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 *

Kevin Ortiz

Campaign Contact *

Email Address *

Tell Us About You

Why are you running for this office?

For far too long, the Democratic Party has been a conduit for corporate interests and a stepping stone for higher office, instead of representing the needs of our most impacted communities. Young people are the future of the party yet, are not represented in spaces like the Democratic Party. When there are only 3 DCCC member that are under the age of 30, youth and budding activist’s voices are automatically stifled.

As a San Francisco Native who was displaced from the Mission District during the DotCom boom, I have seen firsthand the inequities in housing and land use planning, particularly around red lined communities of color. I have spent the last 4 years of my life community organizing and coalition building around anti-gentrification efforts in San Francisco’s Mission District. I have negotiated with market rate developers and business operators for the highest amount of community benefits per project. I have seen how the Democratic party has been influenced by the Real Estate lobby and other major corporate donors and it disgusts me. We need representatives from the community, that are only beholden to the people, not donors and funders.
What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

My top 3 priorities as a member of the DCCC will be to:
1.) Prioritizing voter engagement and education
2.) Leadership Development
The SF DCCC needs to be intentional around prioritizing voter engagement, particularly in low income communities of color. Outreach to these communities is minimal and is reflective in the numbers, because these communities are disillusioned by the lack of support party politics has provided them. We need to be intentional about educating incoming voters in high schools, particularly in those communities of color. We can only begin to address the systems of poverty by doing so. Studies show that engaged voters are less likely to be incarcerated and more likely to pursue higher education. It should be a priority for the Democratic party to financially invest in community organizers in these neighborhoods to help develop voter engagement, specifically in schools, while simultaneously developing new and emerging leaders. Only when we have educated voters and organizers can we start tackling more nuanced and complex issues to these systems of poverty that plague our communities who need resources.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Chesa Boudin, Dean Preston Alison Collins

All three ran incredibly progressive campaigns, while fighting the establishment and won. Each of them continually inspire me.

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

I served on the San Francisco Latino Democratic Club board for 3 years as the Vice President.
What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?

I serve as the District 9 representative on the Transportation Authority Community Advisory Commission as well as the Eastern Neighborhoods Community Advisory Commission.

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**DCCC**

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.)

Only in the exception of special education but even then I have major hesitations. I do not believe in the privatization of our public education and instead would advocate for more resources to be provided for our public schools and after school programming.

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

- Yes
- No

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

Including provisions and protections around sensitive and communities of concern. These provisions would only allow by right deeply affordable housing to be built near transit lines in those communities.
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: Yes, I fundamentally believe in Medicare for all. However, I support Nancy Pelosi as speaker of the House, with the understanding and major disagreement that she does not support M4A.

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?

With the introduction of a Public Bank, we have the unique opportunity to set up new and innovative financing systems to fund mixed use housing, to then refinance and turn into deeply affordable housing. For example, the Potrero Busyard is claiming to be 50-50 affordable/market rate housing totaling 500 units but the AMI levels and unit sizes show only 100 units would be deeply affordable at the AMI levels of 50-80%. With the public bank, we can set financing systems in place to build 500 units and then have a refinance plan set in place to buy back the total 250 units over a 15 year period to turn into deeply affordable housing. Using market rate housing to build quickly and subsidize housing but have a plan that would buy back those units at low interest rates, through market rate rents.

DCCC Policy
Do you support contribution limits for DCCC races?

- Yes
- No

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

Ban all real estate money in the Democratic party.

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?

Bernie Sanders

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

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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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<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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<td>Dean Preston</td>
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<td>Vallie Brown</td>
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<td>Ryan Lam</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.

Alison Collins, Faauuga Moliga, Gabriela Lopez

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

None
Who did you support for D4 Supervisor? Please list all endorsements and ranking if any.

Gordon Mar

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

Matt Haney

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

Rafael Mandleman, unfortunately

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?

Selector: Yes
Selector: 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

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

Jane Kim, Mark Leno as 1,2

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?

