

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 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 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, I am a registered Democrat.

2. When did you first register as a Democrat?

Since my college days, I have been a Democrat.

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

I supported and voted for Barack Obama in 2008. I supported and voted for John Kerry in 2004.

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

I will do everything in my power to re-elect our Democratic President next year, from mobilizing my national network of friends and colleagues to rallying volunteers here in San Francisco to make calls and travel around the country to swing states. I also want to continue to our work in San Francisco to show that Democrats can manage a functional government and deliver on promises to voters.

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

With the exception of endorsing Supervisors Jane Kim and Ross Mirkarimi when they were formerly members of the Green Party, I have not supported non-Democrats.

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

It's no secret that San Francisco is facing serious challenges, but I think that we're headed in the right direction. To keep moving forward, our next Mayor will have to focus on building bridges, seeking common ground, and looking to solve problems rather than score political points.

I'm qualified to be Mayor because I have proven that I am that kind of leader. In my time as President of the Board of Supervisors, we have gotten things done: whether it be balancing significant budget deficits, crafting legislation to keep jobs in San Francisco, or negotiating the creation of tens of thousands of new housing units. My record of fighting for San Franciscans and is unique among the candidates, and I look forward to sharing it with San Franciscans during the course of our campaign.

What also sets me apart are my experiences outside of public office. I have experience as a founder of a business here. I've worked as a civil rights attorney and a criminal prosecutor here. And I've volunteered as a leader of my neighborhood association and chair of an affordable housing organization here. All these experiences have given me perspectives on the challenges

that everyday San Franciscans face - perspectives that I would bring to the Mayor's Office.

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 recent years, in San Francisco, I served as Vice President of the District 3 Democratic Club, as chair of the 13th Assembly District Democratic Committee, and as an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. At the state level, I served as an officer of the Asian Caucus of the California Democratic Party. In the mid-1990s, I served as Democratic Counsel to the U.S. Senate Constitution Subcommittee.

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

First and foremost, we must build our economy and create jobs for our residents. It has been a top priority as President of the Board of Supervisors and will continue to be so as Mayor. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, I have spoken to hundreds of workers struggling to hang on - unsure of where their next paycheck will come from, or if it will come at all.

I want to protect the jobs of today while making sure the jobs of tomorrow are created right here in San Francisco. I am proud to have helped to bring billions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs to the city through the America's Cup and development projects like the Hunter's Point Shipyard and Treasure Island, and to have supported several pieces of legislation to ensure that more of our city's business goes to local firms with local workers.

San Francisco can't continue to become a bedroom community for Silicon Valley; we need to compete for the next big online, biotech, and green technology companies - and the jobs that come with them - by fostering innovation right here in our city. That's why I helped to champion legislation to incent companies like Twitter to help revitalize the Mid-Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods, and to support legislation to ensure that start-ups aren't leaving San Francisco just as they are about to expand their workforces.

Second, we must make sure that city government is working smarter and better for the people it serves. Too often these days, I am hearing from San Franciscans who aren't sure if they have a place in our city anymore. Tenants fighting evictions. Homeowners fighting foreclosures.

Families who have no choice but to move because they don't have access to quality schools.

Young people who want to settle in San Francisco, but can't find a job or to make ends meet.

Whether it is day laborers from the Mission, African-American families leaving San Francisco, Chinese seniors in public housing, or families living on the west side, if we're going to succeed as a city, we must make sure that government is truly on their side.

In my time as a Supervisor, I haven't just talked about getting things done; I've actually delivered results. As Board President and as a member of the Budget Committee, I have been at the center of helping to balance the last three major budget deficits - with budgets that ensure that our city lives within its means but protects vital services for its residents. I also championed landmark budget reform legislation to ensure that we're focused on long-term fiscal trends, and

passed ethics legislation to ensure transparency in lobbying. Going forward, we must commit to community-based budgeting, community-based planning, and community-based policing, led by a Mayor who can work hand-in-hand with people of every background and from every neighborhood and make city government a partner in progress.

Third, we must ensure that San Francisco offers its young people a world class education. While the Mayor does not directly manage the SF Unified School District, City College or SF State, I believe that our next Mayor must use the bully pulpit to prioritize taking care of our students.

We must fight for funding for our schools and teachers, and think creatively about how to share city resources with our school systems. San Francisco cannot continue to lose families because our schools struggle, and we have to educate our next-generation workforce. I am committed to working with the SF Board of Education and the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees to build the strongest public education system in the state.

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, I have always and will continue to support the constitutional right to choose.

3. Do you support Affirmative Action?

Yes, particularly if one looks at the low percentage of women and minorities in top leadership positions in government and in the private sector. For my entire career, I have been a champion of affirmative action, and was the point person on this issue as Democratic Counsel to the Senate Constitution Subcommittee.

