

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

Bevan Dufty

Campaign Contact Person

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Office Sought

BART Director, District 9

Website

<https://www.bevanduft.com>

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

The Castro to support all the businesses, restaurants and bars that have struggled to stay afloat.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I've served for 3 1/2 years as a BART Director and have worked hard to shake things up. Working w Lateefah Simon, Janice Li and Rebecca Saltzman we now have a working progressive, pro-Labor majority for the first time in memory. In 2017, I rolled up my sleeves to sweep the 16th Street BART Plaza weekly with Hillary Ronen when management refused my request for more custodians. After four months, media and public sentiment was with us and management finally capitulated and tripled staffing and totally revamped cleaning protocols and established the first formal training of our custodians with two professional certifications. Conditions in Civic Center were also unacceptable. I brought a folding table and chair into a station hallway riddled with drug use and moved in at 5:30 a.m. to politely ask people not to openly use in the hallway (I have been a supporter of safe injection sites for over a decade). Over the month, I spent over 50 hours sitting in the hallway at all hours of the day and evening. Both of these have been transformative experiences. This Station is markedly different than it was two years ago. I worked to establish unarmed non-sworn Ambassadors, Elevator Attendants at downtown stations that have been hugely successful, and Pit Stops for restrooms (renovation of Powell Station is beginning and it will be the first staffed restroom in downtown in 20 years). I have been an activist Director and I want to complete a second term to work with Lateefah, Janice and Rebecca to successfully defund the BART PD and not have armed officers respond to homelessness, mental illness, fare evasion and myriad issues and challenges not requiring an armed response. I also want to help successfully navigate Labor negotiations in 2021. Our Pro-Labor majority has changed the tenor of labor-management relations that were ruptured by the BART strike. I also speak out for our front-line workers and take pride in being part of an agency that pays a living wage to our employees.

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

The League is one of the strongest, most defining endorsements for local office. We have stood together on homelessness, especially fighting to pass Proposition C despite the opposition of the Mayor, Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Chiu. I 100% support the Coalition on Homelessness and speak up against those in power who seek to marginalize them. I also fought the corrupt, law-breaking and abusive Public Housing Director, Henry Alvarez, despite those in Room 200 who sought to protect him. I take pride in having battled him out of office, just days before he would have vested. He was indifferent to the suffering of his residents and his departure led to a complete restructuring and nonprofit management of many developments. I fought the business-as-usual BART Executives who didn't care about the filthy conditions in and around BART. Then GM Grace Crunican dispatched her media team to call me a grandstanding showboater. The media and public supported me and Hillary. And I seriously fought (BART POA & Ms. Crunican) for two years to get the first pilot of non sworn Ambassadors -- knowing that we need a presence, but not an armed one, to deter crime and help riders feel safe at all hours. The minute Lateefah and I joined the Board we pushed hard to expand the 50% reduced youth fare from 6-12 to 6-through 18. How was this allowed for 20 years? And working w Jane Kim when she was on MTC we've secured the first low-income rider fare in BART's history. It's a 20% reduction that we hope to increase as we recover. I do not look the other way when something isn't working, I seek change. I am not the Perfect Progressive, but I worked so hard for Jane Kim that Scott Wiener and David Chiu recruited Gwyneth Borden to run against me in 2016. I campaigned hard for David Campos for Assembly and will again if and when he is able to run for Congress and I worked hard for Mark Leno and Jane Kim for Mayor. I take personal pride in Janice Li's victory for BART Board as I was by her side throughout a this tough race -- as was the League. I got Janice and Shanell Williams to run for DCCC because we need a bench of outstanding, progressive LGBT people of color to run for higher office. Other than DCCC and Sierra Club (I am endorsed), the League is the most important endorsement for this race. When I wasn't endorsed by the League for DCCC in 2020, I knew I was in serious trouble and ran as hard as possible to finish top 14.

What are your values and how did you get them?

My Mom was a refugee during WWII. She managed Jazz musicians and then went to work in the Civil Rights movement during my childhood. In 1963, when I was 8, she was a fundraising and press coordinator for the March on Washington. In 1964, she worked for the National Council of Negro Women running a storefront in Harlem on West 116th Street to help Black prospective voters to study and pass literacy tests that we required by New York State that every voter had to read at a 9th grade-level. That storefront was my Summer Camp and I practiced taking every test and watched as people from 21 to 91 worked hard to be able to pass a literacy test and have the right to vote. Watching the struggle, I thought about how white people never were asked to take literacy tests and I wondered what it would be like to be the person that these Black voters wanted to vote for the create change. That was when I first knew i wanted to have a career in politics and public service. Later that Summer, we went to the 1964 Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. We went because the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, led by Fannie Lou Hamer, was fighting to unseat the all-White Mississippi delegation. Her words were so powerful that President Lyndon Johnson held a televised press conference when she was speaking to be sure she didn't get any air time. Her description of racial prejudice was televised and she became one of the most revered heroes of the movement. In 1968, Hamer's goal of racial parity became a reality and she was part of Mississippi's first integrated delegation. These experiences shaped who I am. I grew up in a home with a single Mom who dedicated her last 25 years to end racism and white supremacy. And we are still fighting. My first job after Cal was with Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress and to run for President. I then became Legislative Director for Congressman Julian Dixon who was Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. I have worked hard to hire and create opportunities for young people of color throughout a 44-year public service career. I believe it's something I'm known for. London Breed was my Intern at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. I hired City Administrator Naomi Kelly in her first job with City government. My values are diversity, inclusivity and opportunity. I also believe those most affected by governmental decisions should be heard loudest. When I created the first Navigation Center it was based upon what people living in the streets an

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

I'm Queer, so the LGBTQ community keeps tabs on me and questions and challenges me. Because my Mother came to America stateless we lived with uncertainty for 20+ years till she became a U.S. Citizen. So immigrant rights is deeply personal because I felt so fearful if my only parent and only blood family were to have been deported. I was David Campos' 8th vote on due process for undocumented youth and I was outspoken in criticizing then Mayor Newsom, which he acknowledges he was wrong about.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

BART SEIU, Lateefah Simon, Dean Preston

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

Mission High School Foundation

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

Current: BART Board of Directors, Capital Corridor JPA. Past: SF Board of Supervisors, Golden Gate Bridge District, Director of HOPE, Housing Opportunities, Partnerships and engagement -- new initiatives addressing homelessness.

