

DCCC Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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INSTRUCTIONS:

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 in the 2008 General Election, Hilary Clinton in the 2008 Primary, and John Kerry in the 2004 General and Primary.

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

I have helped register Democratic voters and raise money for the Democratic Party both here in San Francisco and throughout the country. I plan to continue as an aggressive supporter of President Obama's reelection campaign, by both raising money and awareness among San Franciscans. I will support San Francisco Democratic Party in any way needed in their efforts to reelect President Obama.

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

I endorsed Judge Richard Ulmer for re-election last year and he was registered as a declined-to-state at the time. I supported him as an incumbent judge based on his work on the bench, though I have the utmost respect for Michael Nava and said as much publicly during the campaign.

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

For nearly a decade, I've used the power of the City Attorney's office to protect our unique quality of life by taking on those who threaten it – from polluters to corrupt public officials, from gangs to greedy insurance companies.

I've done the heavy lifting behind the scenes. I've pushed forward projects to create thousands of jobs, and resolved multi-million dollar disputes. I've negotiated tough agreements, and drove hard bargains to maximize the public benefits to San Franciscans.

I've defended our local government from fraud and corruption. I ended years of corrupt business practices by City Tow, and secured a corrupt Supervisor's ouster from the Board because of his fraudulent residency claims.

I've protected our neighborhoods from crime. I secured civil gang injunctions even amidst political controversy to make traditionally neglected neighborhoods safer. And I worked with nightlife industry leaders to keep club goers and neighbors safe from violent operators.

I've done more than anyone in the race for mayor to take on powerful interests — and even other governments — to protect San Franciscans. I filed the first government lawsuit in history for marriage equality, and won a landmark LGBT rights ruling. And I negotiated Mirant's shutdown of its filthy Potrero Power Plant.

Leading an award-winning law office for nine-and-a-half years has given me an opportunity unique in this race to prove my mettle for executive leadership. From negotiating the shutdown of the dirty Potrero power plant to creating hundreds of units of affordable housing in a groundbreaking deal with Trinity Place, I've demonstrated my ability to take on the toughest adversaries and still work cooperatively to solve problems.

I know local government — run honestly, and well — can win the trust of the people it serves. And I know San Francisco can aspire to solutions as big as its problems. That's the leadership I've demonstrated. And that's why I'm running for Mayor of San Francisco.

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 moved to San Francisco in 1988 and immediately became involved in the local Democratic Party. I joined Democratic clubs and helped to get local candidates elected in the city. I then was asked to serve on the Finance Committee for the California Democratic Party. Since then, I've kept up my commitment to the Democratic Party by raising money for the party, supporting Democratic candidates locally and nationally, and helping to grow the Democratic Party.

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

The three biggest challenges currently facing San Francisco are also inextricably linked with one another. First, we must advance an aggressive strategy for economic growth and job creation in the city. There is simply no question that accelerating the

pace of our economic recovery must be the next Mayor's top priority. Second, we must restore citizens' confidence in local government to fix problems. This means getting a handle on our runaway budget, increasing transparency at City Hall and demanding higher standards for the delivery of city services. Third, we must detach ourselves from the narrow interests and silly debates that have come to dominate our politics, and begin an honest conversation about the future of our city. Our success in meeting each of these challenges depends on our ability to form an intelligent, comprehensive approach to all three.

I am the only candidate to have released a detailed jobs plan to spur the city's economic recovery, (available on my website). Under my leadership, the City Attorney's office has earned a national reputation for its effectiveness and professionalism, and I will bring the same standards to City Hall as Mayor.

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 would fight to protect tenants in rent-controlled apartments and push for the creation of more affordable housing. I will push for more than the statutory minimum for inclusionary housing when it's proven that such requirements wouldn't stop or stall the project. I also believe there is significant potential promise in a relatively new form of inclusionary housing in San Francisco: negotiated rent control provisions, like the City's groundbreaking agreement for Trinity Place. I played a hands-on role in negotiating that agreement, which created hundreds of newly constructed rent controlled apartments in San Francisco for the first time in a generation. To expand affordable housing moving forward, I think that model holds great potential for how we can aspire to create more rent controlled and affordable rental housing. The Trinity project is helping meet our demand for transit centered, high-density residential rental units, while maintaining a percentage of below market rate (or BMR) apartments for low-income residents. It has also protected tenants displaced from their former units.

Our next mayor may well be in office for San Francisco's 40th year with rent control, with very few options left to expand those protections beyond what they were in 1979. But the Trinity model is one promising option, and we've already seen it emerge as an affordable housing strategy for the Parkmerced project. My office has been hard at work from the moment the idea was first proposed to make sure we have the strongest possible contractual provisions and legal strategies in place to protect affordable housing and withstand legal challenges for newly constructed rent controlled units moving forward.

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 defended the legality of the Bayview-Hunter's Point Development and continue to support the lawful clean up of underused parcels of the Shipyard, while making sure that the environmental and development efforts are not at the expense of the surrounding community.

I support the Treasure Island Plan enacted by the Board of Supervisors, and I think the unanimous vote of support it received proves that there is a right way to pursue major redevelopment projects that invest the time and effort up-front to win consensus.

While I support the Parkmerced project conceptually, I think it presents a stark contrast to Treasure Island in terms of its process, and it exemplifies the wrong way to pursue a major redevelopment project. Parkmerced's development process should have been more inclusive from the beginning, and I think concerns of existing tenants should have been better addressed. Given the scale of the project and tenant displacement, I would have insisted from the start that developers to a better job of forging consensus.

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 am voting for the negotiated, consensus pension reform measure and voting against Adachi's measure. I believe demagoguery by the likes of Scott Walker and other public officials has created the false impression that public employee pensions are the cause of all government's problems. While our pension system is in need of some adjustment, this can be accomplished in cooperation with the labor movement and without gutting the critical safety net that public employees (many of whom sacrificed higher pay in the private sector in reliance on their pension benefits) count on to support them and their families.

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

Public parks aren't amusement parks. They're a public resource that should be funded primarily with public dollars. Certainly, most public parks in major cities allow for some privately run concessions, and reasonable fees to operate or lease certain park facilities. In limited circumstances, that's expected. But I strongly oppose pursuing an economically self-sustaining model for our system of city parks and recreational facilities. That may have been a necessary model for the unique circumstances of the National Park Service and the Presidio of San Francisco. But it is a terrible model for our local parks in the City and County of San Francisco.

As Mayor, I will work with the Recreation and Parks Department to ensure that we have a public parks system that's a publicly funded, public resource for all. That's what a City that works can do.

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