SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2020 DCCC Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Sunday, December 1st if you wish to be considered for the League's endorsement. Please use this form rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

Candidate Info

Need to see the other questions before you get started? Just fill this in. It's the only section with required answers.

Name *

Austin Hunter

Campaign Contact *


Email Address *


Phone Number

Website
austinhunter.org

Tell Us About You

Why are you running for this office?
What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

Supporting Grassroots-
Right now we need to be capacity building for the 2020 November election. Our party should immediately move to open an office, provided training for phone bank captains, and support groups like, Sister District, Swing Left, Indivisible, on what they need.

Holding Officials Accountable -
An objective of the DCCC is to make sure our electeds are living up to our progressive values. I would expand the endorsement review process to include in-depth policy questions, and follow-up on the campaign promises that we were told about when our electeds ran for office.

Getting Democrats Elected -
As someone who has gone out of state to canvass for Democrats and as someone who ran the largest phonebank in the nation I know how to get Democrats elected. San Francisco has one of the largest volunteer forces in the country. I would strive to leverage that for targeted seats throughout the country.
What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Susan Pfeifer - Activist
Susan and I have worked together to get Democrats elected and train volunteers. I am proud to have her support. In her own words, “I have worked with Austin and consider him one of the most talented organizers I’ve ever worked with. His on-the-ground experience, work with Sister District to help take control of the Virginia legislature, combined with his outstanding people skills, Austin can move mountains. I believe he will bring energy and commitment to the SFDCCC.”

Natalie Burdick - Co-Chair San Francisco Sister District
Natalie and I have worked together to flip the Virginia Legislature Blue. She knows that I am willing to put in the work to get the job done. You can see her endorsement video here - http://bit.ly/LofPOV

Rock the Congress - Volunteer Group
In 2018 I had the opportunity to serve as (co-)Chair of the San Francisco Rock the Congress event. In March, we provided over 300 activists with the skills and training needed to collaborate, build a coalition, and ultimately flip red seats to blue.

Rock The Congress endorses my campaign. This is about making a movement, and that means putting in the hours. They know that I do the work.
What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

I serve on two political boards; Sister District San Francisco and the Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club.

Sister District San Francisco -
I serve as a District Captain for SOMA, co-chairing our Monthly Meeting and, in this most recent election cycle, working to help get Democrats in Virginia elected. Additionally, I sit on the fundraising subcommittee which aims to help raise money from small-dollar donors for state House and Senate Seats.

Eastern Neighborhood Democratic Club -
I serve as the District Director for SOMA where I help organize events that are important to the community. The events that I am most proud of is our Navigation Center Panel Series. We bring together various stakeholders to discuss why it is important to provide homeless services and what we should be doing as a community to fight this crisis.

What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?

I am an elected representative to the California State Democratic Party. In my first year serving as an elected representative I accomplished many things I am proud of;

Getting the State Party to support of the Green New Deal, which is now a part of the state party platform
A resolution in support of our grassroots organizations that asks the party to step-up and support them, the party is now opening 12 field offices throughout the state in 2020.
Do you pledge to 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
- No

Do you pledge to support San Francisco purchasing PG&E assets to create public power in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to support the closure of 850 Bryant, jails #3 and #4?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support Abolishing ICE?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support decarceral criminal justice reform?

- Yes
- No
Do you support the expansion of charter schools? Yes/No (Please explain your answer.)

No, charter schools have historically taken funding away from our public schools. Right now we need to be focusing on reinvesting in public education.

Did you support SB 50 (Senator Wiener’s zoning bill) as written?

- Yes
- No

If not, what amendments would make you support SB 50?

We cannot let perfect be the enemy of good. For too long we have allowed areas to redline through communities through pricing out lower-income individuals. SB50 can be of course be improved by things like; Demolition Control so we protect the house we have, make sure that low-income communities have special protections built-in so this first affects those wealthier neighborhoods first, and extending implementation time so that a comprehensive plan for the community could be developed.

Do you pledge to endorse only candidates committed to ending homeless sweeps?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the City funding community land trusts?

- Yes
- No
Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?

- Yes
- No

Do you support and would you vote to endorse a Public Bank in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to endorse only those candidates that support Medicare for All?

