

## DCCC Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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### INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete this questionnaire and bring 45 copies with you to be distributed just prior to your interview appointment on Saturday, August 13th, 2011.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Please send electronic copies in Microsoft Word or PDF format to Emily Lowe, [Elowe@sfdemocrats.org](mailto:Elowe@sfdemocrats.org) by **5:00 PM on Monday, August 8th, 2011**.

**With the possible exception of a Democratic candidate filing to run after the questionnaire due date, only candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.**

At the time of the interview, you may also provide 45 copies of up to 4 pages of information attached to your questionnaire for distribution to SFDCCC members (materials are not to be passed out during the meeting).

If you have not heard from the committee by August 12th, please contact Emily Lowe at [Elowe@sfdemocrats.org](mailto:Elowe@sfdemocrats.org) to schedule a specific time slot at the Endorsement Interview Meeting on August 13th, 2011.

While it may seem that some of these questions do not apply to the office you are seeking, they represent Democratic Party Platform principles and since many people run for higher office where they will be called upon to answer these questions, we would like them addressed.

We will distribute the questionnaires at the event and post them on the DCCC website for the public to view.

## **DCCC Candidate Questionnaire**

### **GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

**1. Please confirm that you are a registered Democrat.**

Yes

**2. When did you first register as a Democrat?**

1982

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

Barack Obama, John Kerry/John Edwards.

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

I will raise money and campaign for Barack Obama, and use my networks to support him as a candidate, register voters, and turn out the vote. I will work to hold any Democratic candidate accountable for progressive politics.

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

Yes. Mark Sanchez in 2000, 2004. Sarah Lipson in 2002. Matt Gonzalez in 2003. Jane Kim in 2004, 2006.

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

Since moving to San Francisco in 1989, I have dedicated myself to helping my fellow San Franciscans improve their lives and transform their communities. I have worked as a counselor at both the San Francisco Conservation Corps and the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club, and as a community organizer with Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, and as an organizer with the justice for Janitors Campaign of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1877. In 2005 I began work in City Hall as a legislative aid to Supervisor Chris Daly, helping to craft the City's budget as lead staff on the Budget and Finance Committee, expanding funding for affordable housing, childcare, health and mental services, park restorations, and senior programs.

In 2008 I was elected to the Board of Supervisors to represent District 11; in my first two years I served as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, leading the City's efforts to close a one billion dollar shortfall while preserving City jobs and services, preserving essential senior and children services and saving vital health programs. As Supervisor I championed a historic local hiring legislation, which provides thousands of employment opportunities for San Franciscans on city-funded construction projects. I've also passed protections for tenants in foreclosed properties and need-based rental assistance to low-income families at risk of becoming homeless. My recent Real-Estate Transfer Tax on high-end commercial buildings has brought in over \$50 million in new revenue this year alone, and without which the City's budget would not have been balanced.

**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.**

In 2005, I worked with Alliance for a Better California to defeat Arnold Schwarzenegger's ballot measures to redistrict California and limit the rights of union, as well as phone banked, walked precincts and door-knocked to educate voters in District 11 in the aim of defeating the measures. I campaigned for Phil Angelides for Governor in 2006, and in 2008 I worked to turn out the vote for Barack Obama in my district as I campaigned for Supervisor. I helped to raise money for the Democratic slate card in 2008 and 2010, and most recently, I have made financial donations to the National Democratic Party for congressional races.

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

The preservation of affordable housing and rent-controlled housing for low-income families, the creation and support of jobs within our local economies, and rooting out entrenched special interests in our government while also preserving our City's safety net, despite the deficit.

**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. What, if any, changes would you make to San Francisco's rent control and condo conversion laws?**

I am very concerned about losing rent-controlled units, as well as when property owners convert rental housing to vacation rentals and timeshares, and will work on compliance penalties and disincentives to put a stop to these conversions. I would want to strengthen rent control, as well as preserve rent-controlled housing from demolition and conversion. Any changes to the condo lottery system would require a compromise with TICs. In 2012, I plan on introducing the Sustainable Communities Affordable Housing Bond, which, among other things, will include an acquisition and rehabilitation fund that allows organizations to buy existing multi-family buildings and transform them into permanent affordable rental housing.

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

My work in spearheading the local hiring legislation for construction is emblematic of my commitment to guaranteeing the City makes good on its promise to many of our communities to provide real job opportunities; in the last decade, development that was promoted under the banner of providing jobs, such as Bayview, has ultimately driven out many working people and families. My local hiring legislation is a token of my efforts to ensure the City follows through on that pledge without displacing whole communities, or razing over a thousand units of rent-controlled housing, as is the case with Parkmerced. I supported the development on Treasure Island, but as Mayor I will make absolutely certain that the project sponsors honor their agreements of affordability with the City, and that the development include sustainable measures.

**C. 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 pension reform, and was an early co-sponsor of the measure that was recently placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors, because I believe that any solution to our City's General Fund having to pay more for our pension costs (since the investment market crashed in 2008), must be achieved in close consultation with organized labor. Pension reform should be fair and not penalize low-income workers; any fixes to the pension system must be accompanied by measures to ensure accountability with the corporations and financial institutions that created the current real estate crisis and economic recession. Any move to require working families to help cover the costs must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that large corporations based in San Francisco also pay their fair share and make amends.

**D. What, if any, changes would you make to the management and priorities of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department?**

I am an ardent supporter of public recreation and our public parks system, and believe that one of the most important functions of government is to provide general support to

our public institutions like parks and recreation. As Budget Chair, one of my top priorities was to protect the Recreation and Parks Department from draconian General Fund cuts while making targeted appropriations for increased open space and recreational opportunities. We prevented immediate layoffs of the City's Rec directors, funded workcreation jobs for young people, and added community gardens, new rec facilities, and playgrounds. One of my most recent efforts was to use revenue from my Real-estate Transfer Tax to attempt to repeal the visitor fee for Golden Gate Park's Botanical Gardens. I am currently crafting legislation to close the Sharp Park Golf Course, to protect the endangered species and improve public recreation at Sharp Park. As Mayor I would continue this philosophy, and make greater outreach and education to families about discounts on fees a priority of the Recreation and Parks Department.

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