

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? *

Infill housing developments can be a smart, cost efficient, and a nature-friendly option in San Francisco. If done well, they can minimize air pollution and road congestion. I support smart infill housing that aligns with the characteristics of the 40+ distinct neighborhoods in District 7. One of the caveats of that support is building height. I don't support infill developments that exceed the height of the average dwellings within the community. However, adding more people and structures into a neighborhoods inevitably places additional demands on the city infrastructure, such as fire protection, water and sewer services. These impacts must be fully accounted for in the approval process. A robust community planning process must allow constituents to raise their concerns and receive staff responses to those concerns. As a twice-elected school board member, I approved the first teacher housing project undertaken by the school district that will provide 135 affordable units for teachers, para-educators, and their families at the site of the Francis Scott Key Annex in the Sunset District.

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? *

My priorities in District 7 are to add more traffic safety measures such as bike lanes, stop signs, stop lights, and pedestrian walkways, especially near schools (K-university), sites for senior programming, merchant corridors, libraries, parks and other gathering locations in response to constituent concerns for safety and accessibility. Since the onset of the pandemic, I have been become an avid, if still novice, cyclist, and am keenly aware of the value of bicycle lanes along busy streets such as Sloat Boulevard. As Supervisor, I will be holding neighborhood Town Halls regularly throughout the 40+ distinct neighborhoods of District 7 to gather constituents' concerns. As an elected official, it will be my job to articulate the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety and balance this with the concerns of drivers, some of whom have disabilities or young families that require car transportation. As a school board member, I participated in events supporting the Vision Zero Campaign organized by current District 7 Supervisor and Board President Norman Yee.

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.? *

In order for many riders to return to public transit in a post-pandemic world, there will need to be assurances that rigorous health and safety precautions will be fully employed. Strong messages urging transit riders to observe health and safety precautions must be ubiquitous throughout transit systems. As Supervisor, I will hold the SFMTA accountable for the safety of its riders. If necessary, I will convene hearings on the concerns of transit riders. As Director of the Department on the Status of Women, I supported a joint meeting between the Women's Commission and the Commission on the Environment to discuss gender disparities in cycling in San Francisco as many more men than women cycle. The Commissions identified a need to offer bike repair and road safety workshops to diverse audiences, including women. I also engaged the former SFMTA Director on the issue of state-mandated training of transit operators on human trafficking, but the Director departed before the training could be put together. Finally, as a follow-up to a public meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women for SFMTA staff to brief Commissioners on women's safety in the MUNI system, the Department partnered with the Alliance for Girls to urge the SFMTA to implement an anti-harassment campaign specifically for public transit that had already been introduced in Oakland.

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? *

When constituents pick what kind of energy/items they want use in their homes, we need to make it easier for them to identify green products and make green energy/green products accessible and comparatively less costly. It is important to have labels indicating how green a product is in stores so people are able to identify how much energy and money a consumer will save and, importantly, the benefits to our planet. I have been skeptical about PG&E's role in CleanPowerSF. Prompted by this question, I will do further research and consider opting in

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 we all know, bottled water creates plastic waste that all too often ends up in our oceans and, ultimately, in the food chain. We have a great water filtering system in San Francisco compared to other cities in California and the nation. As Supervisor, I would build on the campaign to encourage more San Franciscans to drink tap water versus bottled water. As a Department Head, I followed the City rule against purchasing bottled water strictly. At monthly Commission meetings at City Hall, I provided Commissioners with tap, not bottled water. As a School Board member, I voted to remove bottled water dispensers from school district facilities which resulted in cost savings.

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? *

My home is flooding with plastic bags from grocery stores. The first thing grocery stores must do is collect these bags back by placing highly visible receptacles at all entrances. Plastic waste is so harmful to our environment. As we prepare for a likely second wave of infections, we must do better. Grocery stores should set up outdoor stations for shoppers to transfer their groceries to their own bags. In addition, San Francisco was at the forefront of the battle against styrofoam containers. The City can do the same with plastic takeout food containers. These should be, instead, made from eco-friendly, recycled materials, preferably compostible. Especially in times of crisis, we need to exercise our values. Bulk-stocked bins may have to wait until a vaccine is widely available, but I am open to ideas. As a Department Head, I set an expectation that staff members do everything they can to reduce waste and compost and recycle whenever possible. As part of my campaign, we are rethinking traditional campaign mailers and pursuing strategies to minimize paper waste.

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? *

Sustainability measures are essential to our survival into the future and at the core of much of public policy. District 7 includes over 40 distinct neighborhoods with exceptional open spaces, beautiful homes, excellent schools, three universities, soon-to-be vibrant merchant corridors, and abundant wildlife. I am committed to strengthening our thriving neighborhoods by reinforcing sustainability and resilience strategies. I would be honored to receive the support of the SFLCV. I know that together we can make San Francisco and the distinct neighborhoods of District 7 models of sustainability for the country and the world.



San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

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