

DCCC District Attorney Candidate Questionnaire

Name Sharmin Bock

Address 3450 Sacramento Street #423

City, State, Zip San Francisco, CA 94118

Campaign phone number 415-240-0391

Email: sharminbock2011@gmail.com

DCCC Candidate Questionnaire

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Please confirm that you are a registered Democrat.

I am and always have been a proud Democrat because ours is the party of progressive values, civil rights, and equal protection for all.

2. When did you first register as a Democrat?

When I first registered to vote.

3. Who did you vote for in the last two Presidential elections?

Senator John Kerry and President Barack Obama

4. What have you done and what do you plan to do to ensure the election of a Democratic president next year?

I am a lifelong Democrat and will be working hard to turn out the vote next year - not just in San Francisco but across the state and nation. It is going to take all of our efforts to overcome to the Tea Party madness and re-elect President Obama.

5. Have you ever voted for or endorsed a non-Democrat in an election? Who? When?

No.

6. Please provide a brief summary of your qualifications for this office.

I'm a San Franciscan with a strong commitment to our community, which has been my home for over 40 years. I attended Sacred Heart Elementary School, and worked in the city during my summers and after college. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, I returned home 23 years ago and have been living in the Richmond District since 1993 with my husband and two children. I'm personally vested in keeping San Franciscans safe, and have the legal and leadership experience to do the job well.

I'm a veteran prosecutor with over two decades of comprehensive trial experience, proven management skills, and a record of producing results. After a federal clerkship with United States District Court Judge D. Lowell Jensen, I joined the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, which is recognized as one of the best public law offices in the country. For the past 22 years, I've worked in almost every department, appeared in the courtroom on over 1000 cases, prosecuted almost every kind of crime with a 95% conviction rate on felony jury trials, and also handled appeals as an Acting Deputy Attorney General on loan from my office.

As a professional prosecutor, I understand the challenges of working in the trenches. I have deep respect for the trial lawyers of the San Francisco DA's Office, and I can personally advise and lead them. I'm currently the Assistant District Attorney in Charge of Special Operations and Policy Development, a top senior management position. I lead elite trial units, including Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT), Unsolved Crimes/DNA Cold Hits, Sexual Assault, Sexually Violent Predator, and Public Corruption. I manage the many lawyers of the Special Operations Unit, as well as supervise their supervisors. I lead 2 county-wide and one 9 county task force, and have obtained federal grant funding for programs I've spearheaded. I'm also in charge of policy development for my entire office, which includes devising restorative and collaborative justice programs as well drafting state and federal legislation.

I've dedicated my career to fighting to protect the underserved and underrepresented, and prosecuting crimes against women and children. I'm a national leader in combating child sex trafficking, a rapidly growing epidemic in Bay Area, as well as an expert in solving cold cases with DNA, a challenge facing our city's crime lab. In 2009, I received the prestigious Fay Stender Award from the California Woman Lawyers, never before given to a prosecutor, and the California Legislature honored me as 16th Assembly District's Women of the Year in 2010.

7. As a testament of your commitment to the Democratic Party, please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party at the local, state and or/national level in the last 4 years.

Over the years, I have made donations to a number of Democratic candidates and causes, such as to the Democratic National Committee to defeat George W. Bush in 2004, to Hillary Clinton for President in 2007, and to Kamala Harris for her SF District Attorney campaigns in 2003 and 2007 and her Attorney General campaign in 2010.

While I have never been as involved in politics as I am now, I am a lifelong Democrat who has, and always will, support the Democratic Party and what we stand for.

8. If elected, or if currently holding office what are the three top issues you will work to affect?

First and foremost, I'm running for District Attorney to achieve justice for victims of violent crime. What San Franciscans need most in a D.A. is someone who doesn't just talk about stopping violent crime but has actually done the work to put violent criminals behind bars for the rest of their lives. I started my office's DNA Cold Hit Unit, where prosecutors work collaboratively with police, crime lab scientists, the coroner's office, and victim advocates, to solve forgotten murder and rape cases. I will work hard to ensure that San Francisco's troubled crime lab is restored to functionality and the backlog of unsolved cases are triaged and cleared.

My second priority as D.A. will be to protect our kids. One of the reasons I'm running is to make sure our city is safe for children and families. I have a 13 year old daughter who wants to walk home from school and I want to make sure she gets

home safely. As a prosecutor, the cases I've seen where children get hurt are the toughest to ever forget. That's why I've been so committed to focusing public attention on child sex exploitation and combating the sale of children into slavery. I will bring the same determination that I've brought to this problem for years to my work as San Francisco District Attorney.

