

BART Board | 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.

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Candidate Info

Name

Lateefah Simon

Campaign Contact Person

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Office Sought

BART Board Director, District 7

Website

<https://www.lateefahforbart.com/>

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

I was born and raised in the Fillmore District of SF so would want to celebrate there.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for re-election to District 7 to continue providing steadfast leadership. During this time of crisis I will continue to do so and much more starting with ensuring transparency of the BART budget and accountability of BART Police.

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

I care deeply about public transportation and think that BART is critical for the Bay Area. BART is facing the unprecedented health and financial crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what the Board does over the next four years will be crucial to ensure that BART emerges as a stronger and more equitable agency, better equipped to serve all riders.

In my four years on the BART Board, I have been very effective for District 7 and the entire BART system. I care about constituents and put a lot of effort into responding to their needs. I pursue big ideas and am able to find support for policy proposals. I have good working relationships with other BART directors, BART management, and BART unions, and I work productively with all three groups and can help facilitate conversation between groups. These qualities will help me to continue to serve District 7 well.

What are your values and how did you get them?

Born and raised in San Francisco, I got my start in social justice movements as a teenager working for the Center for Young Women's Development. At 19 and pregnant, I was appointed Executive Director of the Center. At 26, I became the youngest woman to receive the MacArthur Fellowship. I left the Center after 11 years to serve then District Attorney Kamala Harris and head up San Francisco's first reentry services division, including the creation of Back on Track, a national model for anti-recidivism programs. I moved on to become Executive Director at the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights of the Bay Area and refocus that organization's mission on effective community-based initiatives. I studied public policy at Mills College and social entrepreneurship at Stanford University. I believe that the biggest impact I can make for working families is to serve on the BART Board. As a legally blind, single, working mother, I rely on BART everyday. For them, I will fight for a BART that provides affordable, clean, and safe transit.

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

I make it a point to answer directly to my constituents. All voices should be heard because all are equally important.

District 7 spans Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties and includes the following BART stations:

- Richmond
 - El Cerrito Del Norte (partial)
 - El Cerrito Plaza (partial)
 - Ashby
 - MacArthur (partial)
 - West Oakland
 - Embarcadero (partial)
 - Montgomery (partial)
-

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

1. BART services and budget surviving the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Enhancing public safety through transforming BART policing
3. Improving and ensuring affordability to BART riders

These are my top three issues and are all very important to everyone because financially getting through this pandemic safely and making sure that everyone can afford public transit is all of our issues.

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

Appointed to the state CSU Board in 2016.

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

BART Board Director, District 7

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 it?

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?

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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.

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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?

Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

Who are you supporting for District 1 Supervisor?

Who are you supporting for District 3 Supervisor?

.....

Who are you supporting for District 5 Supervisor?

.....

Who are you supporting for District 7 Supervisor?

.....

Who are you supporting for District 9 Supervisor?

.....

Who are you supporting for District 11 Supervisor?

.....

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

.....

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

.....

Who are you supporting for BART Board, District 9?

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?

Who did you support for DCCC?

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?

Who did you support for District 5 Supervisor?

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

BART Board

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

1. BART services and budget surviving the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Enhancing public safety through transforming BART policing
3. Improving and ensuring affordability to BART riders

These are my top three issues and are all very important to everyone because financially getting through this pandemic safely and making sure that everyone can afford public transit is all of our issues.

Do you support lowering BART fares, either overall or through means-based programs? Please explain.

My 2016 platform focused on affordability and diligently worked to address this issue. Over the past four years I have sought to address the Bay Area's affordability crisis. I've worked towards discounted fares for those who need it, huge success that occurred in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. BART will begin offering a 20% discount to low-income riders.

By which percentage do you think the BART police budget should be cut?

Do you support increased enforcement of fare evasion?

Yes

No

How will you address the BART budget shortfall?

This year we have passed a balanced budget. This budget has decreased spending however, we have increased covid related expenses that focus on cleaning and safety.

Please explain your position on maintaining and improving BART's infrastructure, specifically whether you support expanding BART's service throughout the Bay Area versus focus on supporting BART's existing core system. How would you pay for expansions and core system support, given that Measure RR funds are allocated to set projects? (Please answer both questions.)

When I was first elected to the BART Board in 2016, the agency was focused on addressing its crumbling infrastructure. I worked together with my fellow BART Board Directors to secure local, federal and state funding in order to address this issue. This funding is being put to good use replacing nearly 50 year-old infrastructure, including train cars, tracks, and electrical systems. I will continue to work with my fellow BART members to identify funding and needs.

Do you support building housing on land owned by BART, if yes, what mix of housing would be ideal (affordable, mixed-income, market-rate, etc.)?

This year the not only did BART Board pass an affordable housing policy, which mandates at least 20% affordable housing at every new BART station development, and sets a systemwide goal of 35% affordable housing but also approved a policy to discount BART land for affordable housing development.

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

There is no one single issue that needs and deserves policy change. The most significant issues to me are the lives of young people, people of color, disabled and the elderly which are impacted by intersectional issues directly related to racism and economic inequality. These issues lack overall support of political will of support as other vulnerable populations. I will diligently work to continue bringing these issues to the forefront to implement improvement through policy change. I have spent my entire life fighting for the rights of all people, especially those who depend on transportation systems to live their lives.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us? (3000 character limit)

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