

Name
Paul Bellar

Office Sought
Assessor/Recorder

Website
AccessSF.org

What San Francisco street/intersection would you choose for an epic street party and why?

24th St and York. It's a hot day. One of those days in September where you feel like you're melting. 24th St has been blocked off. People are streaming in and out of my local dive bar, Pops, and just hanging out. The waterpark has the water on and kids are screaming and getting soaked. Ice cream carts are outside the park waiting for the kids to come and make their choice. There's a bouncy house next to La Palma. Families are laughing. The Soda Fountain has set up a speaker system. There's a DJ. I see old neighbors and meet new ones. The community is here-families who have lived here for generations as well as newcomers. Everyone is dancing. Forgetting for a moment the struggle that has become San Francisco.

Please list the 3 endorsements you are most proud of:

A. My Brother. He and I bonded back in 2016 after the Presidential race over the question of "where the FUCK is this country headed?" We kept going back and forth about how and why so many people from our background would vote for such a shitty person for President. I finally said I was thinking that we need to step up and do more. I asked him if he would help me run for office and without hesitation, he said YES. My brother is my first endorsement, my first supporter and my first volunteer. B. My mother. She's a Trump supporter and can be very frustrating to talk to about this country. It was challenging to tell her that I was running for office and I kept wondering how we would talk about it given our dramatically different political viewpoints. We discovered common ground. Our bond grew when we talked about how important housing is to all of us and she was surprised at how in line my platform was to her beliefs. She's 100% on board, and supportive. She even donated to my campaign, which was the first time in her life she's donated to a democrat. B. Random guy at Sunday Streets. Sunday Streets was my first public outing with "Vote Tall Paul" gear, and the very first time I put my signs out with my name in big bold letters at a public event. In the early afternoon, a guy walked by and asked me very pointedly, "What in the hell is the assessor?" We had a 20 minute conversation about housing in the city. I talked to him about the possibilities that change to this office could bring and how it would impact him. I was able to get him to understand how it could help. He ended the conversation with "Well, you got my vote." It was my first public event, and it felt I was heading in the right direction.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner? (1250 character limit)

Understanding: During the 8 years I have worked with the Assessor's office as a real estate professional, I have seen how the office fundamentally does not understand the housing it's taxing. Poorly tracked data, outdated standards and misapplied statistics paint a disconnected picture of San Francisco's housing. This will take time to fully implement and see results. 1 election cycle.

Fairness: Once our housing is understood, it is the responsibility of the Assessor/Recorder to fairly apply all applicable laws of taxation, both state and local. The key to fairness is an honest

and open process removing the mystery of how the office of the Assessor/Recorder interprets and applies the taxes assessed for each property. This can be done starting within my first year of office.

Education: I will create an ongoing outreach program educating the public about their taxes as well as possible taxes if they decide to help the San Franciscan during the housing crisis. Well informed homeowners are paramount to mounting a city wide effort to ease the housing crisis. Fully understanding the tax implications surrounding legalizing their in-law or building a cottage is crucial to finding additional middle income housing.

What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

None. I have mainly focused on working as a representative in my local teachers union. Our local focused on organizing the members and communicating their concerns/issues with the governing body. I was also the grievance representative where I sat in on meetings between union members and administration to ensure teachers were getting a fair process in their dealings with administration.

What local and state commissions and policy bodies have you served on -- currently or in the past?

N/A

Do you support San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) fully divesting from fossil fuels within three years and holding SFERS accountable at the ballot if they do not divest? Yes

Have you signed up for CleanPowerSF? Yes, for Green service

Do you support California Prop 10 that repeals the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act? Yes

Do you support renewing SFPD's involvement with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force? No

Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core? No

In the wake of the controversy around SB 827, would you propose any rezoning or other policy changes to increase housing -- particularly affordable housing -- while protecting against displacement of current residents?

Yes. I have worked for the past 8 years in housing as part of my real estate appraisal business and seen San Francisco zoning up-close and personal. In my opinion, our current zoning is from a bygone era that is incapable of supporting the housing needs of San Francisco residents. Our zoning laws need to be updated to accommodate our current communities while shedding the remnants of the red-lining laws that originally created them. The new laws need to be created in ways where we can have equitable development that balances the needs of all socio-economic classes.

What new policies and procedures have you identified that would increase the revenue-generating potential of the Office of the Assessor-Recorder?

A large source of revenue that is slowly collected are supplemental taxes. These are property tax bills that are sent out to people who have purchased a home and there is a difference between the old taxes (prior owner) and the new taxes. Often, this difference can be thousands of dollars and can take from one to two years to be collected as the office is slow to process them. Simple changes to how they are handled like prioritizing high dollar purchases first and working with title companies to collect those taxes as close of escrow can collect the taxes quicker and reduce the shocking tax bill that can come sometimes up to two years after the purchase of the home.

Do you support the "Our City, Our Home" tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services? Yes

Do you support the gross receipts tax on transportation network companies (TNCs) and other private transit vehicle services? Yes

Who are you supporting for D2 Supervisor?

Who are you supporting for D4 Supervisor?

Who are you supporting for D6 Supervisor?

Who are you supporting for D8 Supervisor?

Who are you supporting for D10 Supervisor?

Shamann Walton	2nd
Tony Kelly	1st
Theodore Ellington	3rd
Gloria Berry	

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

Monica Chinchilla, Gabriela Lopez

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Who are you supporting for BART Board, D8?

Who did you support for Mayor?

Jane Kim	1st
Mark Leno	2nd
Amy Farrah Weiss	3rd

Did you support June 2018 Prop C, Tax on Commercial Rent for Child Care & Early Education?
Yes

Did you support June 2018 Prop D, Commercial Tax for Housing? Yes

Who did you support for D1 Supervisor?

Who did you support for D3 Supervisor?

Who did you support for D5 Supervisor?

Who did you support for D7 Supervisor?

Who did you support for D9 Supervisor?

Who did you support for D11 Supervisor?

Did you support 2016's Prop D "Let's Elect Our Elected Officials" to have special elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Supervisors? Yes

Did you support 2014's Prop G, the anti-speculation tax? Yes

Is there anything else you want to tell us? (3000 character limit)

I know the position of Assessor/Recorder is not sexy. It is an esoteric bureaucratic position few people interact with or even know exists. My goal is to move away from its traditional "taxes only" role and push the office in a more housing focused direction that can benefit all of San Francisco. The bottom line is that something needs to shift in order to change the trajectory of our housing crisis. We must use every resource at our disposal, starting with electing new leadership across San Francisco. I have personally inspected thousands of San Francisco homes and have a firm understanding of what our housing looks like. It is crucial to elect someone like me with a background in housing and government who is ready to directly apply that experience to ameliorate the current housing crisis. This process won't be easy or fast but small steps in the right direction are better than the current assessor's position of not moving at all. I'm ready to shake things up and leverage what I know from my on-the-ground interactions with our citizens and our housing market.