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 *

Nima Rahimi

Campaign Contact *

Email Address *

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**Tell Us About You**

**Why are you running for this office?**

I am running for this office to help make the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee stronger and more representatives of our Party. I have more detail in the last section of this questionnaire.

**What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?**

Protecting and lifting up our immigrant communities, criminal justice reform, and the fighting climate change. The second part of this question is not conducive to a short response. I will use my position to endorse candidates and to hold elected officials accountable on these issues that I care about the most. I will also help draft resolutions and legislation regarding the same.
What three endorsements are you most proud of?
Congressman Ro Khanna, Vice Chair of the Immigrant Rights Commission Mario Paz, and Founder and President of the Pars Equality Center Bita Daryabari

What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?
Iranian American Bar Association Northern California chapter, Pars Equality Center’s Generation Plus

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

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.)

I prefer we focus on funding our public school appropriately and paying our teachers more.
Did you support SB 50 (Senator Wiener’s zoning bill) as written?  

- Yes
- No

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

Happy to discuss further but I don’t every bill is perfect. I want to see an emphasis in protecting our most vulnerable populations while ensuring all cities are meeting their requirements to build appropriate housing for our increasing population.

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?

Vote for the rights folks.

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?
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

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November 2019 Election

Who did you support for District Attorney?

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<th>1st Choice</th>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Ryan Lam</td>
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<td></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.

Jenny Lam

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

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

I could not vote in this race but have been very impressed with Gordon Mar. He has been a staunch advocate of our immigrant communities.

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

I could not vote in this race but I strongly support Supervisor Haney.

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

I could not vote in this race but I strongly support Supervisor Mandelman.

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

I could not vote in this race but I strongly support Supervisor 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

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

No. 1 London Breed and No. 2 Mark Leno

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

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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?

As part of the Immigrant Rights Commission, I have helped lead special hearings on the crisis at the border, the status of DACA, the Trump travel ban on Muslim majority nations, and on the Yemen Civil War. As an elected delegate to the state party, I sit on the resolutions committee and vote on value statements of the California Democratic Party. I have authored, co-authored, co-sponsored, and/or voted in favor of resolutions fighting for our voluntary and involuntary immigrant communities. I spent the last seven years serving on the Iranian American Bar Association board. The most impactful work I did occurred in response to the Travel Ban. Right away, we went to the airport. We created a live tracker of passengers arriving at customs so we could guide them and their families through the customs process to ensure their rights were protected. We created a make-shift legal center with translation services. We shut the airport down in protest. We filed lawsuits against the federal government and our battle continues today.

My work as an Immigrant Rights Commissioner, a delegate, and as a board member of the Iranian American Bar Association reflects the culmination of 15 years of Democratic Party advocacy. In high school, I joined a local Democratic club called the Bay Area Iranian American Democrats in response to George W. Bush’s labeling Iran as part of the axis of evil. Over the next few years, we met with members of Congress, we held community meetings, and we helped draft and pass the first of its kind resolution at the California Democratic Convention urging diplomacy with Iran over military force. Ten years ago, our club had to bring together a coalition of clubs and advocates to convince the resolutions committee to vote in favor of this value statement. Today, I sit on the same resolutions committee. Democratic Party leadership needs voices like mine at the decision-making level. The DCCC is stronger and more representative of our Party with the unique history and experience I bring to the table. I embody a combination of communities never represented at the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. Moreover, I bring the requisite experience to appropriately reflect my communities’ needs and perspectives to our city and county.
What communities do you feel you represent in SF and how do those communities hold you accountable?

Middle Eastern, Muslim, Immigrant communities. As an elected delegate, I am held accountable by the communities that voted for me through the democratic process. I am an appointed member of the Immigrant Rights Commission. The Board of Supervisors can hold me accountable by either reappointing me or deciding not to reappoint me.

Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

As part of the Immigrant Rights Commission, I have helped lead special hearings on the crisis at the border, the status of DACA, and the Trump travel ban on Muslim majority nations. I believe in abolishing ICE and in expanding our state's sanctuary laws to further protect our at-risk immigrants. For example, I am working on exploring a new worker status so our at-risk immigrants don't have to work in the shadows and can benefit from the protections and benefits afforded to all California employees. On the resolutions committee, I voted for resolutions calling on cities and counties to refuse contracts with ICE, protecting young people in the DACA Program - Standing with Dreamers, and expressing opposition and outrage of the Democratic Party for human rights abuses, negligence, unlawful detention, and for the forcible separation of children from parents at our Southern Border. I voted for the return of children separated at the Southwest Border to their parents. I also voted against citizenship questions on US Census.

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

As a delegate and member of the resolutions committee, I voted to abolish the slavery exception in the 13th Amendment, to end funding for private prisons, to require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure that comprehensive information on lingering institutional racism, Confederate propaganda, monuments, statues and flags, from the Civil War Era through the present, are included in the school curriculums. As a delegate, I voted for the state party to endorse the progressive candidate for Attorney General, Dave Jones.
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?

My parents come from a country where sexism and anti-LGBTQ inequity were codified in law. I reject any form of gender and LGBTQ inequity full stop. Every resolution I've had the opportunity to vote on reflects this.