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 it?

If it were to again receive serious consideration, I would want to advocate for tenant protections and other anti-displacement protections. BART's TOD is emphasizing developing in communities that enact or have rent control and limit evictions to just cause only.

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?

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.

I have never sought nor accepted donations from BART's POA. SFPD POA did not donate to me in my Supervisor's races in 2002 and 2006. They donated \$500 in my Mayor's race in 2011. I am donating \$500 to Black Lives Matter in recognition that i should not have accepted this donation. Like several Progressive elected officials in SF, I have received two donations from the Deputy Sheriffs. I agree that they have been far more progressive and SFPD POA but I will not seek or accept any future donations from any law enforcement officers or associations. There is no question that BART POA opposes many of the things I am working for with respect to the Defund the Police movement, where I authored an amendment to our budget requiring BART to engage in a process to redefine the role of police in public safety and recognize that many people feel less safe encountering an armed officer in our system.

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?

Pelosi

Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

Wiener

Who are you supporting for District 1 Supervisor?

Chan

Who are you supporting for District 3 Supervisor?

Peskin

Who are you supporting for District 5 Supervisor?

Preston

Who are you supporting for District 7 Supervisor?

Melgar1, Nguyen2

Who are you supporting for District 9 Supervisor?

Ronen

Who are you supporting for District 11 Supervisor?

Abstained at DCCC, staying out

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

Sanchez, Lam, Boggess, Alexander

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Williams, Temprano, Wong, Chisti

Who are you supporting for BART Board, District 9?

me!

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

Who did you support for Superior Court Judge?

Michelle Tong, Maria Evangelista, Carolyn Gold (carried them on my literature)

Who did you support for DCCC?

Progressive Slate

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?

Loftus

Who did you support for District 5 Supervisor?

Preston

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. Restructuring budget to remove BART PD from societal issues and strictly focus on violent crime, my amendment requires that we report back in October and stakeholder meetings begin in August to develop plan. 2. Ensure that we have aggressive cleaning to prevent spread of Covid, plentiful masks and ability and awareness of social distancing. This is taking place right now 3. Advance from means-based fare pilot to permanent program aiming to deeper discounts than the 20%

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

Yes, Lateefah Simon and I have consistently advocated for BART's first-ever means-based fare for low-income riders with help from Jane Kim and Nick Josefowitz on MTC. Pre-pandemic, we were hoping for Faster Bay Area to dedicate significant resources to reducing low-income rider fares but we still can push for more MTC support. We go the youth fare extended to ages 12-18 and I support moving towards Free Transit for BART, Muni and other systems to reduce climate change.

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

50

Do you support increased enforcement of fare evasion?

Yes

No

How will you address the BART budget shortfall?

Short-term we need continued federal support and state support to weather these difficult times. I oppose furloughs as they will decimate our ability to run service if it is safe to expand. We have shifted many staff to our capital program funded by the federal government and Measure RR -- which has helped reduce costs. BART is seeing 85-95% of our key operations personnel coming to work every day. They have supported us and I support them.

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.)

I was part of the 5-4 vote that rejected the \$1.6 billion Livermore extension that would not have competed favorably at the federal level and had weak ridership.

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.)?

Yes I support our TOD as we are reducing land costs based upon the depth of affordability and we are emphasizing working in communities that have tools to prevent displacement in adjoining neighborhoods, such as rent control and limiting evictions to just cause.

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

I'm leading efforts to raise transportation industry funding to support passage of Proposition 16 repealing Prop 209 which has hampered minority and women contracting as well as affirmative action in business and education. Working to implement the goals of defunding the BART Police to reduce the disproportionality in terms of African American riders receiving citations and having unnecessarily negative encounters with BART PD. I think you should ask candidates if they support Prop 16.

Last Question

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

I appreciate your endorsement in 2016 and my record as Director is strong in working for change and now helping to lead our response with Lateefah, Janice and Rebecca to support the movement demanding that public agencies take action to end systemic racism and over-policing. When I served as BART Board President in 2019, I immediately took action to end the delays around a mural and other recognition of the murder of Oscar Grant. After the family and community waited 8+ years, I was relentless to complete the mural and name the street at Fruitvale Station Oscar Grant Way. I have a close relationship with Wanda Johnson, Oscar's Mom and I was the first BART Director to organize a table at the annual Oscar Grant Foundation Scholarship Dinner that each of us personally paid to attend. I am working with Wanda, Lateefah and others to defeat Director Debora Allen's bid for re-election as she operates in a racist manner and always seeks to polarize around issues of race and social justice. I am proud to have worked to change BART's relationships and Wanda, Uncle Bobby and others have acknowledged this progress. I hope to deserve your support for a second term to complete the work that Lateefah and I started four years ago. I also ask you to talk with our Labor leaders, such as John Arantes and Gabriel Haaland of SEIU as to how they feel I have been a leader in changing BART for the better. Thank you.

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