



**Candidate Questionnaire for
San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee
Primary Election, June 7, 2016**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Sunday, April 4th**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to appear at our April 12th endorsement meeting. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Aaron Peskin
Contact person: Lee Hepner
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Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Why are you running for the DCCC and what do you hope to accomplish if elected or re-elected?

The affordability crisis is the primary driver of women, families, low-income and now middle-income residents out of San Francisco. My top priority in office is to increase housing affordability for all of these groups. I plan to do this with reforms at the local level by promoting ballot initiatives like Proposition C - "Affordability Requirements" - which I co-sponsored with Supervisor Jane Kim to raise the percentage of affordable housing from 12% to 25% and to pull that number out of the City's Charter and back into the hands of the Board. I have also requested that the City Attorney explore means of extending rent control to new developments and to allow for the legalization of Accessory Dwelling Units citywide, which could net over 30,000 new affordable units.

I also want to continue working with our state legislators to reform Costa Hawkins. Limiting rent control to units built before that date is simply too arbitrary and unfair to new arrivals to our city. Some form of vacancy control would disincentivize landlords from evicting long-time tenants in order to raise rents to the astronomical levels we are now seeing, and provides

tenants the ability to change residences if they so choose, without fear of an unforgiving and unpredictable housing market. Vacancy control has been implemented to great effect in other cities with affordability issues, and I believe it would work similarly well here in San Francisco, bringing a bit of stability to a housing market that is rapidly spiraling out of control.

Ultimately, I'm seeking a seat on the DCCC to ensure that the local Democratic Party represents the voices of actual democrats in San Francisco, and not merely the corporate and special interests that have an outsized voice in our City's political realm.

2. Please describe your current and past community activism.

I have been a community activist in San Francisco since my arrival decades ago and was a neighborhood leader for a number of organizations, including the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. My successes with those organizations include stopping unbridled development of our historic waterfront and saving our historic Flower Mart.

Over the course of career in public office, I have increased protections for tenants facing eviction and protested against the unlawful conversion of rent controlled housing, which has exacerbated our City's housing crisis. I've led on numerous environmental initiatives, both in and out of office, including passing legislation to protect our playgrounds from toxic materials, preventing the infill of the San Francisco Bay by San Francisco International Airport, and joining lawsuits to reduce air emissions and limit corporate advertisements in public space. I have long advocated for historic preservation, helping to preserve the Colombo Building and, more recently, an historic Frank Lloyd Wright building on San Francisco's Maiden Lane.

I routinely join in solidarity as labor unions demonstrate against unfair contract terms, most recently joining the Teamsters in their demands for labor harmony in private commuter shuttle bus contracts. I've been grateful for the support of progressive labor over the course of my career.

3. Would you support closing the campaign finance loophole that allows candidates running for their party's Central Committee to raise unlimited funds, while other candidates for local elected office are limited to \$500 per donor? Why or why not?

Yes. The Party representatives on the DCCC must distance themselves from corporate and special interests if we are going to restore faith in and reverse the tide flowing out from our local Democratic Party. Only by limiting these special interests can the DCCC once again claim to represent wage earners and working class families. Placing reasonable restrictions on campaign financing for DCCC elections is a critical mechanism for achieving this.

4. Please name the 3 endorsements of which you are most proud.

*San Francisco Tenants Union
AFT 2121
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club*

5. Please indicate, and explain, your position on the following past ballot propositions.

- Proposition G (2014), Additional Transfer Tax on Residential Property Sold Within 5 Years of Purchase
 - Supported X Opposed _____ Why?
- Proposition F (2015), Short-Term Residential Rentals
 - Supported X Opposed _____ Why?

6. The population of SF is up, but Democratic Party registration and turnout have mostly been down in recent years. What specifically will you do to improve the Party's registration efforts and organization in District 10?

At a time when the San Francisco Democratic Party has the opportunity to truly lead San Francisco and for San Francisco to lead the state and nation, we have the lowest voter enrollment and engagement ever. There is widespread discontent with a progressive political party that is chaired by special interests, which reflects the lack of interest and interaction on the part of voters. Young voters are leaving the party in droves; while the number of registered Democrats is declining, the number of registered independents has steadily increased.

When I was Chair of the local Democratic Party, I endeavored to create excitement around Democratic candidates that translated into voter registration drives, fundraisers for state and federal Democrats, and a record voter turnout to get Kamala Harris elected to the post of State Attorney General. One of the easiest things the DCCC can do is find new ways to build on the leadership of its numerous chartered democratic clubs, like the Potrero Hill Democratic Club, by providing opportunities for leadership to contribute to critical conversations and empowering democratic clubs to expand within their respective communities. Our City's chartered democratic clubs should not be distracted by warrantless threats to their charter status.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. Pending timely receipt of your questionnaire, we look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on April 12th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club