- Yes
- No
- Other: ____________________________

Do you pledge to only endorse those candidates that support a full repeal of the Ellis Act and Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?

- Yes
- No

Do you believe the number of real estate contributions to a candidate impacts their fitness as a progressive candidate?

- Yes
- No
If Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act is repealed, would you work to enact vacancy control in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you support a baseline percentage of 40% of affordable housing in developments when negotiating the number of housing units?

- Yes
- No

Do you support requiring 100% affordable housing on public land?

- Yes
- No

If not, under what circumstances would you support allowing a percentage or all market-rate housing on public land?

DCCC Policy
Do you support contribution limits for DCCC races?

- Yes
- No

What are your ideas to avoid a corporate takeover of the DCCC?

Candidates should not be able to take PAC money. You should be able to see where every dollar comes from. This means that candidates should not be able to take donations from PACs.

Elected officials should not be able to roll over contributions from other committees. Currently, you are able to roll funds over from your supervisor race into your DCCC campaign. This lets people drive a truck through the $500 contribution limit. This should be banned.

Do you support limiting DCCC ex-officio member voting rights for endorsements?

- Yes
- No

Do you support banning elected politicians from running for DCCC?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge not to resign your seat before the November 2020 endorsement vote?

- Yes
- No
If not, please explain why:


November 2020 Election

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer in District 1?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Aaron Peskin in District 3?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Dean Preston in District 5?

☐ Yes

☐ No
Do you pledge to vote to not endorse Karim Salgado or Joel Engardio for Supervisor in District 7?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Supervisor Hillary Ronen in District 9?

- Yes
- No

Do you pledge to vote to SOLE endorse Former Supervisor John Avalos in District 11?

- Yes
- No

Do you support restrictions on Prop 13 in the November 2020 and future elections?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the proposed commercial vacancy tax?

- Yes
- No
Do you support the Fair Elections charter amendment to prohibit mayoral appointments of candidates 90 days before an election?

- Yes
- No

March 2020 Election

Which candidate will you support in the March 2020 Presidential Primary?

Elizabeth Warren

Do you support San Francisco Balanced Development Act which seeks to update 1986’s Prop M?“

- Yes
- No
Which candidate will you support for Congress in District 12?

- Agatha Bacelar
- Shahid Buttar
- Douglas Deitch
- Tom Gallagher
- Nancy Pelosi

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 1?

- Pang Va Ly
- Maria Evangelista

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 18?

- Dorothy Chou Proudfoot
- Michelle Tong

Which candidate will you support for SF Superior Court Seat 21?

- Kulvindar "Rani" Singh
- Carolyn Gold

November 2019 Election
## Who did you support for District Attorney?

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<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>Unranked Endorsement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suzy Loftus</td>
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<td>Leif Dautch</td>
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<td>Nancy Tung</td>
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<td>Chesa Boudin</td>
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## Who did you Support for D5 Supervisor?

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<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>Unranked Endorsement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dean Preston</td>
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<td>Vallie Brown</td>
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<td>Ryan Lam</td>
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<td>Nomvula O'Meara</td>
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### November 2018 Election

Need a refresher of what was on the ballot? Use this link: [https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-6-2018-election-results-summary](https://sfelections.sfgov.org/november-6-2018-election-results-summary)
Who did you support for Board of Education? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Phil Kim
Michelle Parker
Faauuga Moliga

Who did you support for D2 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

I did not get involved in this race.

Who did you support for D4 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

I did not get involved in this race.

Who did you support for D6 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

1) Christine Johnson
2) Sonja Trauss

Who did you support for D8 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Rafael Mandelman
Who did you support for D10 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Shamann Walton

Did you support November 2018’s Prop C - "Our City Our Home" tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services?

☐ Yes

☐ No

June 2018 Election

Need a refresher of what was on the ballot? Use this link: [https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-5-2018-election-results-summary](https://sfelections.sfgov.org/june-5-2018-election-results-summary)

Who did you support for Mayor in June 2018? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

London Breed

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

☐ Yes

☐ No
Did you support June 2018’s Prop F “Tenant’s Right to Counsel”?

- Yes
- No

Did you support June 2018’s Prop H “Arm Police With Tasers”?

