

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

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Dean Preston

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Office Sought

District 5 Supervisor

Website

<https://www.votedean.com>

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

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Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

As District 5 Supervisor, and in my previous work as a tenants rights attorney and affordable housing advocate, I've focused my life on improving conditions for the working class. I've passed legislation banning evictions due to COVID-19, helped find shelter for unhoused residents in San Francisco, championed SF's groundbreaking right to counsel law for tenants, and represented hundreds of tenants facing abusive conditions. This city has become increasingly unaffordable, less diverse, and is losing much of what makes it special. Neighbors are fed up with seeing the people we know and love forced out of this city so that real estate speculators and billionaires can make more money. I am running for office to continue fighting for vulnerable people, and continue my work standing up to large landlords and other powerful corporate interests.

I think this work is more important than ever in light of COVID-19 and widespread proposed budget cuts. Crucial government programs like Muni are facing huge cuts, workers are facing pay freezes or lay-offs, and people across the city are struggling to make rent. We need elected representatives who are willing to fight for working class people.

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

I appreciate the League's principled endorsement when I ran against an established opponent in 2016 and the endorsement I received for my race last year, as well as the tireless work of many League members on my campaign and other progressive races. I've stood at BART stops and MUNI stops handing out the Pissed Off Voter Guide many times and I hope to do that again. I'd be honored to have your support in this race.

What are your values and how did you get them?

For over 20 years, I have advocated tirelessly for tenants' rights. I am proud to represent District 5 in San Francisco, where I have been focused on protecting tenants, homeless residents, and other community members during COVID-19. Prior to my time in office, I've focused my professional life on improving conditions for working people in San Francisco and across the state. I founded Tenants Together, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of California tenants. I've been a longtime District 5 neighborhood leader, fighting corporate chain stores, evictions, corporate takeovers, developer giveaways and more.

I have always supported San Francisco's tenants and working families against special, monied interests; these beliefs have been molded by my work as a lawyer and advocate, and they are beliefs I will continue to defend.

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

I am proud to represent District 5 in San Francisco, where I have been focused on protecting tenants, homeless residents, and other community members during COVID-19. As a tenants rights attorney and affordable housing advocate, I've focused my life on helping to make sure low-income and working class people can stay and thrive in our city and state. I've represented hundreds of tenants fighting abusive evictions in court, founded California's only statewide tenants rights organizations, and wrote and passed Prop F to give free legal representation to tenants facing eviction. District 5 deserves a Supervisor that will always side with the people over mega-landlords, developers, and corporate interests.

Elected officials are ultimately accountable to constituents. My campaigns have always been grassroots and rely heavily on volunteers, many of whom are nurses, teachers, and customer service workers. I do not accept donations from real estate or the police, and I never will.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

The same as last year!

San Francisco Tenants Union (sole endorsement)

Sierra Club (sole endorsement)

Democratic Socialists of America (sole endorsement)

We do have a lot of new endorsers this year that weren't on last year, please see the full list at www.votedean.com!

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

Arch Community Fund, co-president/trustee

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

I am the current District 5 Supervisor.

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?

The reality here is that Senator Wiener was the wrong author and the bill was by and for developers. Equity advocates put forward numerous proposals of what it would take to make SB 50 acceptable and Senator Wiener had no interest in these changes. Fundamentally, Sen. Wiener's top priority with the bill appeared to be giving developers a windfall in gentrifying cities, and he would not make changes that result in a net benefit to vulnerable communities in gentrifying communities.

As applied to SF, among the changes that are needed: require a higher rate of affordable housing and transit investments in exchange for the value given to developers, and leaving intact meaningful opportunity for community review and comment on things that happen in people's neighborhoods.

In contrast to SB 50, AB 1279 (Bloom) would have achieved some of the development goals while taking care to protect vulnerable communities from displacement. That bill presented a far better vehicle for responsible development.

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?

N/A/
.....

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.

N/A

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

50

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?

No endorsement

Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

Jackie Fielder

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?

