

# League of Pissed Off Voters June 2018 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Monday, February 26th if you wish to be considered for a League endorsement. If you have any questions, you can contact us at [TheLeagueSF@gmail.com](mailto:TheLeagueSF@gmail.com).

## Candidate Info

Name \*

Ryan Khojasteh

Campaign Contact Person

Jackie Thornhill

Email Address \*

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

[REDACTED]

## Office Sought \*

Congressional Representative, CA-12

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## Website

[www.khojastehforcongress.com](http://www.khojastehforcongress.com)

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## What are your self care strategies to prevent burnout?

Naps are essential! The key to a successful snooze is having the sound of the ocean in the background, you'll drift off quickly. I also love spending time with my dog, Ted. We go outside, play fetch, and watch movies together. Having Ted around has made day to day life so much better. And usually every other weekend or so, I'll stop by my parents' house in San Jose for a nice home-cooked meal and to catch up with my mom and dad. I am grateful to have them so close by! Lastly, a great jog at sunset at Golden Park to Ocean Beach clears my head of any bad thoughts.

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## Priorities

### Please list the 3 endorsements you are most proud of

San Francisco Young Democrats, San Francisco Latina/o Young Democrats, and San Francisco Black Young Democrats

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## What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner? (1250 character limit)

Though my team and I have proposed 26 comprehensive policy reforms that I intend to push for in Congress, we understand that our vision extends beyond any single two year term. First, we must pass comprehensive campaign finance reform, regardless of whether Citizens United is overturned within our lifetimes. To accept defeat on this issue is to accept defeat on passing common sense gun laws, free 2 year and 4 year higher education, divesting from fossil fuels, and so much more.

Once Congress has banned all corporate contributions to candidates, mandated complete financial transparency for all committees regardless of whether they coordinate with the candidates they support and oppose, and closed the revolving door for lobbyists we can begin to tackle our deeply flawed healthcare system. We must pass healthcare reform that simultaneously extends medicare to all Americans, allows medicare to negotiate prices for drugs and medical equipment, and bans advertising of prescription medications as well as kickbacks for doctors from drug companies.

Then, we can begin to have a serious conversation about what national values we articulate in our budget. We must divest from our military industrial complex and re invest in education.

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

I serve on the board of the San Francisco Young Democrats

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## Local Issues

Some of the things pissed-off voters are watching right now!

Have you signed up for CleanPowerSF?

- Yes, for Green service
- Yes, for SuperGreen service
- No, I do not plan to sign up for CleanPowerSF

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 the expansion of charter schools (yes/no, explanation if needed)?

No.

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Do you support the parcel tax for San Francisco Unified School District?

- Yes
- No

If the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act is repealed at the state level, would you commit to implementing vacancy controls in San Francisco?

- Yes
- No

Do you support funding the Public Defender's office to provide representation for all immigration deportation cases?

Yes

No

Do you support extending the current MOU with the Police Officers Association so the next Mayor can negotiate a new MOU in 2019?

Yes

No

Do you support removing the prohibition on reprimands that are more than 5 years old from being considered when police officers apply for promotions, transfers, or special assignments?

Yes

No

Do you support renewing SFPD's involvement with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force?

Yes

No

Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?

Yes

No

Would you support increasing the Transportation Sustainability Fee (TSF) by \$5/square foot on commercial property?

Yes

No

Would you support a tax on transportation network companies (TNCs) and other "gig economy" operators?

Yes

No

San Francisco suffers a continued affordability and housing crisis. Please explain how you think this crisis should be addressed (in general), then list actionable concrete steps you would take, if elected, to move toward those solutions. Include an explanation of whose interests you will prioritize, and at least one example of a step you would support but which is not currently politically feasible.

The United States is in the midst of a severe housing crisis, driven not by a lack of supply, but by a surplus of greed. Nowhere is the crisis more acute than San Francisco, which makes up 2.2% of California's population and accounts for 23.5% of the state's total homeless population. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, California has the second-highest rate of unsheltered homeless individuals in the nation, with 86.9% of our state's homeless lacking shelter on any given night.

From 2000 to 2016, the number of vacant housing units in the United States rose by 30%, while the average housing price rose by 6%. In San Francisco, prices went up over 40%. Something fundamental in our country is clearly broken when a commodity as crucial as housing becomes more expensive despite a drastic increase in supply. Our housing crisis is not a matter of immutable economic forces, it's the result of short-sighted profit gouging by self-interested investors enabled by corporate-funded politicians.

When the number of vacant housing units so drastically outweighs the number of homeless people sleeping on the streets every night, it's a sign that we're in need of a major paradigm shift. Australia, Vancouver, and London have all experimented with various forms of taxing vacant properties, and it's time to start talking about a national vacancy tax in the United States. Designed to remove the incentives that lead investors to hoard valuable rental units and properties, a nationwide vacancy tax would force the housing market to respond to true market forces and meet the American people's demand for affordable housing—when they need it the most.

A national vacancy tax would tax property owners at an increasing rate for failing to lower the advertised rent on units that are at or above market rate after an extended period of vacancy. It would only apply to owners holding more than ten properties, or over \$5,000,000 worth of properties. As well as passing a vacancy tax, Congress needs to fund increases in Section 8 housing budgets to meet the waitlists of people in need of housing subsidies.