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?

This is a complicated issue that requires an in-depth answer. Generally speaking: create a homeless management information system that all non-profits and government service providers use, prioritize getting folks into permanent housing, build more navigation centers because they work, develop personalized solutions, provide adequate funding to provide the necessary services, and most importantly, prevent homelessness by tackling the issues the lead to homelessness in the first place.

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

Board of Supervisors must confirm Mayoral appointments. A 90 day or more buffer before elections not allowing mayoral 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 play soccer, and I used be in a San Francisco improv troupe, and I hope to return to doing some form of performing arts when time allows me to.

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

I'm a pissed off voter that thinks that we are better than the status quo. I think the League represents me in that regard.
Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I am running for this office to help make the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee stronger and more representatives of our Party.

I am a first generation Iranian-American raised in a Sufi Muslim household. My mother came to the United States at the age of 23, and my father came at 25 years old. They grew up in poverty. As children, they had no running water or electricity while food insecure. They came to the United States seeking a better future for themselves. Here, they faced discrimination for their national origin and religion. Their plans to return home for a good job with an American degree in-hand fell apart in the face of the Iranian revolution and Saddam's subsequent war that lasted 8 years with a million lives lost. So they pivoted. My dad went from working for Burger King to being a limo driver to starting a hot dog stand that ended up going under after a vandalism incident we couldn't afford to fix. My mother worked as a bank teller most of my life growing up. There was a time we lived off of food stamps. Our big break as a family came when my dad landed a part-time job at the United States Postal Service. Before long, he was a full-time mail carrier with union pay and union benefits. The timing could not be more significant. Shortly after miscarrying at five months, my mother was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer and given months to live. Having to leave her job and with no health care of her own, we depended on my father’s healthcare and his paycheck to survive. She made it and lives in San Jose working as an extended care teacher making $1900 a month. My father survived a heart attack at 60 but five years ago, we lost him at 65 to leukemia.

The immigrant experience often comes with tremendous trials and tribulations. Insecurity around food, your job, family finances naturally affects your mental health leading to often ignored conditions like anxiety, depression, or worse. The stress manifests in health conditions that alter your life in drastic ways.

Still, I consider myself lucky and privileged. My parents’ immigrant experience, while difficult, blazed a path that allowed me to go to good schools and become a lawyer. It helped develop in me a grit and determination that only comes from overcoming life’s challenges. Importantly, my history motivates me to support our immigrant communities in tearing down the barriers to entry that permeate the immigrant experience, and standing up to the institutional injustices we face as immigrants.

As part of the Immigrant Rights Commission, I have helped lead special hearings on the crisis at the border, the status of DACA, the Trump travel ban on Muslim majority nations, and on the Yemen Civil War. As an elected delegate to the state party, I sit on the resolutions committee and vote on value statements of the California Democratic Party. I have authored, co-authored,
co-sponsored, and/or voted in favor of resolutions fighting for our voluntary and involuntary immigrant communities. I spent the last seven years serving on the Iranian American Bar Association board. The most impactful work I did occurred in response to the Travel Ban. Right away, we went to the airport. We created a live tracker of passengers arriving at customs so we could guide them and their families through the customs process to ensure their rights were protected. We created a make-shift legal center with translation services. We shut the airport down in protest. We filed lawsuits against the federal government and our battle continues today.

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You would also be endorsing a social justice advocate with an actual record to prove it. On the resolutions committee, I voted in favor of resolutions supporting transgender student rights, holding our cities and counties accountable against ICE, abolishing the slavery exception in the 13th Amendment, requiring Ethnic Studies in high school, ending private prisons, protecting renters against rent gouging and unjust evictions, denouncing the influence of money in politics, instituting the Green New Deal, and much more. I am particularly proud of my vote endorsing Proposition 10, an initiative repealing the Costa-Hawkins.

I co-authored resolutions expanding paid protected parental leave, supporting the NO BAN Act, and “restructuring the social contract to support labor unions and robust social and workforce programs to support human dignity, solidarity and self-determination including but not limited to Medicare For All, guaranteed jobs programs, a guaranteed basic income, guaranteed housing, and other measures paid for in part by progressive taxation designed to reduce inequality while mitigating the negative impacts of technological change.”

Here at home, I voted for Prop C’s funding for fighting our homeless crisis, Prop D’s tax on Uber
and Lyft, and Prop’s A and E teacher housing measures.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

PS
I regret the way I voted on Prop F in 2018. I took a picture of my ballots since 2016. I was sure that when I would look back, that I would be a yes. But to the surprise of my 2019 self, I had marked no. It was a mistake. And if I could go back, I would vote yes. You can put that on the record. On 2016’s Prop D, today I would vote that placeholder appointees should not be allowed to run in a special election. I don't know the folks running in District 7 except for Joel Engardio. On D11, Ahsha Safai has been a good supervisor for the community I represent. I am meeting John Avalos on December 3 to get to know him better as I only met him for the first time during the 2019 delegate election. Lastly, I don't have a record of my 2014 ballot but I would support an anti-speculation tax today.