- Yes
- No

Past Elections

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
- No

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

- Yes
- No
Short Answer Questions

Short Answers Please

Do you identify as an activist?

- Yes
- No

If so, please describe specific accomplishments in your activism. What did you get done, and what was your role?

I have accomplished a variety of things as an activist; ran the largest phonebank in the nation, helped flipped Virginia Blue, trained over 300 organizers in a single-day, registered new voters at citizen swearing-in ceremonies, help start a democratic club, canvassed across the country for Democratic candidates, and worked to push progressive values nationally.

I work to make sure that we put our best first forward as Democrats. It's time to keep fighting.

What communities do you feel you represent in SF and how do those communities hold you accountable?

I feel I represent grassroots campaign activists. They hold me accountable in a few different ways. The first is that I sit on a variety of boards with them. This gives them a direct line to give me feedback. Second, I feel that I represent people who want to make a difference within our party. My job as an organizer is to motivate people to volunteer their precious time. I know I am doing my job when people continue to show up. I'm held accountable by making sure my volunteers feel empowered to make a difference.
Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

When the repeal of DACA hit all I could do was reach out to those who I knew were affected; make sure they had someone to talk to, that they knew their rights. I come from a place of privilege as I am not an immigrant myself, so I believe it is my role to listen to those in the community for what they need.

I am not the ‘white savior’ nor should I try to be.

Please list specific ways you have fought against racism and white supremacy.

Racism is something that is prevalent in most aspects of everyday life. It is in microaggressions and in overt actions. In my old role, I was in charge of providing scholarships to students in an effort to increase diversity in tech. This career path allowed me to help move the needle a little in combating systemic racism.

In my current role, I help companies and countries design equitable policy frameworks that govern advanced technologies. This means bringing in communities that may not be represented currently at the table. It is not my job to speak for others; rather give them a place at the table.

Please give us some examples of situations you've encountered where gender and LGBTQ inequity was evident, and what you did or would do to address it?

Ask why three times. This is my go-to solution when I am faced with clear discrimination. As a gay white man, I am what the community calls ‘passing’. This empowers me to often times be in the room to combat discrimination.

Asking why three times to anyone allows them to provide a clear answer for themselves on why what they said or did is discriminatory. I most people in San Francisco consider themselves liberal. However, everyone can improve.
In the midst of a homelessness crisis, how can the City and County of San Francisco improve the effectiveness of our city’s homelessness and supportive housing services?

We are in the middle of a crisis the city needs to do a variety of things;

Create triage centers to allow people to immediately access to services
Start a tent city program like Seattle
Develop modular housing
Raise revenue to build more affordable housing
Set clear KPIs for the city's RFP process to increase accountability
Open all public restrooms and increase the pitstop program

The city needs to start taking drastic measures to address this crisis. When my family and I were displaced after our home burned down, we were able to pull through because of our community. Right now we are not a community. The city needs to reprioritize to really live by the message of Saint Frances.

How would you expand checks and balances in regard to Mayoral appointments?

The process that runs with the Board of Supervisors should be expanded and expanded equally for each seat.
Nomination by Mayor or Board of Supervisor Member
Review by Board Committee
Brought to full Board
Approved by the Mayor

The note here is that most commissions and committees are a part of the city charter. A charter amendment would be required to change this process for some appointments.
Do you work for the City and County of SF?

- Yes
- No

Are you a member of a union?

- Yes
- No

If so, how will you balance accountability to union leadership, workers, and constituents?

Last questions...we promise.

What do you for fun in San Francisco?

I like to hang out with my friends, enjoy cooking with my partner, and I like to walk around the Presidio on a sunny day.
Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters’ endorsement?

I am pissed off. Our city has gone down the wrong tracks and our country has lost its mind. The League of Pissed Off Voters I think shares my rage and speaks to me as an individual.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

When I came out of the closet my Aunt asked me if I was molested, my best friend suggested that I go to ‘camp’ to get ‘fixed’. I came to San Francisco, like so many, because it was a home when I needed one. Over the past decade I have spent here I have seen my city start to falter. It is time for systemic change in our party and in our city. I hope to earn your endorsement so I can push that change forward.