Dean Preston

Who are you supporting for District 7 Supervisor?

Vilaska Nguyen

Who are you supporting for District 9 Supervisor?

Hillary Ronen

Who are you supporting for District 11 Supervisor?

John Avalos

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

Mark Sanchez, Alison Collins, Kevine Boggess, Matt Alexender

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Han Zou, Shanell Williams, Alan Wong, Tom Temprano

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, Carolyn Gold

Who did you support for DCCC?

Gloria Berry and social justice democrats

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?

Chesa Boudin

Who did you support for District 5 Supervisor?

Chesa Boudin

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?

Fundamentally we need to prioritize this, and we haven't.. The amount of oversight right now is clearly not sufficient, which is why I support programs like the public advocate. We also need charter reform to address our strong mayor system. We need to audit large city departments, starting with the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Public Health. I also support the measure to break the Department of Public Works into smaller departments. Lastly, we need commissions over all major departments.

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?

Affordable housing is the core to any real solutions to homelessness. That is why I'm excited for my proposal to increase the transfer tax on property sales over \$10 million to fund the creation of affordable, social housing. We need to fully fund and implement Prop C, which includes an oversight board, and expand Navigation Centers throughout the city, including in District 5 where many homeless are LGBTQ youth. We cannot continue to criminalize and further victimize those who are homeless.

During this pandemic, my office has co-sponsored the unanimous legislation to require hotels for all homeless people, and we need to continue strong, public pressure on the mayor to offer homeless San Franciscans hotel rooms. My office has also moved dozens of women and families in D5 into a hotel when the City would not, launched the city's second Safe Sleeping Site in the Haight in collaboration with the Homeless Youth Alliance, and authored a resolution to expand the definition of COVID vulnerable persons to make more homeless people eligible for housing.

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

No board or commission should only have mayoral appointments. I favor split appointments. I also favor more lefties bodies, including an elected rent board.

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

Yes, but it should be done locally in SF, with community meetings for impacted areas, not from Sacramento. The difference is that SF voters overwhelmingly want affordable housing, transit investments, and an end to developer giveaways. In Sacramento, the real estate lobby reigns supreme, so rezoning SF from Sacramento only makes sense if you are a developer, or Scott Wiener.

I favor and for years have called for zoning public land for 100% affordable housing. We should prioritize these sites for social housing. I'm also open to increasing height and density in exchange for meaningful affordability, transit investments, and other community benefits. That was the heart of the Divisadero Community Plan, developed in D5 through community meetings and the participation of over 500 neighbors, and ignored by the Planning Department and Planning Commission in approving luxury condos on Divisadero.

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

I have been standing with BIPOC communities fighting discrimination for decades. I championed SF's Right to Counsel which led to 80% of African American tenants facing eviction being able to stay in their homes. I am working to bring rent protections to Midtown Park Apartments.

My ballot measure authorizing 10,000 units of permanently affordable social housing carves out a local exception to Article 34, the racist constitutional amendment passed in 1950.

I'm a strong advocate for defunding police, directing resources to the African American community, honoring African American leaders (such as renaming Willow street after Earl Gage Jr, SF's first black firefighter), and banning racist policing tactics. I started my career representing victims of police misconduct. I led efforts to restart police commission meetings and passed a resolution demanding release of San Quentin inmates. I stood with Chesa Boudin and Mano Raju to demand an end to cash bail. If reelected, I will continue my work fighting discrimination.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

One of the main critiques of my candidacy last year was that I'm too extreme and too far to the left. Over the last six months I have shown that I can get things done quickly, from bike lanes to an eviction moratorium. I've been endorsed by a majority of my colleagues of the Board of Supervisors, and I've done it without compromising any of my core beliefs. Positions that I was critiqued for last year, like replacing police with unarmed community alternatives, have become commonplace now. Now is the time for transformative change to address systemic problems, and people across this city realize that. We have proven our critics wrong through hard work focused on results, and I am committed to continuing that work.

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