My third priority will be to ensure that San Francisco has the independent and professional DA's office it deserves. Independence is crucial because the District Attorney is sometimes called upon to enforce laws against powerful people. If the voters see fit to elect me, I will do the job to the best of my abilities and ensure that the laws of this state apply equally to everyone, no matter who they are. I'm beholden to nobody and my job will not be to please anybody. Though I've had good working relationships with the police, I also believe it is vital that the DA and the police be entirely independent of one another so that the public can be assured, whether the issue is alleged police misconduct or the DNA crime scandal, that there is transparency and accountability in everything that they do.

Finally, in order to have a professional DA's office, a seasoned prosecutor must lead the troops. To effectively lead an army of trial lawyers you need to have walked at least a mile in their shoes. Having the right ideas or the best intentions is not enough especially in these challenging times. I've lived and learned from my mistakes and won't be trying things out for the first time at San Francisco's expense. After spending the past 22 years in the trenches, I speak the same language and am more than able to advise, train, and lead this team of high-caliber professionals to ensure that San Francisco has a DA's Office that sets the national standard.

ISSUES QUESTIONS (please answer yes or no and include an explanation only if necessary):

1. Do you support capital punishment (the death penalty)?

No.

2. Do you support a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion?

Yes.

3. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes.

4. Do you support same gender marriage?

Yes.

5. Do you oppose privatization of essential government services and the outsourcing of public and private sector jobs, and support vocational retraining, income support and health care for workers who lose their jobs due

to globalization?

Yes.

6. Do you support reducing prison overcrowding and the drain on our economy by decreasing penalties for minor drug offenses and other victimless crimes, making the punishment fit the crime?

Yes.

7. Do you support the implementation of community-based policing to break down barriers between law enforcement officers and the people they serve, and to curtail police misconduct?

Yes.

8. Will you oppose anti-worker initiatives that seek to undermine the ability of union leaders to carry out the will of their members and engage in political activities?

Yes.

9. Do you support and encourage increased and expedited processing of applications for citizenship, family reunification and naturalization?

Yes.

10. Do you support increasing the construction of affordable housing to alleviate and prevent homelessness, and develop supportive housing with continuum of care services to help homeless people re-establish themselves as self-sufficient contributors to society?

Yes.

11. Do you support the many lifesaving programs of the Violence against Women Act (VAWA), including the educational and preventative programs, especially for those who are at higher risk for sexual and domestic violence?

Yes.

SHORT ANSWER ISSUES QUESTIONS (Please provide brief answers of no more than 250 words each to the questions below).

A. Describe your views of the proper role of the District Attorney in prosecuting public corruption.

Crime is not just blood and gore. Public trust and faith is essential to the effective functioning of our government. It's the District Attorney's job to make sure anti-corruption and ethics laws are enforced when powerful people break the law just the

same way that our laws are enforced when regular people break the law. As District Attorney, my Public Integrity Unit will be instructed to investigate legitimate concerns about municipal corruption in real time, not after the damage is already done.

This is also another reason we need an independent prosecutor, not a political appointee, as District Attorney. Unlike both of my opponents, who were appointed to their jobs by former Mayor Gavin Newsom, I'm beholden to no one and no one owes me. If the voters see fit to elect me, I will do the job to the best of my abilities and ensure that our laws apply equally to everyone, no matter who they are.

B. Describe your views on the proper role of the District Attorney in addressing police misconduct.

This issue goes to the heart of why we need an independent prosecutor as our District Attorney. Interim DA Gascon has an inescapable conflict of interest in this case that makes everyone a loser.

The accused police and the alleged victims lose because they will never be sure whether their case was treated more harshly or more leniently due to politics. The public loses because we lose the guarantee of checks and balances in the system. And giving the cases to someone else, such as the U.S. Attorney or the Attorney General, isn't the answer either. We need the local District Attorney, who has the most local knowledge and is accountable to the community, handling these cases directly so we know they are being resolved correctly. I would not have to step aside in cases addressing police misconduct and would immediately open an investigation to determine whether or not misconduct has occurred. I will prosecute misconduct and corruption to the fullest extent of the law.

C. What, if any, changes do you support to San Francisco's rent control and condo conversion laws?

San Francisco's rent control and condo conversion laws should be strengthened to ensure that tenants are not unfairly evicted from their homes and to make our city more affordable place to live for the diverse group of people who make this city so special.

D. Did you support or oppose: a) Lennar's Bayview-Hunter's Point Development; b) the Treasure Island Development; c) the Park Merced Development? Why?

- a) Lennar's Bayview-Hunter's Point Development. No position.
- b) Treasure Island Development. No position.
- c) Park Merced Development. No position.

E. Do you support the negotiated pension reform measure put on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors? Do you support the Adachi pension reform measure? Why?

I strongly support the negotiated compromise measure put on the ballot by labor and

the Board of Supervisors and I strongly oppose the Adachi measure.

F. What, if any, changes do you support to the management and priorities of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department?

Our parks and recreation facilities belong to the people, and they provide us all with crucial breathing space and community gathering places in our dense and intense city. We should do everything we can to keep them functional, open and free.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to seeing you on August 13th, 2011.