

SFLCV November 2020 Election Board of Supervisors Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in San Francisco League of Conservation Voters' endorsement process. Please limit answers to the below questions to 2-3 paragraphs at most (250 words). We are accepting responses until June 24, 2020.

Please enter your contact info here (Name, District, Campaign contact, Phone, Email, FPPC#) *

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1. Affordable Housing: What are your top priorities around supporting infill development within your district and throughout the City? How will you respond to pushback from your constituents regarding height, density and affordability? What have you done to advance housing initiatives in your district, neighborhood, SF? *

San Francisco desperately needs more housing, and the westside should carry its fair share of the load. Transit-rich corridors like Geary Street can support more density which foster vibrant communities for all. However, this doesn't mean giveaways for developers. We don't need more vacant luxury housing held as investments.

I support and will advocate for the preservation and production of 100% affordable housing, focused on low- and middle-income residents. We also need to preserve existing affordable housing as possible, which means we need to preserve current stock of rent-controlled units and place further rent control regulations on units, including below market rate rental units built after 1979. I support a balanced approach to development that prioritizes protections against displacement for vulnerable tenants.

My vision for housing development includes community benefits such as ground-floor space that meets the needs of the neighborhood residents, environmentally sustainable design, union labor and local hire, and more. I will push the City to invest more deeply in the small site acquisition program to preserve rent-controlled apartment buildings and prevent evictions.

2. Walkable and Bikeable Streets: What are your top priorities for better and safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists? How do you intend to advance those priorities if elected? How will you work with constituents who are opposed to bike/ped infrastructure improvements in your district (such as traffic calming, bike lanes, and bike share docking stations)? What have you done to champion these efforts up to now? *

A healthy neighborhood is where everyone can walk and bike around with equitable access to safe, clean, affordable and efficient public transit. No one should fear for their safety on any street and access to biking and walking must be available to all. I will facilitate neighborhood conversations but ultimately do the right thing for advancing sustainable transportation in the face of opposition.

I know how important safe streets and public transit are to our quality of life, as I had always lived in and valued dense areas having grown up in Hong Kong, Taipei and San Francisco's Chinatown, walking and public transit were my only options for a long time. I know from experience that in order to make this happen, we need comprehensive planning. I will make sure we include people who will be most impacted by these decisions to be at the table — working class families, seniors, people with disabilities, immigrants and communities of color — to build a better, more connected system.

Project delivery and cost controls must improve to get more benefit out of every dollar. When needed, I'll audit departments to cut wasteful expenses so San Franciscans can enjoy more improvements with our resources. I'll see that key departments have an inclusive approach working with all of us on the transit services, and traffic and street improvements will truly make our neighborhood safer and more liveable, and that the improvements are done on budget and on time, and have a plan, developed with merchants, to mitigate community impacts.

3. Reliable, Fossil Free Public Transit: What are your top priorities for improving local and regional transit? How would you advance your priorities if elected? What have you done to improve transit operations, access to transit, passenger experience, etc.? *

Public transit in San Francisco is a critical part of the City's infrastructure, depended on by residents and workers in the Richmond District and citywide. But many of our systems are not user friendly or welcoming.

First, I want a better experience for all riders and to attract new ones. Everyone, whether they ride a bus or train, deserves to travel with dignity. This involves improved shelters with accurate, real-time information, seating, and actual protection from the weather.

Second, fares need to be more accessible to all. I will fight for more efficient and reliable public transportation, and break down cost barriers for riders, especially those traveling regionally. This includes to be at the table for regional solutions for a centralized transit fare system, and consistent way-finding signage and transit mapping, as well as on-time and efficient transit schedules for people to travel from one area/county/city to another. Finally, following the lead of the Human Rights Commission, the SFMTA must make Clipper more accessible to all and reduce administrative barriers (and their associated expenses) to free and reduced fare programs.

Third, San Francisco must build a 100% electric Muni fleet. This will require new infrastructure and rebuild of Muni's facilities to accommodate the power needed to charge a future, 100% fossil fuel-free fleet.

4. Green Energy Policy: What are your top priorities for improving energy conservation, household efficiency and renewable power, and how would you advance these efforts? What have you done to promote energy conservation in these areas? Are you, personally, a CleanPowerSF SuperGreen customer? *

As a legislative aide spanning two decades, I have been at the forefront of many of San Francisco's most cutting edge environmental policies. As Supervisor, I will continue San Francisco's leadership in environmental stewardship.

While serving then-Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, I coordinated legislative efforts to shut down the diesel and natural gas Potrero Power Plant, then the last remaining fossil fuel power plant within the city.