4. Do you support same gender marriage?

Yes, and was proud to be a founding member of API Equality, which has fought for marriage equality within the Asian Pacific Islander community, as well as president of the first Asian American bar association in the country to support marriage equality.

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, I have consistently voted against contracting out work currently performed by public employees in every proposed budget since I was elected to the Board of Supervisors. As Mayor, I will look first to the bargaining table rather than contracting out to balance budget deficits. I would only consider shifting work to private contractors when such a shift would not result in

public employee layoffs and when such a shift would prevent more sweeping privatization proposals. I would consider supporting changes to the current Prop J process to be sure that the real costs of privatization are fully disclosed; comparisons should include the quality of service as well as cost.

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. I believe strongly in community policing, and will make it a cornerstone of our City's public safety strategy as Mayor. That means promoting formal and informal mechanisms for residents to collaborate with the police department, and supporting beat patrol officers to build effective relationships.

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, as a former immigrant rights' attorney and the son of immigrants, I believe in comprehensive immigration reform that deliver on our promise to be a real place of opportunity for people who have come to the United States from around the world seeking, and working hard for, a better life.

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. Supportive housing with a continuum of care services is one of the most important things we can do to address homelessness, as well as to care for seniors and other communities in need of care. I'm proud to have amended the Planning Code to incent the construction of senior housing, as well as to sponsor the creation of supportive housing for formerly homeless veterans.

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, and I am proud to have served on the board of Partners Ending Domestic Abuse.

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?

As a tenant and the former board chair of an organization that creates affordable housing and advocates for tenants, I am a supporter of rent control. To me, the fight for affordable housing is the fight to give working families from low and middle income backgrounds a real choice to make San Francisco their home. Protecting rent controlled units is a critical part of a larger strategy to retain truly affordable housing for communities across our city.

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?

I supported the Bayview-Hunter's Point Shipyard and Treasure Island developments and the rebuild of Parkmerced because they represent the right kind of growth for our City. While the specifics of the projects differ, the thousands of new housing units, many of them affordable, that will be created - and the infrastructure that goes with them - will generate thousand of much-needed jobs across the economic spectrum.

The Bayview-Hunter's Point Shipyard and Treasure Island projects will create almost entirely new neighborhoods in our City. Both projects enjoy tremendous support from surrounding communities and stakeholders from labor unions to homeless service providers.

I supported the Parkmerced project because I believe it is the right path forward for the resident tenants and the surrounding neighborhood. The design for the project emphasizes environmental sustainability and includes \$500 million in public benefits. The changes that I made to the Development Agreement provide increased support and protections for tenants. Tenants will now receive a lifetime lease when they move into their new rent-controlled unit. The phasing of the project was made better for tenants by reserving several blocks of town homes where many longtime tenants can live until the last phase of construction, still decades away. Tenants will be further compensated for any moving costs or losses due to the construction. While there has been some questions about the enforceability of the Agreement, I strongly believe that the Agreement protects the rent control rights of the Parkmerced tenants.

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 the comprehensive pension reform measure recently placed on the November 2011 ballot by the Board of Supervisors. As you know, over the past decade, San Francisco has experienced significant structural budget deficits due to short-term budget planning. To address these long-term fiscal challenges, in 2009, I was proud to successfully champion budget reform and long-term budget planning, as embodied in Proposition A. Prop A now requires a two-year balanced budget requirement, five-year financial forecasting, and the savings of future, unexpected revenue surpluses to be saved until the next recession.

Based on Prop A, San Francisco's first 5-year financial plan released this year shows that revenue growth will be vastly outpaced by increasing costs, driven largely by growth in retiree pension and health care liabilities. This course is simply not sustainable, which is why I partnered with Mayor Lee and labor leaders to develop the consensus measure that will be put to voters this fall. This measure will save the City between \$800 million and \$1 billion over the next ten years – all while preserving a dignified retirement for our workforce. Passage of this measure is one of the biggest steps we can take towards remedying our long-term budget problems, and I will be actively supporting and campaigning for it through the fall.

I do not support Jeff Adachi's "Son of B," and campaigned vigorously against Prop B last November. Our Public Defender's go-it-alone approach is exactly the wrong way to pursue pension reform.

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

I believe that we should take a balanced approach to funding the Recreation and Parks Department. When the collapse of the economy in 2008 led to dramatic drops in general fund revenues for Rec & Parks, I have supported some of the department's efforts to increase efficiency and raise revenues in appropriate contexts. But since parks are important public goods that our general tax base should support, the General Fund should have a significant role in financing much of the Rec & Parks' budget. I would not direct our city parks and recreational services to entirely pay for themselves since this would likely lead to wide-ranging privatization that will not best serve the people of San Francisco in the long run.

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