

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#) *

Marjan Philhour, District 1, Rob Aiavao, (415) 889-2735, rob@votemarjan.com, 1425942

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? *

We simply do not have enough housing, and enough affordable housing in the Richmond or across San Francisco. My housing platform prioritizes infill development because we need more housing near transit and jobs to combat displacement trends. I strongly believe that if we advocate for more housing in San Francisco, we will see less displacement, more affordable housing, and fewer carbon emissions from commutes.

Between 2013 and 2028, the Richmond District has built, or is scheduled to build, only five affordable housing units (not five buildings, five units). This should absolutely be treated as a scandal. We must make the construction of projects with affordable housing legal and by-right. We must build more in-law units, more units above retail on our major corridors, and more affordable units, we just need the political will to do so. I will be that leader on Day One.

For a more detailed breakdown of my housing action plan, head here:

<https://medium.com/@MarjanPhilhour/100-affordable-housing-341af947ea82>

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? *

I am a big fan of the current Slow Streets program, and would like to see it expanded in the Richmond. I also think we need more protected bike lanes in this district and citywide. As a mom of three, I want to feel safe with my kids out on the sidewalk, or biking to Golden Gate Park.

At the beginning of Shelter in Place, I reached out to neighbors all across the district to get a better sense of what they felt they were missing to properly socially distance themselves from others. We collected over 150 signatures in support of closing JFK Drive to car traffic, and the City listened and shut it down not long after. As Supervisor, I will continue to work with my constituents and find solutions like this one that benefit all of us.

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.? *

Our public transit systems are in great danger of becoming financially insoluble and we need to continue to fight for additional funding for local and regional transit on all levels of government. We also need to fight the stigma attached to riding transit during the pandemic. While I think it is important to reserve rides for our frontline workers at this moment, we as transportation advocates need to make sure people understand that buses, trains, and ferries are not COVID-19 hotspots with proper safety precautions in place. We need to get people back on transit soon, before people start relying on low-efficiency modes of transportation.

We also need to make public transportation faster, more reliable, and more affordable. As Supervisor, I will hold the SFMTA accountable to ensure that the Geary BRT project is delivered on-time, on-budget, and with as minimal impact as possible to residents and businesses.

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? *

If we are going to meet the climate action goals that Mayor Breed laid out in 2018, we need to do more now to establish CleanPowerSF as the standard, rather than an alternative. That starts with our businesses and our large residential buildings. Continuing to publicly advocate and market for energy conservation practices will also improve our emissions as a city. I will work with my fellow supervisors to enact green energy policy in San Francisco, so that we can continue to set an example for the rest of the state.

And yes, I am a CleanPowerSF SuperGreen customer.

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? *

This past winter was a good reminder that drought patterns are here to stay, and will only increase in the years to come. We remove our focus from water conservation, simply because it rained more than the year before. We need to continue to manage our water supply responsibly, including expanding our recycled water program where we can. We should continue to advocate for drought conservation efforts locally and statewide.

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? *

I miss bringing my reusable bags to the store, but I also understand it's a temporary measure in the best interests of our public health. And while I would prefer we get back to allowing reusable bags in the near future, I think the City's new ordinance requiring businesses to use recyclable/compostable bags is a good substitute for the time being.

I believe that education on waste reduction is the most important part of accomplishing zero waste as a city, because we are never going to get there until our residents understand the best way to sort their waste and reduce their usage. I am a big proponent of zero waste in my own household, and I also advocate for these practices in the Balboa Village Merchants Association.

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? *

I would be honored to have the endorsement of the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters. Though we are facing one of the greatest challenges of our lifetimes in this pandemic, we cannot lose sight of the long-term effects of climate change and the work we need to do to protect our environment. We need to fight for strong environmental policy protections and prioritize renewable energy in future economic recovery and infrastructure legislation. As a mom who wants her kids to be able to live in San Francisco when they're older, I am committed to creating a greener, more affordable city where they can raise their own children. I look forward to working with the SFLCV and hope to earn its endorsement.



San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

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