

## 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?

1987, when I turned 18.

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

I voted for John Kerry in 2004 and Barack Obama in 2008 and I will continue to support President Obama.

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

I voted for President Obama in 2008 and plan to in 2012.

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

James Fang for BART Board President  
Ross Mirkarimi for Supervisor  
John Rizzo for Community College Board

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

I was appointed and later elected in 2005 as San Francisco's Assessor-Recorder and re-elected in 2010, becoming San Francisco's highest-ranking Chinese-American official at the time. In my capacity, I helped generate over \$290 million in new revenue for San Francisco by making sure everyone pays their fair share in property taxes.

In July 2008, I launched **GoSolarSF**, San Francisco's first municipal solar energy incentive program. And I also chaired the **San Francisco Advisory Board for ChinaSF**, a public-private partnership dedicated to creating economic development opportunities by making San Francisco the gateway for Chinese companies looking to establish business operations in the Bay Area.

I also have a long history of civil rights advocacy – I was the Executive Director of the Asian Law Caucus, an organization founded in 1972 to advance and promote the legal and civil rights of the Asian-Pacific Islander community. I was also the

president of the Bay Area Assessors Association, serving on numerous boards including Equality California Institute and the Center for Third World Organizing.

I spearheaded efforts to help homeowners and tenants facing foreclosure, including launching an education and outreach program called **Don't Borrow Trouble**, and introduced groundbreaking **Real Estate Watchdog** legislation, which is aimed at capturing unreported changes of ownership – and in 2008, we raised \$1.34 million in additional revenue.

And I continue the fight to close the corporate loophole in Proposition 13. Through my organization called Close the Loophole, we're building a grassroots coalition across the state in support of a split-roll property tax. By closing the state's property tax loophole, California can raise an additional \$7.5 billion in revenue.

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 actively supported and volunteered for numerous Democratic Party candidates over the last four years.

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

1. Creating jobs
2. Making public transportation, especially Muni, more reliable and efficient
3. Making government more effective and responsive

Our economy needs to be stronger – there is no singularly more important quality of life concern than unemployment. Economic growth starts with removing senseless barriers to job creation, and frequently that growth calls for government-led investments, like broadband infrastructure and Universal Internet Access, to unleash the power of the web 2.0 economy in every neighborhood. That's why I have proposed universal access in San Francisco and that's why I am running my campaign for mayor on a core platform of dramatically improving the efficiency of government through a series of Gov 2.0 reforms.

With over 92% of Bay Area residents living near a transit stop, it can be understood that our economy and our overall quality of life rest in creating a safe, fast, and reliable transit system to make San Francisco easily navigable without a car. That means implementing Muni reforms now – not ten years from now. That means creating a comprehensive transportation plan that addresses a transit system as well as acknowledging the need for walkable and bikable streets.

To improve city government, we all have to get more engaged and hold all

politicians accountable (including me) for actions taken, or not taken. We need tools to get involved. We need to have facts and information. And we need a stronger sense of community – both online and offline. This need for an informed community is why I launched [www.ResetSanFrancisco.org](http://www.ResetSanFrancisco.org). At Reset, we, and many of you, are working to create the tools to help all of us stay engaged to drive our government to be better – not just after Election Day, but right now too.

**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, I am an advocate of community members taking an active role in the

safety of their communities, but given my support, I am also mindful that we need to ensure this collaboration does not come at the expense of maintaining the integrity of the current justice process.

**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, absolutely.

**9. Do you support and encourage increased and expedited processing of applications for citizenship, family reunification and naturalization?**

Yes. I think we should all remember that Angel Island is an integral part of our city's heritage, and the immigrants who came through there helped to shape the San Francisco we have come to know and love today. We should work to make sure our city remains as open and welcoming as it was from the start.

**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, affordable housing helps to ensure that the opportunity to live in our city is open to socially and economically diverse groups. I supported the last two affordable housing bonds and will fight for affordable housing when I am mayor.

Programs, like Care Not Cash, are important for transitioning the homeless population off the street. Last June, when the Board of Supervisors supported a ballot measure to dismantle this successful program, my campaign to Reset San Francisco launched an online petition to protect Care Not Cash. I personally visited homeless shelters, outreached to the community and wrote a series of blogs urging San Franciscans to support Care Not Cash. And through our hard work – and the hard work of other fellow San Franciscans, two supervisors decided not to support the measure and they pulled it from the ballot.

**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, absolutely.

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, including the San Francisco Rent Ordinance. All of our programs can be made better and we should never rest on our laurels. I would consider changes to any program to make them more effective and responsive.

**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 support Lennar and the 2,500 units of affordable housing.

I am in support of Treasure Island development plans. The plan embraces sustainable living, grows our local economy and provides 1,800 units at below-market rates to San Franciscan families.

I am in favor of the overall plan for Park Merced, but I believe more can and should be done to protect the rights of existing 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?**

In light of the budget crisis facing San Francisco, I support Mayor Lee's ballot measure, but not Public Defender Jeff Adachi's measure for city employee pensions, where San Francisco city workers would pay, at most 12.5% and at least 7.5% of their salaries to pensions with police and firefighters paying up to 13.5%.

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

I would work with the department, the commission, stakeholder advocacy groups and park users directly to make sure we are providing comprehensive recreational opportunities in the most responsive manner.