

BOS | League of Pissed Off Voters November 2020 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. 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

Name

Myrna Melgar

Campaign Contact Person

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Office Sought

Supervisor, District 7

Website

<http://www.myrnamelgar.com>

Where is one place in San Francisco you'll want to go celebrate when the pandemic is over?

The Mission Cultural Center, to dance samba.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I am increasingly worried that the growing income inequality in our city is displacing communities I love and making it impossible for my own children to set roots here. I want to use the skills and experience I have in support of my City.

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

I am a progressive woman and your support is important to win this race. I ran for DCCC on the progress slate in 2016 and you endorsed me at that time. I am hoping you will do it again.

What are your values and how did you get them?

I believe in social justice, racial and gender equity. I believe in the transparency and accountability of government. Above all, I believe in progress.

I am an urban planner, and went to planning school with a scholarship from my then employer, the AFL-CIO, to study land use from a labor perspective. I wrote my master's thesis on union pension fund investment in affordable housing. I have been the President of the Planning Commission and the Vice President of the Building Inspection Commission, and in those capacities have consistently upheld the workers and low income communities of color.

I immigrated to San Francisco as a child from El Salvador, during the civil war. My family was on both sides of the conflict. My mother joined the FMLN and went underground with the revolutionary forces when I was 5 years old. She is a social worker, and organized other social workers in the women's jails with the sindicato de trabajadoras sociales. My life experience has given me a unique ability to negotiate through conflict and make progress on the things I believe in, and to understand that repression and income inequality is not a sustainable system and we need to work to bring it down.

What communities do you represent and how do they hold you accountable?

Women, immigrants, Latinx, youth, my neighbors, public transit riders, bicycle folks, environmentalists, affordable housers, low income communities, communities of color, senior and disabled folks, families with children.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Latino Democratic Club, Rose Pak Democratic Club, Democratic Party

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

I have resigned from all my non-profit and political board activities to run for office full time.

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

SF Planning Commission, SF Building Inspection Commission

Local Issues

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

No

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Did you support SB 50 (Senator Wiener's Zoning Bill) as written?

Yes

No

If not, are there amendments that would make you support SB50?

Nuance. And funding to make any new value created from the upzoning affordable.

Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?

Yes

No

Do you support creating a Public Bank in San Francisco?

Yes

No

If Costa Hawkins was repealed at the state level, would you actively support legislation enacting 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?

I support whatever percentage yields the MAXIMUM number of affordable units. I want to be creative and flexible and using percentages in all circumstances ties our hands. As to what the % baseline should be of inclusionary, I support the maximum allowed by the nexus study, and that changes every year with the costs of land and construction. However, market rate development is not the same in all neighborhoods, as redlining and historical planning decisions have caused the displacement of communities, therefore, if we are negotiating, I would want to see a higher % in neighborhoods where the impact is greater.

Have you previously and/or will you in the future accepted donations from any law enforcement officers or associations?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain why.

What percentage of the SFPD budget do you think should be reallocated towards housing, homeless services, social workers, health, and education?

Would you support legislation to implement the Budget Analyst's recommendation to adopt a more efficient weekly staffing schedule for the SFPD? (Recommendation 2.2 here: https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BA_Report_PA_of_San_Francisco_Police_Department_061218.pdf)

Yes

No

November 2020 Election

Who are you supporting for US Representative, District 12?

Nancy Pelosi

Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

No endorsement

Who are you supporting for District 1 Supervisor?

Connie Chan

Who are you supporting for District 3 Supervisor?

Aaron Peskin

Who are you supporting for District 5 Supervisor?

No endorsement

Who are you supporting for District 7 Supervisor?

Me

Who are you supporting for District 9 Supervisor?

Hillary Ronen

Who are you supporting for District 11 Supervisor?

No Endorsement

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

Mark Sanchez, Jenny Lam, Kevine Boggess

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Shanell Williams, Alan Wong, Aliya Chisti

Who are you supporting for BART Board, District 9?

Bevan Dufty

Do you support the charter amendment to create a Workforce Education and Recovery Fund for City College (WERF)?

Yes

No

Do you support "Vote 16" the SF charter amendment that authorizes youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment to allow non-citizens to serve on boards, commissions, and advisory bodies?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating the Office of the Public Advocate?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating a Public Works Commission, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Sanitation and Streets Department?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment establishing term limits for City boards, commissions and bodies?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and Inspector General?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment to remove the minimum police staffing requirement and require the Police Department to submit a report and recommendation regarding police staffing levels?

Yes

No

Do you support the ballot measure to increase the gross receipts tax on businesses with a greater than 100:1 ratio of the pay of their highest-paid employee to the median pay of their SF employees?

Yes

No

Do you support the gross receipts ballot measure proposed by the Board of Supervisors (Yee, Haney, Peskin, Fewer) [File No. 200648]?

Yes

No

Do you support the gross receipts ballot measure proposed by Mayor London Breed [File No. 200645]?

Yes

No

Do you support the ballot measure authorizing development of up to 10,000 affordable rental units in the City?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 21, Local Rent Control Initiative (Costa-Hawkins changes)?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 22, App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative (AB5 Referendum)?

Yes

No

Do you Support California Proposition 25, Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum (Cash Bail Referendum)?

Yes

No

March 2020 Election

Who did you support for Superior Court Judge?

.....
Maria Evangelista, Michelle Tong and Cary Gold

Who did you support for DCCC?

.....
Hillary Ronen, Anabel Ibanez, Queena Chen, Kelly Groth, Frances Hsieh, Tyra Fennel, Tami Bryant, Abra Castle and Nadia Rahman

Did you support March 2020's Prop D, a tax on vacant storefronts?

Yes

No

Did you support March 2020's Prop E, limits on office development?

Yes

No

November 2019 Election

Who did you support for District Attorney?

Suzy Loftus and Chesa Boudin

Who did you support for District 5 Supervisor?

No endorsement

November 2018 Election

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

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 (You don't have to write a novel.)

What do you think is the best way to address San Francisco's culture of political corruption?

Implement transparent systems, with checks and balances, and make them available online. This is the case for all contracts, permits, and statistics about hiring, promotions and advancement.

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?

1. Increase the number of supportive housing units. 2. Eliminate the entry barriers to shelter 3. Invest in Mental Health SF and drug treatment on demand. 4. Provide comprehensive wrap around services at congregate shelters, and 5,

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

Would you propose any rezoning or other policy changes to increase housing -- particularly affordable housing -- while protecting against the displacement of current residents?

Yes, this is especially important in District 7 which has seen no affordable housing production and little market rate housing in decades.

If you're elected, what racial justice policies will you push for?

Homeownership and asset building for Black and Latino residents, financing for the cannabis equity program, small business support for black businesses, immigrant and women owned businesses, community school supports in public schools for black, immigrant and low income children of color, defunding the police and funding: SUD prevention, antiviolenace work in low income communities, anti gender violence work in communities of color, appointing black, immigrants and people of color to boards and commissions, and other decision making bodies.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

If elected, I would be the first woman to represent District 7, and would bring the total number of women of color on the Board of Supervisors from one to two out of 11. I would be the first Latina elected to the BOS since Susan Leal, who won her race 1994 after being appointed. Two other Latinas have been appointed and lost their elections: Christina Olague and Alicia Becerril. Representation is important to the Latinx community. Most of the folks cleaning our hotel rooms, janitors, a good percentage of home health care workers and service workers are Latinas. I am proud to show my community that we can also have a seat at the table.

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