

SFLCV November 2022 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 29, 2022 at 11:59 pm.

Email *

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

Gordon Mar, District 4, Vanessa Pimentel, 415-946-9601, vanessa@gordonmar.com, FPPC #1437853

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? Specifically, how did you vote (or would have voted) on both the UCSF Parnassus expansion and the 469 Stevenson project? *

Expanding housing opportunities to meet priority community needs has been one of my top priorities as a Supervisor. I believe we must plan for new housing within my district and citywide comprehensively, and I initiated Sunset Forward, a community-driven planning process that led to a comprehensive framework and set of priority strategies for growth and development in District 4 focused on housing, transportation, neighborhood services and small businesses. For more information, visit www.sunseforward.com. I support transit oriented development and sponsored legislation to create three new Priority Development Areas along transit corridors on the westside of San Francisco, that are being incorporated into the Housing Element update and the regional transportation and housing framework, Plan Bay Area 2050.

I championed the first two 100% affordable housing projects in Sunset District history one for teachers and one for families, facilitated the conversion of two small apartment buildings in the Sunset to permanently affordable housing for mostly low-income seniors and have created new incentives and support for single family homeowners to expand their homes and create housing units for their extended families, friends and renters. I've also expanded military veterans' access to our City's affordable housing programs, and created new services and transitional housing for unsheltered and vehically housed residents on the westside.

On the Board, I voted to support the appeal of 469 Stevenson because the evidence presented at the appeal hearing convinced me that the Environmental Impact Report was inadequate. The UCSF Parnassus expansion did not require Board approval, but I support the major expansion of UCSF's in-patient and emergency room hospital capacity at the Parnassus campus and the creation of over 1,000 union construction jobs and 1,400 new permanent healthcare jobs.

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? Specifically, how did you vote (or would have voted) on Car Free JFK and Great Highway? *

The Great Highway was closed to vehicles during the pandemic at my suggestion, to create miles of new open space for residents to walk, bike, roll, and improve their mental and physical health. As schools and businesses reopened, I led negotiations with Mayor Breed to maintain the Great Highway as a weekend walkway when cyclists and pedestrians use it most, while reopening to vehicles on weekdays. The first Slow Street in San Francisco was in my District, because I had already begun discussions with the SFMTA about identifying new routes for walking and biking in the Sunset – and to this day, my district has the most miles of Slow Streets of any district in the City. We also expanded bikeshare service to the Sunset at my urging, and as a regular bike commuter myself, I care deeply about safe and reliable infrastructure for biking and walking. I will continue taking a multi-pronged approach to ensure safer streets and build incentives so that the safer choice increasingly becomes the most effortless option and support walkable and bikeable streets by developing a plan to make sure bike infrastructure is improved and paired with public transit refinements and educational outreach.

This past month, I executed the first phase of outreach for the Sunset Neighborways project, taking in feedback from neighbors across the Sunset and hundreds of parents from neighborhood schools which aims to create a permanent network of slower, safer streets to make walking and biking safer in our neighborhood and to connect families with key destinations like schools, parks, small businesses, and faith institutions. As this project moves forward, Slow Streets will eventually be replaced with nine Neighborways, and use a diversity of designs to make them safer and more comfortable for different modes of travel, including speed bumps, raised crosswalks, bike lanes, and turn restrictions only when warranted and supported.

On the Board, I led the charge to make John F. Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park car-free and keep the Great Highway semi-permanently open until the extension south of Sloat is closed to cars as part of the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project. We should use these next two years to conduct a transparent, comprehensive planning process to understand the impacts the closure will have on westside traffic circulation and transportation, and come up with solutions to address those needs and improving and expanding public transit service on the westside.

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.? Specifically, do you support efforts like SB-917 Seamless Transit Transformation Act? *

As Supervisor, I'm proud of my work to improve and expand public transit and support bold mode-shifting actions towards sustainable transportation options and complete streets.

Early in my term, I commissioned the District 4 Mobility Study from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to explore ways to increase the use of non-automobile modes in the Outer Sunset and Parkside neighborhoods by offering more and better choices. The study aimed to improve health, livability, and economic vitality in District 4 while addressing climate change at the local level. The study was completed in 2021 with a set of four recommendations that I'm working with City agencies to implement. For more information, visit <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/district-4-mobility-study>

I'm proud of my oversight role of the L-Taraval Improvement Project – a major SFMTA capital project delivered on time and on-budget, improving street safety for pedestrians and transit service for the tens of thousands of daily riders of the L Taraval. In addition, I've championed upcoming projects to create 29 Rapid service and to bring a Muni Forward project to the N-Judah finally.

And in the long term, I am pushing for comprehensive planning to bring subway service to the westside finally. I share this transformational vision with Supervisors Melgar and Chan, and if re-elected, I look forward to taking further steps towards making this vision real. Our local and regional transit system is crucial to the upward socioeconomic mobility of many working immigrant families in District 4. It gives many access to many more employment and educational opportunities outside their immediate neighborhood.

