employee resource group called SF ResQ for LGBTQ members and I have served as volunteer on numerous campaigns.

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

2016 SF DCCC

2015 Mayor

Sheriff

Board of Supervisors (District 3)

Community College Board

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

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Folks should be held accountable to the rules, if the rules in place prohibit this activity then yes.