While San Francisco has consistently pushed for LEED certified development, especially on our city-owned properties, we know that until we push for renewable power statewide, we are still stuck with a deteriorating power grid that uses fossil fuel energy. I will support the current push for expanding CleanPowerSF and for San Francisco's independence and against its reliance on PG&E power system, all the way up to purchasing PG&E's local infrastructure. I also support outreach programs to enroll more residents and businesses into CleanPowerSF.

Our family has invested in solar panels in our home because we truly believe the need to push as much as renewable energy source and uses as we can on an individual user level as well as on a municipal level.

5. Water Sustainability & Conservation: What are your priorities for improving the sustainability of San Francisco's drinking and wastewater systems? If elected, what steps will you take to enhance the City's water resiliency and reduce its reliance on imported water? What have you done to promote conservation in this area? *

As a former legislative aide and staff at the Department of Recreation and Parks, I am intimately familiar with the city's infrastructure and what can change to further conservation. As an aide Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, I worked on EcoCenter, a grant project at Heron's Head Park. The EcoCenter demonstrates multiple aspects of sustainable designs and plans, which we should continue to invest in and push forward to the rest of the City.

San Francisco relies on the combination of Hetch Hetchy water and local groundwater for its local water supply, and our City has prided itself on its ability to provide a sustainable drinking water source. We can continue to retrofit current buildings and raise standards for new developments to protect these precious resources. In addition, I will continue the development of groundwater sources, including in Golden Gate Park, started by my District 1 predecessors. To compliment our drinking water system, we must develop a plan to implement a stormwater treatment system that serves the entire city. I will work with the Public Utilities Commission to layout this system, first on city owned properties and then in new commercial and residential developments.

6. Zero Waste: How can the city advance its Zero Waste goals in light of the temporary (we hope) move to suspend programs such as the required fee for grocery store bags that previously incentivized customers to reuse bags and containers, or purchase foodstuffs from bulk-stocked bins? What are your thoughts around recent legislation to reduce waste and what more can we do? How will you make it happen? What have you done to promote zero waste? *

Municipalities bear the brunt of our environmentally harmful culture, paying the costs of industries. Achieving zero waste requires a cultural shift, and I know from experience how much courage and political will this takes. I led legislative efforts to ban plastic bags and straws, as well as move towards LED lights over wasteful Incandescent bulbs. At the Recreation and Park Department, I helped develop their "Leave No Trace" efforts, exploring zero waste solutions in our parks and open spaces. Independent from big businesses interests and bolstered by years of experience in City Hall, I can deliver the meaningful reforms needed.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we are seeing increased use of paper and plastic grocery bags, elimination of bulk purchasing dried goods, and increased demand for single-use disposable items like cleaning wipes, gloves, and masks. To counteract this, San Francisco must invest in community outreach to reinstill more sustainable practices and compliance with trash sorting. This should be backed by new environmental standards by ways of legislative mandates to curb waste. These shouldn't be unfunded mandates, but rather collaborative strategies to reduce waste (and needless expenses) from local merchants like restaurants, dry cleaners, and retail stores.

In addition, we need to reduce waste upstream while increasing availability of recycling centers as well as redesigning our recycling process to safeguard our recycling system against issues like pandemic. This is why I also support legislation at the State level to provide mobile recycling centers and look to further improve the state's recycling programs to recover recyclable material more effectively and locally. Reducing waste and landfill diversion locally also reduces greenhouse gas emissions since the recyclable items are not being shipped overseas.

7. Your Environmental Vision: Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? How will protecting the environment shape your agenda given the potential for ongoing pandemic conditions? How will you continue the efforts and gains despite significant economic hardship? *

The climate crisis has hurt our communities for decades and disproportionately affects low-income and marginalized communities, especially our communities of color on the southeast corner of our city. I knew this as an aide to Supervisor Maxwell and worked on the effort to shut down the Potrero Power Plant that hurt the communities of color living in its proximity.

Today's joint health and economic crisis are compounding this reality. Environmental justice requires economic justice — we can't have one without the other. Investing in a greener future will support, not hinder, economic recovery. Here's how we can do that.

To maintain environmental gains in spite of the current crisis, I support greater outreach to build CleanPowerSF's customer base while also supporting programs to include more low-income residents so more can use the program's clean energy.

San Francisco must be responsive and resilient to a variety of climate change's impacts including earthquakes and sea level rise. I support urgent work to increase accessibility to open space, protect from earthquakes and future sea level rise, and ensure plans reflect community involvement throughout the process. This includes finalizing and delivering plans for protecting Ocean Beach and the land around Great Highway in a sustainable manner.

San Franciscans also pride themselves in values of tolerance and equity. We must unpack and examine how these values have been applied to our waterfront and do the real work of fighting for environmental justice and equitable access to waterfront open space and amenities.

We must act now to address these future challenges.



San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

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