Activism usually has more sadness than joy but the wins are what drive us to continue the work for those that need it the most, I am extremely proud of my organizing with United to Save the Mission around Commercial and Housing Projects, making sure we have equity agreements in place that stabilize the community. In 5 years, we have gotten over 300 million dollars in community benefits.

I am also extremely proud of my work on the Red to Blue campaign, flipping 18 out of 20 congressional seats in our phone bank alone. We had over 500 volunteers a day for all of GOTV weekend and we took back the House as a result. When news broke of Salesforce’s 40 million dollar contract with Customs and Border Patrol, I organized the SF Progressive Alliance, along with the Tech Worker’s coalition to protest at Salesforce tower, a week after. A week later, RAICES turned down 250k as a result of the protests and Benioff put in 10 million for Prop C: Our City Our Home. I hope it was as a result of those efforts.

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

As a bi sexual Latino and San Francisco native, I have many communities I identify with but I hold solidarity with all marginalized communities, whether it is as part of the community or as an ally.

My deepest roots are with the Latinx community, having spent most of my adult life organizing around land use and anti-gentrification efforts here in the city’s Mission District, my home. These communities keep me grounded and I always have my ear to their needs first.
Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

While I have the privilege of being born here in the US, I have always recognized from an early age that family and Latinx community members are at constant risk of deportation, especially in the age of the Orange cheeto. It’s really troubling to see my comunidad under attack, but like all oppressed communities, there is resilience in our existence. The Latino Democratic Club championed a resolution to allow non citizens membership into the Democratic party. This would allow over 300 thousand Dreamers the ability to run for the Democratic party and have membership. While this is a live battle, there is hope in this dark age for the Latino community to step up and speak out against, by allowing those directly impacted by horrendous policies to have a seat at the table and speak truth to power.

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

My anti gentrification work is rooted in anti racism work. Housing and Land Use policies have historically been used to segregate communities of color from more affluent neighborhoods. Now the tables have turned, where these communities have become a feasting ground for predatory developers and greedy landlords to set up shop, building market rate units that increase property values and incentivize landlords to evict families and the working class. I’ve lived it first hand and seen so much of my community pushed out. I fight to keep families and young people in the communities they grew up in, because without them, the city is a shell and playground for wealthy tech bros and those that cater to them.
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?

As a young bisexual Latino native, who formerly worked in tech, the inequities are apparent. There is a major lack of gender parity in both startups and corporate settings, with little to no representation from both women and the queer community. If there is folks in those spaces, very rarely are they in leadership positions. I worked hard in my employee resource groups to address these issues, along with the lack of representation from black and brown communities having pathways into these lucrative career paths. Unfortunately, most of these companies are unaccountable and we have to start setting policies to encourage workforce development (with teeth) in these pathways from local communities that need it the most. There are 4 jobs to every one housing unit, but if we invest in workforce development into tech, not only are we diversifying the workforce but we are also addressing the housing crisis because these students are already housed.

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?

The City has an obligation to declare a state of emergency to our current housing crisis. Housing is a human right and it is unacceptable that we have almost 20,000 homeless folks on our streets, with so much wealth in our city. I would prioritize the DCCC to active work on resolutions calling for a state of emergency and to revamp the department of homelessness. I would call for a resignation of the director. In addition, the City has an obligation to begin to eminent domain certain sites to build truly affordable housing, with supportive and transitional housing on site.
How would you expand checks and balances in regard to Mayoral appointments?

The Mayor needs to get completely checked, there is too much power in the role especially in the decisions of oversight committees and commissions. I would, on the DCCC, push for a complete check and asked that all appointments be completely cut in half between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. The MTA Board of Directors has 7 mayoral appointments, how has that been working for us?

Do you work for the City and County of SF?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

Are you a member of a union?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] 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 go out and community build. Some would say I love the work, but I love the people and it gives me so much joy meeting and building relationships with folks of different backgrounds. I am a social butterfly.

Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters’ endorsement?

The League has consistently been a voice of the progressive movement and one of my guides when voting, because I trust the values of the people who put in the work. I feel my values and actions line up with the League’s values. I would be honored to have the League’s endorsement.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I have a dog, his name is Yoshi and he’s progressive too. Ask everyone at the Milk club!