

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

2. When did you first register as a Democrat?

1973 — been a Democrat ever since

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

2008- Obama

2004 – Kerry

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

I believe I was the first California LGBT elected to endorse Obama for President. I helped recruit volunteers to work in key states. I will help fundraise for the large LGBT event in California.

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

Jane Kim School Board 2006. She became a Democrat.

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

I have more than 18 years of public service to the City of San Francisco, including five years as the City's Director of Neighborhood Services and eight years on the Board of Supervisors.

I grew up near Harlem, raised by my mother, Maely, an escapee of Nazi Germany, and surrounded by many all-time jazz greats, including my godmother, Billie Holiday. I moved to the Bay Area at age 16, attending Menlo-Atherton High School and UC Berkeley, where I was student body co-president. After college, I moved to Washington, DC, where I worked as a policy aide for legendary Representatives Shirley Chisholm of New York and Julian Dixon of Los Angeles.

In 1993, I returned to the Bay Area and began working for former Supervisor Susan Leal and as an aide to Mayor Willie Brown, heading the Office of Neighborhood Services. In 2002, I was elected to represent District 8 on the Board of Supervisors, the same seat once held by Harvey Milk. I was re-elected in 2006 with 69% of the vote, receiving the most votes of any supervisor.

I get the big picture – by taking care of basic problems, our next Mayor can make a real difference in people’s lives. That’s why I’ll focus on things like working with parents on schools and improving city services like Muni and street cleaning.

I live in the Lower Haight with my almost 5-year-old, Sidney Goldfader-Dufty, who begins public school on Monday, August 15th.

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.

Supported Obama for America, participating in primary events and securing volunteers for GOTV in November. Co-organized fundraiser for Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ). Supported/Attended LGBT event for Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA).

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

- Creating the schools for the families of today and the workers of tomorrow

When I talk to people around San Francisco, their primary concerns are jobs and the future of our city’s economy. To me, the future of our economy is linked with our ability to improve our public school system. My child starts public school next week- I will be the nation’s most active Mayor collaborating for great public education. I will continue my work connecting private sector resources to our schools so that our youth can excel in the high-tech and science corridors of our economy. I will tap into our excellent brain trust of business and labor leaders who have a stake in our city’s future, and engage them in the development of programs like the vocational training at John O’Connell High School, the Athletic Scholar Advance Program at Mission High School, and the Biotechnology Academy at Lincoln High School.

- Managing Muni

Muni requires a Mayor's daily attention and dedication as well as long-term vision. I will be a Mayor standing at the bus and rail divisions, talking with Operators as well as regular riders, and insisting that we not just be a transit first city in words but in deeds. I ride Muni every day, and have dedicated a large part of my working life to transportation policy at the federal level in Los Angeles and San Francisco. I am excited to lead our City toward High Speed Rail, the Central Subway, Transbay Terminal, and increased transit-oriented housing and commercial development. My record speaks for itself. I successfully pushed hard to get Muni to build a new central control facility next to their headquarters. I launched the Transit Effectiveness Project after a Controller audit for the J Church line revealed significant structural defects in the system as a whole. As Mayor I will implement trip time reduction measures outlined within TEP and make sure that Rapid Bus service is a priority along these corridors. These larger policy goals must be supported with a strong commitment to basic maintenance of our fleet.

- Addressing homelessness

I strongly supported Care Not Cash and Mayor Newsom's Housing First approach that dramatically expanded supportive housing. But the public can see there is work left to do. There are individuals on our streets who either refuse service, are too debilitated by multiple conditions or are falling through the cracks. This has eroded public faith that our City can effectively address homelessness.

I'm proud of my work in this area:

- Establishing the Castro Young Adult Housing Collaborative for 26 homeless youth;
- Funding neighborhood-based homeless outreach/case management teams;
- Establishing case managers at the Main Library; and
- Securing Board approval for the highly successful Community Justice Center.

My approach as Mayor will focus on prevention for our transitional youth, developing Wet Housing for the most chronically homeless and restructuring our courts' approach to habitual offenders.

