

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?
I registered as a Democrat in 1986.
3. Who did you vote for in the last two Presidential elections? **John Kerry and Barack Obama.**
4. What have you done and what do you plan to do to ensure the election of a Democratic president next year? **As I did in 2008, I will raise money for Barack Obama's re-election. I will also participate in and put resources into local voter registration and turnout drives. When need be, I will be happy to function as a surrogate for the President in the API community and at events, and I will participate in state and regional Asian Democratic efforts to educate and turnout voters.**
5. Have you ever voted for or endorsed a non-Democrat in an election? Who? When?
I have never endorsed a non-Democratic candidate for a non-partisan race.
6. Please provide a brief summary of your *qualifications* for this office. (no more than 250 words)
Before running for office, I worked as an educator and child psychologist in nonprofit and school settings around the Bay Area: first with Chinatown Child Development Center, followed by Oakland Unified School District and other community-based nonprofits. I then served on the San Francisco Board of Education (1988 – 1996) where I successfully championed smaller classrooms, higher quality textbooks, and guided the rebuilding and opening of new Elementary Schools and prevented the closure of schools. I then served on the Board of Supervisors (1996-2002), where I authored the Sunshine Ordinance to allow the public real access to what goes on at City Hall, created the city's first school-based health centers, championed fiscal responsibility and accountability as Finance chair, passed a budget called "one of the best ever for children, youth and families" by Coleman Advocates for Youth, and did so with the biggest Rainy Day budget reserve in city history. I then went to Sacramento to serve in the the California State Assembly (2002-2006), and am now a member of the California State Senate (2006 – present). In Sacramento, I've continued the fight for children, students, mental health services, working families, seniors, education, open government, consumer protection, civil rights, and the environment. During my entire tenure in Sacramento, I have one of the best track records for getting bills passed and signed into law. Since 2003, I've successfully passed 133 pieces of legislation, of which 100 have been signed into law.
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.

Over the past four years, I have been

- **Consistently endorsed Democratic candidates**
- **Promoted Obama in the California primary**
- **Attended conventions in Boston as a delegate for the Democratic Party**
- **Hosted fundraisers for President Obama**

- **Hosted fundraisers for Barbara Boxer and helped her fundraise within the API community, helped her with GOTV weekend**
- **Authored dozens and dozens of pieces of legislation consistent with Democratic principles**
- **Authored SB 9 - juvenile parole is now on the state Democratic Party platform**
- **Supported SFDCCC endorsed candidates and helped them with GOTV**
- **Donated over \$695,000 to the Democratic Party and its organizations statewide and locally since 2001 – and over \$450,000 of that since 2006**

8. If elected, or if currently holding office what are the three top issues you will work to affect?
I will prioritize bringing the budget back in line and keeping working families in San Francisco by improving our public education system and revitalizing our economy and job market.

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 100% and will fight to protect it and oppose any move to make rent control means tested. I support the condo conversion cap of 200 conversions, but I'm sympathetic to the difficulties faced by people who are stuck in TIC arrangements. I am open to a mechanism that lets people get out of TICs, and I don't think we should balance the budget by charging them a huge fee to do it. However, we can't do that without finding a way to preserve the rental stock in San Francisco. As such, I would not currently support a condo by-pass fee that does not include additional compromises with that goal in mind.

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 redevelopment projects because they will generate needed housing and jobs.

I support the BVHP development and have advocated moving forward so residents are able to participate in rebuilding their communities. I had initial reservations about the transfer of public park land to a private developer and the vagueness of the cleanup toxic and nuclear waste plan. As mayor, environmental cleanup will be one of my priorities. The CBA negotiated with labor was a model, and my job as mayor will be to ensure that the benefits are achieved.

I support the Treasure Island Redevelopment project moving forward with 25% affordable housing but hope we can raise that back to 30%. Specifically, I support Ammiano's AB-664, which would restructure waterfront infrastructure financing districts to allow us to finance 30% affordable units. This will create more housing units *and* jobs.

I support the Park Merced development project, but would not have supported the project as passed by the board. I would have negotiated terms differently to reach a plan that residents and tenants supported. Demolishing rent controlled units over objections of the people who live in them is bad housing policy. Not enough time was granted to study the rent control guarantees, and not enough was done to work with residents to ensure their support.

As we move forward with development, we must ensure that the impacts on traffic and housing are understood. I have proven myself independent and will hold developers accountable to ensure these impacts are mitigated.

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 consensus measure, and am 100% opposed to Adachi's measure. Last November's Proposition B unfairly targeted health care benefits and did not differentiate between highly-paid city executives and low-wage workers. I worked closely with the No on B effort helping organize a Chinese-language phone bank to educate voters and walking store-to-store along critical west-side merchant corridors to speak with San Franciscans about the unfair proposal.

As Mayor, I will value labor's contribution to the city, and will not allow public employees to become the scapegoat for all of our budget problems. I understand these are complex

issues with many unforeseen consequences for workers and their families that need to be negotiated, not dictated.

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

The Recreation and Parks Department's focus on revenue generation over the past two budget years is fundamentally out of line with its core mission, increasing access for all to parks, open spaces, and recreational activities. I strongly oppose what seems like a concerted effort to privatize the city's parks and to limit access to only those who can afford it. I have spoken out against charging entrance fees at the Arboretum, and will continue the fight to protect public access to parks as mayor.

I believe that parks are public assets, and that providing universal access to parks and recreational services is a fundamental responsibility of the city. Establishing the precedent that elements of the department must be financially self-sustaining will, in the end, gut non- or low-revenue generating services like recreation programming and park maintenance in favor of revenue-generating uses like concessions and development. The general fund should support the Rec & Park department, and I am committed to finding additional revenue within the GF to fund it.

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