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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? Specifically, what efforts have you participated in to help fund the city's C.A.P. program? *

I am proud of my record as a leading voice on the Board of Supervisors on climate action. As a member of the Budget Committee, I made climate funding a top priority, and just secured \$3.3m — the largest ever general fund investment for the Department of the Environment — to begin the critical work of implementing the City's updated Climate Action Plan. I also worked with Supervisor Mandelman to secure initial funding for a Climate Equity Hub and a long-term financing plan for the CAP. I co-sponsored the Declaration of Emergency for Climate Change, pushed for amendments to the CAP to enact more aggressive climate goals, cosponsored the all-electric new buildings ordinance, cosponsored the ban on gas-powered landscaping equipment, commissioned a report and held a hearing on building decarbonization, held a hearing on our urban forestry plan, and have spent the past two years collaboratively working with climate advocates and stakeholders on funding and policy proposals to make our Climate Action Plan a reality. Climate change is here, and its effects are growing stronger. We must move quickly and definitively to address them and prepare for more wildfires, significant sea-level rise, and other environmental challenges.

I believe energy efficiency is key to reducing the city's reliance on fossil fuels, lowering residents' utility bills, and creating jobs in the clean energy sector. On the Board, I supported a resolution to support state action to streamline permitting for residential solar energy systems. Our buildings should be net-zero energy and use zero fossil fuels. Electric heat pumps, smart home devices, and residential battery storage can increase the efficiency of homes and allow them to respond to changes in the grid flexibly.

If re-elected, I look forward to being a leading sponsor of the legislation necessary to enact the Climate Action Plan. In addition, my office will continue to market and streamline city services to make home upgrades, understanding that reducing GHG emissions benefits the whole community and exploring new ways to incentivize homeowners and landlords to improve housing energy efficiency. And I am personally a CleanPowerSF SuperGreen customer.

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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? Specifically, how did you engage to support conservation efforts regarding the Tuolumne River? *

Safe, clean and reliable water is our most precious resource. . As Supervisor, I have supported all efforts to recycle water for appropriate Grey Water uses and supported the PUC's limited blending of ground water with Hetch Hetchy water in order to prepare for the effects of drought.

I've worked with SFPUC on a recently completed project to install over a dozen rain gardens on Sunset Boulevard. If re-elected, I will continue to enhance water conservation efforts and innovative water recycling programs for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers. Combined with solid water conservation standards and regional collaboration, we can meet the challenge of water scarcity and rethink how we use water to ensure future sustainability. San Francisco must also work towards developing an independent, resilient water supply.

We should encourage the development of distributed water resources by promoting rainwater capture, water reclamation, and greywater systems. On the Board, I supported a resolution by Supervisor Aaron Peskin calling on the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to work with the State to protect the Tuolumne River, the source of San Francisco's water.

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?

We must seriously plan for the impacts of climate change and its effects on our city. Some of that work is
happening, but we need to institute new laws that codify some of the environmentally friendly practices
many of us have already adopted.

Achieving zero waste requires a cultural shift, and I know from experience how much courage and political
will this takes. As a Supervisor, I supported the legislation to require large buildings to hire Zero waste
workers as well as laws requiring all households to compost and recycle. I support a required fee for grocery
store bags to incentivize customers to reuse bags and containers, and keep our environment safe and clean
for future generations in our city.

To promote zero waste, San Francisco must invest in community outreach to reestablish more sustainable
practices and compliance with trash sorting. This should be backed by new environmental standards by
ways of legislative mandates to curb waste. I will continue to support awareness campaigns and incentives
for consumers to make the right decision to meet our Zero waste goal in San Francisco.

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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? With the passage of Prop E the city took over street tree and sidewalk maintenance from homeowners, but the urban canopy is still insufficient both in maintenance and the planting of new trees. What would you do to ensure a robust urban canopy?

In addition to being a climate champion on the Board of Supervisors, I've served on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board, the San Francisco Commission on the Environment, and earned my degree in Conservation Studies from U.C. Berkeley. I believe my environmental track record speaks for itself. In my 30 years living in San Francisco and leading community organizing for working families, healthcare, and education, I've learned firsthand how closely each issue intersects with the environment. Environmental and climate justice is not an issue area for me; it's a framework for how I view every issue I've also developed the skill set to fight not only for the people of District 4, but for the environment around us that makes the Sunset and San Francisco a one of a kind place to live.

I've fought for increased funding for street trees in every budget cycle I've participated in and worked collaboratively with the Bureau of Urban Forestry, Friends of the Urban Forest, and Climate Action Now to support tree planting in my District and across the City. I think the biggest barriers to expanding our urban canopy are funding and accountability. While I'm proud of my advocacy for more funding, and my work to hold officials accountable for our urban forestry goals, if re-elected I hope to go further for long-term solutions. In particular, I'm inspired by New York City's use of bond financing for urban forestry, recognizing trees as the green infrastructure they are. And I'm actively looking at Los Angeles Urban Forestry Officer as a potential model for more centralized oversight and accountability for making our urban forestry goals a reality.

Most importantly, we need to fight for my daughter's generation, whose very lives and livelihoods depend on our actions today as climate change threatens our planet. I am committed to working with the League of Conservation Voters to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table, and to provide support, accessibility, and awareness of environmental conservation to every San Franciscan. I would be honored to earn your support.

I acknowledge that, in addition to a candidate's environmental qualifications and activism, SFLCV will also expressly consider the way in which officials comport themselves, their ability to act with decorum, and respectfully engage with their colleagues and constituents.

☒ Yes

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San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

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