

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.

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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? *

Our City's greatest challenges around housing, transportation, and affordability require public policy solutions that acknowledge their intersection with the environment and climate change. For example, the more our affordability crisis in San Francisco continues to grow, the more our City's laborers and working class have to commute longer and longer hours because they can no longer afford to live in the City- resulting in greater congestion and pollution in the Bay Area.

That's why my top priority is to build affordable housing at all levels in San Francisco, and support compact infill housing production along public transit. I'll be a fighter for housing on the Board of Supervisors and won't back down to NIMBY pushbacks disguised by appeals around shadows and other nonsensical claims.

I am a strong supporter of the Affordable Homes Now charter amendment that will appear on this November's ballot. The proposal will make it faster and easier to build affordable and new homes in San Francisco for low- and middle-income San Franciscans, public school teachers, and those who work in public schools or at community colleges. This will support a more sustainable transit-first City that makes it easier for our educators to both live and work in the City- avoiding hours-long commutes from as far as Antioch as congestion and gas prices get worse.

One of the issues that inspired me to be Supervisor was how the Board of Supervisors handled 469 Stevenson. If this came before me today, I would have voted in favor of the project so San Francisco could have 495 more housing units in the pipeline, with around 24% of those affordable. More importantly, the housing project was near transit, had support from local community residents and leaders, and created hundreds of union jobs.

I would also have supported UCSF's Parnassus Heights campus expansion, which I view as necessary to renovate seismically vulnerable buildings and secure San Francisco's leadership in the healthcare and life sciences sector.

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 District I represent - District 6 which includes SOMA, East Cut, Rincon Hill, Folsom, and TI - has one of the highest traffic fatalities, congestion, and levels of air pollution. And yet, D6 has an opportunity to showcase to the rest of the City and world how our urban environments can become more livable, healthy, and safe if we prioritize low-carbon modes of transportation, like walking, biking, and public transit.

To improve street safety, I'm working to champion a speed enforcement camera pilot program first initiated by former Asb. David Chiu. This program will save lives, prevent injuries and regain progress we've recently lost in our objectives around Vision Zero. Additionally, I'm exploring with the support of the San Francisco City Attorney's Office possible non-enforcement-related speed camera options — like warning notices or even solely for data collection — until state law authorizes automated enforcement.

Other improvements I'm exploring in the District include widening sidewalk curb ramps, creating more protected bicycle lanes, replacing outdated traffic light countdowns with longer countdowns, and lowering vehicle speeds on busy and notoriously congested streets.

I would have voted in favor of Car Free JFK and Great Highway because San Franciscans deserve to walk, exercise, and play in a safe space without the possibility of injury, fatality due to vehicle collisions that are easily preventable. Our environment depends on creating a complete and connected active transportation network that shifts trips from automobiles to walking, biking, and other active transportation modes. Car Free JFK and Great Highway help us get there.

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? *

I want to better fulfill the promise of the Transit First Policy that voters enacted into our City Charter so that San Francisco becomes more livable and healthy for all residents, now and in the future. Additionally, supporting transit-first policies is necessary to achieve our net-zero carbon goals by 2040. If I'm elected to my first full term, I promise to support and fight to advance the transportation strategies in our City's 2021 Climate Action Plan- which I most recently supported to fund through the San Francisco Department of the Environment during the most recent add-back funding.

San Francisco's 21st century urbanism begins with Muni, the backbone of the city, but the recent ballot-box loss for Proposition A puts us in a difficult situation in which riders are poised to suffer from worsening service and reliability. My top transportation priority is to make Muni more accessible and functional for all by investing in critical infrastructure, faster and more reliable Muni transit services, and improving street safety.

I support efforts like SB 917 which will integrate public transit across the 9 Bay Area Counties because of its transformative ability to connect the entire Bay Area bringing residents together, reducing CO2 emissions, and increasing economic activity in every community of the Bay. SB 917 is an ambitious attempt to mold the Bay Area's numerous public transit systems into one transit fare structure, enticing individuals back to using public transit. I'd be honored to participate and represent San Francisco in these discussions to develop one singular transit fare structure.

Currently, transportation accounts for nearly half of the City's carbon emissions, and that pollution is concentrated around highways and transportation corridors that impact the health of my constituents that live along them. As Supervisor I'm committed to working with City agencies like SFE and MTA to find strategies that help people make more trips without a car and simultaneously reduce emissions, including ways to improve transit service, expand bicycle lanes and safe places for people to walk, and implementing pricing policies and parking management programs that better align with our City's climate goals.

I was also the first Supervisor to co-sponsor the Mayor's legislation to update the Planning Code to make it easier to develop EV Charging Plazas from existing automotive use and gas stations- as these types of projects will grow fastest in District 6 and help usher the EV fleet of the future.

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? *

In my 14 years in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office from 2002 to 2014, I worked on numerous high-profile litigation matters — usually but not exclusively against PG&E — to expand the scope of San Francisco's municipal generation and move CleanPowerSF forward. Thanks to the growth and advancement of CleanPowerSF- San Francisco is on track to provide 100% renewable electricity to all 360K+ CleanPowerSF residential and commercial customers. The real work now lies in electrifying our current infrastructure and eliminating natural gas from our homes and buildings.

