



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:	<i>Aaron Peskin</i>
Campaign Contact Info:	<i>aaron.peskin@earthlink.net;</i> <i>lee.a.hepner@gmail.com</i>
Website:	<i>www.Aaron2016.com</i>

	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?		

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.**

My public service includes two terms as Supervisor for District 3, from 2000-2008, during which time I was twice elected President of the Board, a position I held from 2005 on. From 2000 - 2002 I was a member of the SF DCCC, and from 2008 - 2012, I served as Chair of that organization.

I currently serve as the Supervisor in San Francisco's District 3, which includes the Financial District, the City's bayside waterfront, North Beach, Chinatown, Union Square, Russian Hill, Polk Gulch and parts of the Tenderloin - all fantastic neighborhoods and communities. I am also President of the Great Basin Land and Water, a nonprofit that preserves land and water for ecological, scenic, and natural value in California, Utah, and Nevada.

I am running for a seat on the DCCC because at a time when the San Francisco Democratic Party has the opportunity to truly lead San Francisco and for San Francisco to lead the state and nation, we have the lowest voter enrollment and engagement ever. There is widespread discontent with a progressive political party that is chaired by special interests, which reflects the lack of interest and interaction on the part of voters. Young voters are leaving the party in droves.

When I was Chair of the local Democratic Party, I endeavored to create excitement around Democratic candidates that translated into voter registration drives, fundraisers for state and federal Democrats, and a record voter turnout to get Kamala Harris elected to the post of State Attorney General. The party worked for the electorate, not for special interests, and created opportunities for rising talent in our Party. It is time to bring that dynamic back to our local Democratic Party.

I am grateful for all of my endorsements, but particularly honored to be endorsed by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the San Francisco Tenants Union and the newly-revived San Francisco Bay Guardian.

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

I believe that housing, the "Due Process for All" ordinance, and police accountability are among the top priorities of San Francisco's Latino Community, and I don't think one needs be a weatherman to understand why.

With respect to housing, it's no secret that the Mission District's Latino community has been subject to a disproportionate level of eviction and displacement in the face of housing speculation and the City's failure to require the development of enough affordable housing. I supported Proposition I for this reason, and for the corollary logic that any community should be granted a great degree of autonomy to decide what is best for itself. With respect to the preservation of Latino heritage in San Francisco, I think that reasonable zoning controls and the establishment of Calle 24 Latino Cultural District are steps in the right direction.

Regarding the City's Due Process for All Ordinance, this City cannot weaken our City's reputation, both in terms of its perception and in reality, as a sanctuary for those seeking asylum from any form of discrimination or oppression.

Lastly, with respect to police accountability, my heart goes out to the family and friends of Alex Nieto, Mario Woods and all other victims of police violence and discrimination. I support efforts to mandate independent review of all police officer-involved shootings and further believe that we should do more to address systemic racism in our police department, particularly as is manifest in disproportionate arrests in black and brown communities.

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

Chartered democratic clubs like the Latino Democratic Club and the Young Latina/o Democratic Club should be encouraged and empowered to focus on building their presence in their community, not on defending their charter from warrantless attack. The DCCC's adversarial relationship to the Latino Democratic Club in this regard has been counterproductive and disappointing.

Beyond that, the DCCC is the local seat of Democratic power in San Francisco, and critical organizing and education efforts have historically extended from this body. As goes San Francisco, so goes the State of California; and as goes California, so goes the nation. The values that we evangelize and the groundbreaking work that we do here have a critical ripple effect far beyond the geographic boundaries of our City and County. We are tasked with the obligation to mentor and cultivate new leadership, fundraise for the Democratic Party and its issues and candidates and expand the base locally through voter registration and engagement. But beyond those functions, we also have an obligation to listen to various groups within our Party, many of which embody diverse perspectives critical issues that make our Party stronger. The Democratic Party must listen and learn from San Francisco's Latino Community, not undermine it.

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

I have been a community activist in San Francisco since my arrival decades ago and was a neighborhood leader for a number of organizations, including the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. My successes with those organizations include preserving the historic Colombo Building, mitigating unbridled non-community serving development of our historic waterfront and saving our historic Flower Mart. I regularly join labor protests in solidarity with demands for labor harmony, fair wages and fair contract negotiation.

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

2016 SF DCCC - *I am supporting the entire "Reform Slate" of independent and progressive candidates for DCCC.*

2015 Mayor - *No endorsement*

Sheriff – *No endorsement*

Board of Supervisors (District 3) – *Myself*

Community College Board – *Wendolyn Aragon and Tom Temprano*

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.