Transitional Youth

San Francisco has 80,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 24. This has become an increasingly difficult time of life. In order to prevent future homelessness, we must bring our most disengaged youth back into the education system, continue to improve our juvenile justice system and focus our employment programs on the youth facing the greatest barriers. As Mayor I will prioritize services for these young people, especially the 10% who are at highest risk of unemployment, homelessness, or involvement in the criminal justice system.

In 2005, I partnered with Larkin Street, LYRIC, LGBT Center, Dimensions Health Clinic and New Leaf to initiate the Castro Youth Housing Initiative. Using a residential hotel at 15th/Sanchez we are providing up to 26 young adults with housing and supportive services. This initiative was created with the strong support of local merchants and neighborhood groups, and their collaboration with service providers has made this a model program I will replicate in other areas of the City.

Wet Housing

Despite the success of Care Not Cash, we continue to see the same individuals on our streets every day. In San Francisco we spend \$13.5m annually on the top 225 chronic public inebriates, involving shelter, emergency room, jail and paramedic costs. I believe we can contain these costs and decrease the number of people living on our streets by implementing pre-treatment or "Wet Housing".

Wet Housing is a harm-reduction housing model where residents have access to alcohol and medical services. This approach has been successful in New York City and Seattle—Seattle saved \$4 million in the first year after opening 75 units, and the housing has kept people out of emergency rooms and jails, and off the streets.

Restructuring Our Courts

The SFPD continues to struggle with habitual offenders — the chronically homeless who urinate in public, create encampments in our parks and sleep in our doorsteps. I commissioned the Controller to study our infraction system — there are about 13,000 infractions issued by SFPD, and about 25% are clients represented by pro bono attorneys with the Coalition on Homeless. These infractions have no effect and are costing millions of dollars.

I believe that this is an area ready for major reform and restructuring. I championed the Community Justice Center (CJC) that has been a tremendous success addressing habitual narcotics and other offenders in the Civic Center/SOMA/Downtown areas. I am committed to DA Gascon's approach of Neighborhood Courts to ensure accountability for low-level offenders to seek help or provide community service.

We can work together to improve the outcomes for homeless individuals seeking services — but we must also keep faith with the taxpayers who are entitled to approaches that are fiscally responsible and effective. I am eager to meet this challenge and restore faith, fairness and efficiency.

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 support rent control, but have been reluctant when new proposals seek to over regulate and results in more housing units being pulled off-market. My goal as Mayor will be to find common ground and consensus between landlords and tenants. Property owners need renters and vice versa. As Supervisor, I did not support use of the Ellis Act and I supported amendments that severely restricted the ability to convert units that had been Ellis-ed from condo converting. However, I feel there are large numbers of individuals stuck in the condo lottery, such as me, who have not done anything bad in creating a TIC -- in these instances I support raising the cap for condo conversions and believe we can increase revenues for the City by increasing conversions of TICs.

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 all of these projects. The recently approved Treasure Island plan will create a mini-city with 19,000 residents, schools, retail and a ferry building. The development is planned around transit with a mix of ferries, bus, on-island shuttles. This development will generate 2,000 construction jobs per year, with about 3,000 permanent jobs. Parkmerced is projected to create 1,600 permanent on-site jobs and 550 indirect and induced permanent jobs and 35,000 construction-related jobs for the duration. After completion, the development will bring a positive annual economic impact of \$310 million per year.

This is exactly the type of development we need to keep families in San Francisco, and to keep our economy strong.

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 negotiated pension reform measure placed on the ballot by the Board. It is imperative to bring down costs, and I believe the inclusion of sensible health care reforms will continue to reap savings. Preventative health measures work- and healthier public employees means better City services for all San Franciscans.

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

Recreation and Parks continues to struggle with difficult budget decisions which have promoted a shift to the current revenue focus. I do not believe this is a wise long-term direction for our City and for a healthy park system. I opposed the Conservatory fee, and advised that Blue Bottle pull out of Dolores Park. Preserving civil service positions ensures greater quality control in the services provided to the public. I have consistently opposed contracting out.

During my over 18 years of City services as Supervisor and Director of Neighborhood Services, I've listened to neighbors' and merchants concerns, then brought my colleagues from City government into a team to address these problems and make San Francisco better. As Mayor, I will continue my successful track record to find solutions that don't involve privatization.

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