Thanks to Supervisor Mandelman, who has endorsed my campaign, leading on legislation that passed to eliminate natural gas in new construction, I'm looking forward to working with him, our City agencies, labor, and large building owners and operators to more aggressively support existing building decarbonization measures. It's no easy feat, so I plan to work in tandem with officials at the local, state and federal levels to de-couple our city's dependence on fossil fuels by working to incentivize electrification upgrades on the single family, multi-family, and large commercial building sectors.

San Francisco is leading the nation on the environment not because we set lofty goals, but because we have a clear roadmap to achieve the bold goals we set. I promise to make sure SFE and our local CBOs have the support, resources, and funding they need to implement the 160+ strategies laid out in the CAP. I'll convene regularly with Climate Emergency Coalition stakeholders and partners to make sure we're on track to meeting our 2040 carbon neutral goals every precious year we have.

And finally, when it comes to fulfilling the promise our City's ambitious Climate Action Plan to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, I think it's worth noting the personal, individual choices we make — like the one I made to not own a car, and rely on Muni, bike share and walking as my primary means of transportation.

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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? *

I will support and work to adequately fund the largely successful efforts of SFPUC to conserve and improve the sustainability of San Francisco's drinking and wastewater systems.

In addition, as an executive staff member of the San Francisco City Attorney's Office for 14 years, I played a role on key iterations of a long-standing fight to protect Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O'Shaughnessy Dam from the efforts of a well funded advocacy organization to decommission the dam and drain the century-old reservoir. The state high court ultimately made the right decision in the case, saving a reservoir that provides emissions-free hydroelectric power and clean drinking water to 2.6 million Bay Area residents. But it was a high-profile, year's long fight.

We are in the midst of a historic megadrought in California, making the preservation and sustainability of water allocation and use a top priority. The past two decades of dryness is now ranked as the driest 22-year period in at least 1,200 years. The last thing California needs is for the Bay Area to jeopardize its pristine water system that serves millions of residents.

On the Board of Supervisors, I will continue to support investments in water diversification, like groundwater, so San Franciscans aren't dependent on one or few water sources. I'll also work with the SFPUC and SFE to think creatively how we can push our wholesale water customers, like the Peninsula and East Bay, to conserve water as successfully as we do here at home. I'll be one of the strongest advocates on the Board to ensure the City continues to aggressively invest in an upgraded, reliable, and safe water and wastewater system.

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?

SB1383 was inspired by San Francisco's decades of success with mandatory 3-bin collection including recycling and compost. While I'm excited to see the rest of the state follow in our lead, there is so much more our City can do to achieve its Zero Waste goals.

First, as supervisor, I will work to support and adequately fund programs that fulfill the promise of San Francisco's Zero Waste Goals including expanded Community Zero Waste Grants to uplift our CBOs and leaders working in zero waste, environmental justice, workforce development, and climate action programs citywide.

Second, I'll explore policies that go beyond compost and recycling and lead on reuse. Encouraging residents and businesses to reuse and upcycle will be critical to reducing what we send to landfill and meeting our goals. The reusable bag ordinance was a great first step, but I'd like to lead on the BOS to find solutions that encourage businesses to enable reusable cups for coffee and reusable take-out to finally put a stop to the devastating use of single-use plastics and takeaway foodware. The pandemic halted these discussions, but I'm eager to work with the community to restart them and find solutions that work.

I am in support of SB54, which imposes a fee on single-use plastic packaging and foodware, requiring the plastics industry to comply with mandates by 2032 including to ensure all single-use packaging and foodware is recyclable, reusable, refillable or compostable. 85% of all plastic waste ends up in landfills and this bill will move us away from a historically negligent practice of single-use plastics.

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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?

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Beginning with my work soon after my college graduation – working for District Attorney Arlo Smith’s 1990 statewide attorney general campaign and managing his 1991 re-election campaign – I have worked in and around San Francisco government and politics for more than three decades.

My 14 years in the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office afforded me with an unmatched record of work for public power and CleanPowerSF, and I’m proud of my record on the environment and elevating climate priorities while serving on San Francisco’s Democratic County Central Committee from 2012 to 2016.

On the San Francisco Board of Supervisors today, I believe I bring a unique combination of institutional knowledge, civic mindedness, a consensus-building temperament and an enduring commitment to the promise of authentically progressive urbanism that will ably reflect the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters’ values at their best.

I’m confident you’ll agree that I’ve been a strong ally of SFLCV’s priorities throughout my public service career in San Francisco, and I look forward to working with LCV, other environmentally-focused Board Members, City agencies like SFE, and community leaders to further cement San Francisco’s global environmental leadership and find creative ways to meet our carbon neutral goals. I won’t ever shy away from a difficult conversation and look forward to proving that to you. It’s here in District 6 that we can showcase the best of environmental justice and innovation- by pushing big and small business towards sustainable operations, encouraging transit-first and low-carbon modes of transportation, and encouraging biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, and green spaces that are accessible to all San Franciscans.

I will continue to be a strong and effective champion for environmental and climate-related priorities in the role I currently hold for years to come.

I thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully ask for your endorsement.

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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