

Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
San Francisco Supervisor, District 10
General Election, November 2, 2010



Candidate/Campaign Information

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Anticipated budget: \$30-40,0000.00 with the help of public financing.
Funds raised to date: \$5,649.00
Percentage of donations under \$50: 47%

Please write a brief response (fewer than 150 words) to each question.

1. Why are you running? Why should we vote for you?

I am running, first and foremost, because our district will change rapidly over the next decade as tens of thousands of new residents move in. I am committed to making sure we plan smartly for that growth. By that I mean: creating integrated and mixed-use developments; zoning to ensure the continued vitality of the production, distribution and repair sector that has been the traditional economic base of much of this district; ensuring that a high percentage of the new housing we create is affordable to people currently living in our district; building new parks and greenways; expanding our public transit options; supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs; and ensuring public safety. Second, I am committed to sustaining a progressive majority on the Board of Supervisors to ensure we tackle the major problems San Francisco faces (including the ongoing budget deficit) while remaining the diverse, egalitarian and just city we all cherish.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I have a unique set of skills that distinguish me from my opponents. I spent almost five years working as a community organizer for California Peace Action (formerly SANE/FREEZE) going door to door in neighborhoods all across San Francisco and the Bay Area. I have a law degree from New York University (one of the top 5 or 6 law schools in the country), where I specialized in land use and planning, and two years of experience as a fellow at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, one of the best public interest land use and environmental land use firms in California. These experiences give me the skills to mobilize and unite the diverse neighborhoods of District 10 (I strongly believe that we must all work together as a district in order to improve all our lives) and to help us as a community plan effectively for the future.

3. Potrero Hill Democratic Club endorses fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates. Please give examples of why you fit these criteria

I have always worked for socially progressive causes. I worked as a community organizer at Peace Action. Before law school, I worked at Earthjustice, a non-profit environmental law firm. I interned at the San Francisco Office of the Public Defender and the Sierra Club during law school. Upon graduating, I chose to work at a public interest law firm. I have volunteered with Tom Ammiano. I am on the board of Dolores Street Community Services, a non-profit that works to end homelessness.

I am also a fiscal realist. I recognize that San Francisco has to deal with its current budget crisis and reform pensions. I support David Chiu's proposal to modify the business tax by reducing the payroll tax for employees making under \$85,000/year and adding a commercial rents tax. This would increase tax revenue and broaden the tax base by including businesses exempt from the payroll tax.

4. What are the top three issues facing San Francisco? What will you do about those issues?

I believe the most important issues facing the city are as follows. 1) Resolving the budget crisis. I will support progressive means of raising revenue, reforming pensions and implementing responsible and long-term financial planning practices in order to balance the budget while cutting as few vital services as possible. 2) Job creation. I will make sure we plan and zone for a wide array of new jobs not only in the high tech/biotech/medical and service sectors but also in the production, distribution and repair and small business sectors in order to ensure a diverse economic base anchored in a strong and secure middle class. 3) Planning for future development. I will fight to ensure future development is diverse, mixed use, true to the essential character of our neighborhoods, contains a wide range of affordable housing so that all members of our community can afford to live here and transit oriented.

5. What are the top three issues facing District 10? What will you do about those issues?

In addition to the job creation and future development issues listed above, I would include the following. 1) Environmental clean-up. We must clean up the toxic legacy of our industrial past, including: ensuring that future development sites (including the Naval Shipyard site) are thoroughly cleaned up; closing the Potrero Power plant; changing the

patterns of truck traffic in the city that disproportionately burdens our district; implementing CleanPowerSF; and building new parks and greenways. 2) Public safety. I believe in a multifaceted approach to this problem that includes: community policing in targeted high crime areas; improving and expanding access to diversion, job training and job placement programs; expanding after school programs; and improving our educational system. 3) Public transit. I will work to improve and expand existing public transit lines as well as to bring new ones to the district.

6. Do you think the overall tax burden is shared equitably among businesses and individuals in San Francisco? If not, what changes in tax policy would you advocate to remedy any inequity and/or what would you do, if elected?

I admit that I have not given this issue the kind of thorough analyses it demands. I suspect that the tax burden in San Francisco, as is the case on a federal level, is now inequitably borne by individuals rather than businesses. As I noted earlier, I support David Chiu's proposal to revamp the payroll tax which will broaden the base of the business tax and bring additional business tax revenue into the city. I believe we should also look at moving towards a gross receipts tax on business which, while more difficult to administer than the payroll tax, does not suppress job creation and can be designed to bring more tax funds from businesses into the city. As Supervisor, I would support doing an analysis of the tax burden and legislation to correct any inequities that it reveals.

7. How do you propose to address the needs of District 10 youth, in the face of drastic cuts to youth programs?

As I mentioned earlier, resolving the budget crisis without cutting essential services is one of the top issues we face. I will support some or all of the new taxes which will be on the ballot in November so that we do not have to cut these vital programs. (Tax proposals that I am currently aware of include David Chiu's proposed revamping of the business payroll tax, Supervisor Avalos' call for increasing the real property transfer tax on certain properties, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's legislation to boost the city's parking tax, and the Hotel Fairness Initiative.) Assuming that cuts to youth programs do occur, I will work with community groups that would be willing to volunteer to work with our youth. Examples include expanding small business internship programs and volunteer opportunities provided by community gardens, such as the Quesada Garden Initiative.

8. How do you envision bringing more jobs to all parts of District 10?

I believe the first step in ensuring the creation of good jobs for all of District 10 comes from good zoning and planning practices. Because housing has more value per square foot than any other use, it will push out these other uses if they are not protected. We have to plan and zone not only for the high tech/biotech/medical sectors but also for the production, distribution and repair and small business sectors in order to ensure we bring good jobs to all areas of our district. I will also advocate for expanding low interest loans to spur the creation of small local businesses, ensuring that as development occurs that the jobs are first made available to local workers, bringing businesses, such as banks and supermarkets, to underserved neighborhoods in District 10 and expand job retraining and continuing education programs.

9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.

I support HOPE SF and Rebuild Potrero. I have been heartened by the commitment to working collaboratively with the community, replace all of the existing public housing units, physically connect the neighborhood with the rest of Potrero Hill and bring new economic opportunities for the residents. In general, I approve of the design of the project, with the strong caveat that I am concerned that the new public housing units and affordable rental apartments are not being truly integrated with the market-rate for-sale homes. As a member of the community, a candidate and as Supervisor, I will be a strong proponent for truly integrating all the housing in the project. I would also like to see the city find new ways to fund the project – with, for example, a new affordable housing bond – so that construction at this and other HOPE SF projects can proceed faster.

10. Please give your views on Lennar’s plans for Candlestick/Hunters Point.

It is past time for the economic revitalization of the Bayview Hunter’s Point community. That said, I have concerns with this project that include: the transfer of state park land; building a bridge over Yosemite Slough; the long-term economic benefit to the existing community of the proposed R&D and retail facilities; the loss of the port as a potential source of good jobs; that Lennar is only building 15% of the affordable housing units while the rest will be built by the city; the need for much more housing for individuals making less than sixty percent of AMI; ensuring that affordable housing is built with the rest of the project; and the thorough clean up of the project area. If those issues can be resolved, I believe we can move forward with the project. If not, I believe we should hold out for a better project.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

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