

## DCCC DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2011

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### GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Please confirm that you are a registered Democrat.

Yes, I am a registered Democrat.

2. When did you first register as a Democrat?

I have been a Democrat since I registered to vote when I turned 18 in 1987.

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

I have voted for a Democrat in every election since I was old enough to vote: Michael Dukakis in 1988, Bill Clinton in 1992 and 1996, Al Gore in 2000, John Kerry in 2004 and Barack Obama in 2008. I strongly supported Obama from the time he announced for President in early 2007 and was heavily involved in his campaign, hosting or co-hosting three fundraisers at various points in the campaign; I will strongly support him again in 2012.

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

I plan to once again be heavily involved in the Obama campaign in 2012, working with the national campaign team and with local Democratic organizations.

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

No. I have only voted for and endorsed Democratic candidates since I first registered to vote at 18.

6. Please provide a brief summary of your qualifications for this office. (no more than 250 words)

I am running for District Attorney to make San Francisco the safest and fairest city in the country. I have spent the last 20 years working to reform our criminal justice system, which is grindingly slow, terribly costly and routinely unfair to both the victims and the accused. It is going to take an outsider to make real improvements, and I am running on my record as a reformer to get the job done.

I am a graduate of Stanford Law School, and began my career at community-based organizations like Walden House Adolescent Facility and Legal Services for Children, helping to keep young people in school and out of the criminal justice system. At the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the W. Haywood Burns Institute, I focused on alternatives to incarceration and reducing racial disparities in the juvenile justice system. In the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, I spearheaded a study to address gun violence, which led to the "zone strategy" that helped dramatically reduce homicides. And as a Police Commissioner, I fought for modern upgrades such as CompStat. I am the founding Executive Director of the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice, where I developed criminal justice reforms and best practices from around the country.

As your District Attorney I will focus on building strong partnerships between law enforcement and the community. I've earned the endorsement of over 1,900 supporters, including Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, six of the seven San Francisco School Board members, the California Police Chiefs Association, United Educators of San Francisco and over two dozen current and former members of the San Francisco Police Department.

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.

I have been heavily involved in electing Democrats at the local, state and national level throughout my adult life. In 2006 I was a strong supporter of Phil Angelides for Governor, hosting a fundraiser at my house. In 2008, I was an early and strong supporter of Barack Obama for President. In 2010, I hosted fundraisers for both Kamala Harris for Attorney General and Gavin Newsom for Lt. Governor. I have repeatedly supported the campaigns Assemblymember Tom Ammiano and Senator Mark Leno. I have supported numerous Democratic candidates at the local level.

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

My first priority will be building partnerships between law enforcement and the community, because the data shows that's what makes us safer. Simply put, a collaborative approach that builds trust will have a huge payoff in reduced crime in our communities, reduced corrections costs and reduced recidivism.

Second, I will focus on keeping kids out of the criminal justice system by reforming our juvenile justice system. I will implement a restorative justice program for juveniles that will hold offenders accountable while meeting the needs of victims. I will make the juvenile unit a full division in the DA's office and revamp the recruitment and training of juvenile DAs.

Third, I will bring data-driven upgrades and an innovative approach to the District Attorney's Office. We brought American policing into the 21st Century by focusing on data-driven methods that reduced crime. As a Police Commissioner, I fought for modern upgrades such as CompStat, a management and accountability tool that gives police better data to prevent crime. I also spearheaded a study to address gun violence, which led to the "zone strategy" that helped dramatically reduce homicides and earned the Department of Justice's prestigious Project Safe Neighborhoods Achievement Award. But results-oriented strategies have not yet been broadly adopted in perhaps the most important arm of law enforcement – prosecution. Continuing this kind of modernization in the DA's office will help make San Francisco the safest and fairest city in America.

#### 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.

I believe in transparency and accountability, and that self-serving crimes by public officials should be aggressively investigated and prosecuted. The Public Integrity Unit of the District Attorney's office should play a greater role in rooting out public corruption at all levels.

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

The District Attorney's office must conduct independent and transparent investigations of alleged police misconduct. I have extensive experience with police misconduct cases from serving on the Police Commission, the civilian oversight body of the Police Department.

The current allegations of police misconduct threaten to do real damage to law enforcement's relationship with the community, and pose challenges to the DA's ability to deliver justice. To date, nearly 120 cases have been dropped due to allegations of police misconduct – some involving serious weapons charges. Almost all of these alleged incidents of police misconduct occurred while interim DA Gascón served as Police Chief, putting him in the untenable position of investigating the police he was commanding. His clear conflict of interest requires that he recuse himself as a matter of policy from investigating police misconduct cases of officers who served under his command – but he has so far declined to do so.

As District Attorney, I would begin to rebuild the public's trust by issuing a detailed report in every officer-involved shooting case, which details the facts, the law, and reason for the decision. By contrast, the current DA's office refused to release information on officer-involved shootings in response to a public records request. Building trust with the community is the key to improving public safety.

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

Effective Rent Control is vital to protecting San Franciscans and preserving a diverse city. I will work with the entire community to make sure our existing laws are vigorously enforced and will be a strong advocate on both the state and local level to make sure our

laws are fair and effective.

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.) I support Lennar's Bayview-Hunter's Point Development project's vision to rebuild a community that has suffered decades of neglect. I believe that creating opportunities for new recreation, education, and cultural activities can have a dramatic impact on the general safety and welfare of a community. It is critical that such development projects provide a platform for the community to voice its concerns, particularly related to how the project can provide greater job opportunities for its members and regarding environmental concerns.

b.) I support the Treasure Island Development. Creating both affordable housing and high wage jobs are a vital part of any public safety strategy. While I agree with the Board, which voted 11-0 to reject the EIR, we must remain vigilant in addressing seismic and traffic issues related to the project.

c.) I oppose the Park Merced Development because there is no guarantee that the rights of current tenants will be preserved. Now that it has passed, we need to do everything we can to ensure that the developer lives up to its promises to tenants.

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 support the pension reform measure advanced by the Board of Supervisors. I do not support the Adachi pension reform measure. I feel that this challenge needs to be addressed collaboratively.

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

The DA's office should partner closely with the Rec and Park Department, which can play a crucial role in crime prevention by keeping youth occupied and out of trouble while helping them develop the skills they need to succeed. Every city department needs to be fully mindful of community concerns. I've spent my entire career working to bring often-fractious sides together to solve problems in criminal justice. In the recent debates around Rec and Park issues, I think we need to refocus on this spirit of community collaboration to address issues before they become flashpoints.