To continue the decreases in nationwide homelessness we saw under the Obama administration, Congress should increase funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing first and rapid re-housing programs. Additionally, we should

provide local governments the flexibility necessary to balance their services between the rapid re-housing model and a more incremental continuum of care approach. No two homeless people face the same obstacles, and local providers should have both the resources and the flexibility to meet the needs of each individual.

We've tried prioritizing economic growth in terms of gross averages, and it hasn't worked for the majority of us who were left behind by a system that only works to make the rich richer. We can no longer afford to let this continue, it's time to put that money to better use and guarantee safe, stable housing as a right for all Americans.

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## 2018 Elections

There are two gross receipts ballot measures on the June 2018 ballot. The conflicting measures section ensures both cannot be implemented, even if they both pass. Which do you support?

- 1% gross receipts from the lease of warehouse space and 3.5% gross receipts from lease of all other commercial space for early childcare and education
- 1.7% gross receipts from lease of commercial space to fund low- and middle-income housing and homelessness services

Do you support the SF tenant right to counsel measure on the June 2018 ballot?

- Yes
- No



Do you support the June 2018 ballot measure to provide SF police with tasers?

Yes

No

Who are you supporting for Mayor? (In addition to yourself, if applicable)

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked Endorsement
Angela Alioto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michelle Bravo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
London Breed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Richie Greenburg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jane Kim	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mark Leno	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amy Farrah Weiss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ellen Lee Zhou	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for D2 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Catherine Stefani	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schuyler Hudak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nicholas Josefowitz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kat Anderson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for D4 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Katy Tang	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Daniel Kappler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adam Kim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for D6 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Sonja Trauss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jason Lee Jones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Matt Haney	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Christine Johnson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for D8 Supervisor (June 2018)?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Rafael Mandelman	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jeff Sheehy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lawrence Dagesse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for D10 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Uzuri Pease-Greene	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shamann Walton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theo Ellington	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tony Kelly	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asale-Haquekyah Chandler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neo Veavea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who are you supporting for Board of Education in 2018?

Mia Satya, Martin Rawlings Fien

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## Who are you supporting for Community College Board in 2018?

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## Past Elections

### Who did you support for D1 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Sherman D'Silva	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sandra Lee Fewer	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Richie Greenberg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jason Jungreis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Samuel Kwong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brian Larkin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
David Lee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jonathan Lyens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marjan Philhour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Andy Thornley	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Who did you support for D3 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Aaron Peskin	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tim Donnelly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Who did you support for D5 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
London Breed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Dean Preston	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

### Who did you support for D7 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Joel Engardio	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
John Farrell	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alexander Lee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Norman Yee	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michael Young	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Who did you support for D9 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Joshua Arce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iswari Espana	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hillary Ronen	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Melissa San Miguel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who did you support for D11 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Kimberly Alvarenga	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Francisco Herrera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Magdalena De Guzman	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ahsha Safai	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Berta Hernandez	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who did you support for Board of Education in 2016?

Matt Haney, Stevon Cook, Mark Sanchez

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## Who did you support for Community College Board in 2016?

Rafael Mandelman, Tom Temprano, Shanell Williams

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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

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## Final Question

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

Before I announced my candidacy, I sat down with many residents and community leaders over coffee or lunch to speak about the field of primary candidates, and they personally felt they couldn't relate to any of them. What I may lack in quantitative life experience, I compensate for with quality, because I have lived through the many issues that face ordinary, middle class and working class San Franciscans and Americans.

For example, I know what it's like to grow up not surrounded by family. I never had the opportunity to grow up with cousins, aunts, uncles, grandmothers or grandfathers. This is the result of failed American foreign policy and failed immigration policies. My family is currently affected by the travel ban too. I know what it's like from a young age to be a part of these late night kitchen table conversations about whether my parents needed to take out a second mortgage on the home, how they would send the kids to college, or how would they be able to pay the bills for the month. My dad is a small business owner, and I worked for him during high school. I have seen firsthand how hard it is for small businesses to keep their doors open and stay in business.

My mom, throughout her career in Silicon Valley, wasn't afforded the same opportunities as her male counterparts, and this has really helped shape my perspective on fighting for equality in the workplace, and my view that while progress has been made, there is so much more work to do. And so, I am honored to be a staff editor for the Hastings Women's Law Journal exploring ways to make our society more equal.

Our family's healthcare costs recently have really gone up, and our copay is really high right now after my mom was recently laid off, so the past year I haven't gone to see the doctor. A member of my family growing up was killed by senseless gun violence, which is why I spent my summer at the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. And right now, as a law student, I have \$150,000 in student loans and I live in subsidized student housing in the Tenderloin. If it wasn't for this housing, I wouldn't be able to afford San Francisco. And in my student building, if I go use the vending machine to get a soda for \$1.75, I'll pretty much end up paying \$3.00 by the time I am able to pay off my student loans because my interest rates are so predatory. I have lived and am living these issues faced by millions of Americans. I understand these issues from a people's perspective.

While I don't have many years under my belt, I do have a quality of life experiences that allow to me understand struggle and hardship. I believe that I have a fresh perspective to bring to the table. And at a time when our Federal government and Democratic Party establishment are failing us in so many ways, I want to mobilize a diverse coalition of communities from within



San Francisco to stand up and have our voices heard in Congress. I hope to be a candidate of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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