

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? *

My priorities and strategies for affordable housing are to what I call the three Ps' Preserver, Provide, and Produce more affordable housing. In my district D5 and the city, I think it's important to narrow our focus and use our resources wisely. We need to stop the bleeding first, by protecting low-income affordable housing, strengthening rent control, and fight for tenants against evictions. To build more housing we need to have consensus in D5, and this why as a supervisor I will create a D5 Neighborhood Advisory Committee, to ensure a platform were tenants, property owners, merchants, and developers can all work together. According to the 2018 District 5 Housing Opportunities Report from 2010 to 2018 housing production in District 5 was at 1,137 units about a 2.7% increase in housing in the district over 8 years spanned since 2010. Over the same period, the city's housing production was 21,893 units or about a 5.8% increase. In a nutshell housing production in D5 did not keep up the pace with housing needs. I will make sure that my constituents understand the consequent of slowing housing production with restrictions of height, density, and zoning laws. Lastly, I have advocated for years to protect low-income cooperative housing and I also wrote the 2015 Community Benefits Plan for the Fillmore Heritage Center. I'm the son and native of D5 and also a beneficiary of affordable housing in San Francisco.

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? *

Unfortunately, the implementation of Vision Zero is still work in progress. My priorities going forward is to first help get implemented new laws to lower speed limits to 20-25MPH and maybe even lower near schools and seniors zone areas. Secondly, focus greater attention on improving streets with a higher risk for pedestrian fatalities; like Geary blvd. Fell Street, and Masonic Street. The way we get buy-in from the community is to listen and don't dismiss anyone's position who opposes the bike/ped infrastructure. I supported the Geary Blvd. Rapid Project by the SFMTA, which will create pedestrian bulbs, and make and other changes that make our boulevard safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, I advocated for street lights at Fillmore and O'Farrell Street and supported Prop. B - The Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond in 2011. We have a lot of challenges to make our street walkable and bikeable, however, I'm ready to work on day one to secure, protect, and extend more bike-share docking stations that need more resources to improve our overall infrastructure.

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.? *

I agree we must also have Zero Emissions public transportation that reliable. In 2013, I worked for SFMTA and many Muni operators would explain to me they're frustration of trying to meet the great demand for being on time driving in San Francisco. Many operators believed the streets were unfriendly transit lanes, and with Uber and Lyft things would just get worst. You see this locally and regional-wide in the Bay area. So, therefore, my priorities are to continue to push for alternative transportation, to free up public transit by taking as many vehicles off the streets and highways as much as possible. Regional speaking San Francisco being the Transportation HUB of the Bay Area I believe every Supervisor can use their leverage with regional funding that will promote a Bay Area improvement transit plan. Funding fossil-free public transit is my number one priority locally and regionally. From a grassroots level, in the past, we have taken surveys and again I have been a strong advocated for public transit improvements, more access, and passenger concerns be put first.

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? *

Green Energy should be supported at all times. I currently stay in a cooperative and we are mandated to conserve energy. We must continue to give Incentives for household efficiency and renewable power. My priorities will be to consolidate state and local efforts to improve green energy policies for our City. As a co-founder of a nonprofit organization named the New Community Leadership Foundation in 2018, NCLF worked directly in collaboration with LIME company to provide more electric scooters in D5. Lastly, since again I stay in a co-op building we're automatically a customer of the City Clean PowerSF.

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? *

First, we need to hold the SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) more accountable. We have witnessed over the years a lot of corruption in how contracts are awarded and even scandals from time and time and over and over again. The way our City awards bidding contracts should be greater scrutiny and oversight for the entire process. That being said If elected, I will ensure the funding is matched with our City planning. For example, the 2008 City's Sustainability Plan was great on paper, but again, if all the funding never really finds its way to support these kinds of plans in real-time, then we will never reach our goal to improve San Francisco drinking water systems and accomplish water sustainability. In my community of D5, I co-founded the Lower Fillmore Neighborhood Association which promoted sustainability and conservation among merchants along the corridor of the Fillmore Western Addition. This is just one of my efforts to promote sustainability.

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 supported the Zero Waste legislation when it was first introduced by former D5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi. Although I even supported last year's City 2020 goal toward Zero Waste, I understand the temporary move to suspend the program in light of issues like COVID-19. I think supporting legislation like "The Plastic Bag Ban 2.0" going forward we can improve upon learning how to implement laws reasonable to get us closer to Zero Waste. If they're going to be a plastic bag fee we must somehow us that funding toward alternative Zero-Waste programs, and not just reusable and recycle ideas. It's all about working directly with our citywide CBD's Community Benefits Districts organizations to get results. CBD's platforms by design include all stakeholders of the communities including merchants and property owners which of times show a lot of opposition. Nevertheless pending buy-in at the CBD level in each district we could streamline proposed legislation as we move toward a Zero Waste reality in our City.

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 was on the frontline fighting for environmental justice for years in San Francisco in particular D10 Bayview/Hunter Point. As a member of the SLAM Stop Lennar Action Movement coalition, we created a diverse group of residents, organizations, and businesses that sponsored Proposition F in 2008. Prop F demanded 50% affordable housing for any developer to develop on any parcels on the BV/HP Shipyard. I worked with organizations like Greenaction, Environment Justice Advocacy, POWER People Organized to Win Employment Rights; which co-founder Black Lives Matter Alicia Garza was also a member of. And I also was a member of the Restoration Advisory Board the RAB to the US Navy Shipyard. The RAB was the first group to passed a resolution to completely clean-up the Shipyard before transferring it over for development. So my campaign slogan is "Pushing the People's Agenda" and, I think strengthening our City precautionary procedures can be applied to almost and all quality of life issues here in San Francisco. I lost my mother to cancer in 2010, and years into her illness as a family we were able to trace back to when our City Housing Authority demolished Plaza West Housing in the Fillmore they didn't provide us with protection from asbestos, which was air born and endangered us because we were just across the street. So protecting the environment is dear to me for many reasons, and I will continue to fight for environmental justice for District 5 and the entire beloved City of San Francisco. As an environment advocate and activist, I would be honored to receive the San Francisco League Conservation Voters endorsement. Thank you.

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San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

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