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 *

Rafael Mandelman

Campaign Contact *

Email Address *


Phone Number

Website

www.rafaelmandelman.com

Tell Us About You
Why are you running for this office?

For the last year it has been my great honor to represent the residents of District 8 on the Board of Supervisors. When I was running for Supervisor I often said that the best way for a member of the Board to resist Trump was to make San Francisco a model of effective progressive governance for the country. And so, as a Supervisor, I have worked hard every day to solve homelessness, improve our public health response to mental illness and substance abuse and fix Muni.

But long before I was a Supervisor, since 2006, I have served as a member of the DCCC, because the reality is that our ability to solve problems locally cannot be separated from the state of our politics at the State and national levels. I am proud of the work I have done as a DCCC member to build our party locally, support progressive candidates and causes in San Francisco, and win races across the country.

I love my job as a Supervisor, but the work of spreading San Francisco Democratic Party values across the land is more important today than ever, as is the work of supporting effective progressive politicians and policies here at home. I am running for the DCCC to support that work for another four years.
What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

1. Building on Red-To-Blue: When San Francisco Democrats mobilize, we can have an impact on elections far beyond San Francisco. The lesson of 2018’s Red to Blue effort is that the local Democratic Party can play an important role in organizing volunteer efforts for purple districts across the State and across the country. We must pull together an equally or more effective effort for the 2020 general election and again in 2022.

2. Supporting the Grassroots: One of the most rewarding parts of being a DCCC member has been supporting the grassroots activism of the Democratic clubs. I have been the president of three clubs (Noe Valley, Harvey Milk and D8) and know these clubs offer a great way for people who may not work in government or advocacy organizations to nonetheless engage with local, state and national issues and campaigns.

3. Supporting Progressive Candidates and Causes: The DCCC that we elected in 2016 was among the most progressive I have seen and it has become more so in the years since, which I believe was important in helping elect many of the current members of the Board of Supervisors (myself included), as well as some very strong members of the School Board and College Board, and passing ballot measures.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

None yet; these are early days for this campaign.

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

Just the DCCC

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

I serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Transportation Authority Board, the Association of Bay Area Governments and its Regional Planning Committee, and the Health Services Board, and I am an alternate member on the California Coastal Commission.
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.)

No. I am concerned about the impact the expansion of charter schools has on students in the traditional public school system.

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

○ Yes

○ No

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

I would support SB 50 if it included provisions allowing localities to increase zoned capacity for housing through local community planning processes (with the State Department of Housing and Community Development or other State agency verifying that the locality has in fact increased zoned capacity to a level equivalent to SB 50 zoning by viable alternative approaches) rather than a one-size-fits-all approach that may not work well for communities across the State.

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:

I personally support Medicare for All. If the Democratic nominee does not, I will still vigorously support that nominee.

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?

I wouldn't support all market-rate development on public or private land. I do believe it may in some cases be appropriate to allow some market rate development on public land to subsidize deeper affordability for other units and/or more affordable units. I would prefer to have 100% affordable housing on public land without the need for cross-subsidies from market rate development, but I don't believe that is always feasible.
DCCC Policy

Do you support contribution limits for DCCC races?

- Yes
- No

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

The current DCCC is among the most progressive that has been elected since I have been paying attention, and that has helped many progressive candidates and ballot measure campaigns win since 2016. That happened because progressives recruited strong progressive candidates with significant name recognition and/or the ability to run strong campaigns, and progressive endorsers made an effort to endorse the same set of candidates for both Assembly Districts.

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>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>2nd Choice</th>
<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.

Alison Collins, Faauuga Moliga, Mia Satya, Martin Rawlings-Fein

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

Catherine Stefani

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 Mandelman

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

Shamann Walton (1), Tony Kelly (2)
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.

Mark Leno (1), Jane Kim (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
- [x] 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 am proud of the work I did as a member of the City College Board of Trustees to fight back against a rogue accreditor and save the College from de-accreditation and closure. As a member of the Board of Supervisors, I have been especially focused on securing additional resources for people with behavioral health needs and have been a champion for treatment on demand (holding a hearing on the topic that was an organizing opportunity for advocates), an aggressive public health response to the City's meth crisis (co-chaired the Meth Task Force) and expanded city investment in housing support for individuals exiting treatment. As a member of the DCCC, I have shown up at countless rallies, marches and actions in support of labor, tenants, environmental justice, women's and LGBTQ rights and sponsored or co-sponsored numerous resolutions in support of these struggles.

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

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, I represent the residents of District 8 and (as the sole queer member of the Board) perhaps the LGBTQ community more broadly. As a member of the DCCC, I represent the Democrats of the 17th Assembly District, among the most progressive Democrats in the country. I believe the constituency I represent is committed to building coalitions among labor, tenants, environmentalists, women, people of color and sexual minorities to achieve a more just city, state and country. In both roles, my constituents regularly provide feedback on how well (or poorly) they believe I am doing my job.
Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

I have participated in rallies, marches and other actions to support immigrant communities. As a member of the City College Board of Trustees, I helped lead efforts to establish the college as a sanctuary campus. As a member of the DCCC and the Board of Supervisors, I have co-sponsored resolutions opposing Trump administration attacks on immigrant communities and worked through the budget process to allocate additional resources to support immigrant legal defense.

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

I have a strong record of supporting people of color running for office and am proud that the progressive DCCC slates with which I have run over the years have advanced a number of talented people of color and especially women of color. I have tried to be a good ally to San Francisco's communities of color as they have fought back against gentrification and displacement (e.g., Mission Moratorium). I also see my work to save City College as a member of the Board of Trustees and to create a more just city budget as a member of the Board of Supervisor's Budget committee (e.g., championing increased funding for indigent legal defense in the 19-20 budget) as anti-racist work.

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?

It's a problem that we only have three women and one queer person on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. I believe we all need to do a better job recruiting and supporting women and queer people (especially trans people) to run for office. In my role as a member of the Board of Supervisors, I have pushed City Departments to comply with their obligations around collection and publication of data around Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI). In two hearings on SOGI data, we have learned (maybe unsurprisingly) that unless specifically charged with serving sexual orientation and gender identity minorities, city agencies will underserve those communities (especially trans individuals).
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?

I was a strong supporter of Proposition C and look forward to the day when the City is able to actually spend the revenue being collected under that measure. The reality is that homelessness is first and foremost the result of our lack of affordable housing for extremely low income, marginalized people. We need to do a better job coordinating services across agencies and making mental health and drug treatment available more quickly to more people, but at the end of the day, San Francisco (and the rest of the State and the country) simply need to build more housing for very poor people.

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

I generally support split appointments for Commissions. I think Commissions where the Board of Supervisors have the ability to appoint members (e.g., Planning Commission, Board of Appeals, Police Commission) better serve the City for having that appointment structure.

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?

Urban hikes and movies, when I can find the time.

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

I have been proud to have earned the League’s endorsement for all of my prior campaigns (at least, as far back as the League has been making endorsements in SF and as I can recall), I have proudly distributed a gazillion League voter guides and it is one of the smartest and most relied-on voter guides around.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

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