

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: \$143,000
Funds raised to date: \$88,332.00 (including matching funds received)
Percentage of donations under \$50: 48% (range of \$5-\$50)

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

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

There is a raging political power war, which has now turned its focus toward District 10. The old model of moderate versus progressive, property owner versus public housing, established ethnic communities versus new immigrants; is stale and will no longer work. We have reached a critical point where we must break away from the old way of thinking. We need to repair our community by building bridges and coalitions and resist the pull to divide. I am running to bring pragmatic community leadership to City Hall.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I have adapted a policy agenda to help address our community needs. It is grounded in the recognition that our neighborhoods are vital engines for economic growth, innovation, and opportunity. In a 21st Century economy, we must recognize and maximize economic productivity and opportunity. Our city policies

must reflect the new reality—that a strong District 10 neighborhood is part of the foundation of a vibrant city.

I am a 21st Century thinker with innovative ideas and experience as a community organizer, business owner and City employee. I listen and respond to the community. A few of my opponents lack a depth of knowledge and understanding the nuances of issues because they have not developed relationships and are limited and cater to certain exclusive groups. Other opponents are shallow and construct flat one-dimensional policy solution and believe a blanket remedy will solve all problems and other opponents are so heavily entrenched in machine politics, that we will be getting more of the same thing. We need to break away from the old way of doing business.

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

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit and San Francisco received several thousand survivors. I managed the fiscal oversight and coordination of incoming resources from private entities and City department resource sharing. In the Mayor's Office I provided broad oversight and fiscal coordination between nonprofit organizations and service delivery systems. As Assistant Executive Director of a Bayview nonprofit I provided fiduciary oversight for secured public contracts with the Department of Children Youth and Families and what was called the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

For the last eighteen years I have been on the ground organizing around youth issues, violence, public safety, the environment, woman's issues and national security. I have advocated for the need of a living wage, a citywide peace agenda, the expansion of victim services, expansion of mental health services, and climate change legislation.

4. What are the top three issues facing San Francisco? What will you do about those issues? San Francisco is facing many tough issues. How can we keep San Francisco a world-class city and retain and grow its existing population? How can we successfully manage growth and generate revenue?

As a city we need to ensure our local economy is healthy. We need to balance our growth and development and insure that working class families can work and live in San Francisco.

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

I will be a champion for keeping District 10 working, healthy and safe with a culturally competent approach to acknowledge to our communities diverse language needs.

Jobs – As a small business owner I recognize the need to support entrepreneurship and spur job growth. I'm interested in creating a neighborhood business incubator building in the Central Waterfront, which could facilitate entrepreneurs in creating start-up companies as well as establish a Community Benefits District (CBD) along Third Street, San Bruno Avenue and Leland Street. I will invest in a skilled technology workforce and help low income and enter the job market.

Health - I will be a proponent of healthy lifestyles by ensuring that our residents have useable and accessible green spaces. I will be an advocate for pocket parks and manageable park fees. I will support federal legislation and programs to restore the strength of the Superfund program, which requires polluters to pay for the cleanup of contaminated sites they created. I favor a well planned walk-able and bike-able community with affordable housing options for families and seniors

Public safety – I favor a more robust community policing strategy to incorporate community resources like Together United Recommitted Forever (TURF) and Community Response Network (CRN) in addition to increasing police foot patrol. Our streets must stay well lit and clean. I am committed to exploring restorative justice models (an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of victims and offenders, instead of the need to satisfy the abstract principles of law or the need of the community to exact punishment), and reducing crime recidivism by providing ex-offenders support in breaking down barriers to find employment. I will work for better coordination with nonprofits, city agencies and the elected family for an effective emergency response plan to ensure that vulnerable constituencies like seniors and residents of public housing are not forgotten.

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?

The tax burden is not equally shared among businesses and individuals.

The San Francisco payroll tax structure is a disincentive to businesses, particularly small businesses. It discourages employers from creating jobs, which inhibits a business and local economy's growth opportunity. I favor a more progressive tax structure.

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

Technology. Today's youth are part of the Millennial Generation. Born between 1978 and 2000, the Millennials is the largest demographic boasting 95 million young people—it's the largest most diverse and technologically advanced age cohort in the history of the nation, comparatively Baby Boomers numbers rival at only 78 million.

Business, education and community leaders can come together and utilize basic advancements in technology to help create development opportunities for our young residents. The advancements in technology can provide a trade or skill set that will capture their attention and allow them to develop marketable skills for the future and serve as building blocks to advance their education. To teach a young person about basic electronics, how to build a PC, or networking would be valuable and smart investment in our future.

The protection of youth programs and services is a high priority. The drastic cuts in youth programs, as demonstrated in the last budget cycle will have deep and long-lasting negative impact for children and youth.

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

- **Prioritize job creation** – We can and must prioritize opportunities that will create jobs immediately but without sacrificing transparency. Political posturing to stall building projects only delays our ability to reduce District 10's high unemployment rate.
- **Stimulate business growth** – The city must find ways to streamline cumbersome permitting and planning processes, reduce business costs and provide incentives for employers to retain and create jobs in San Francisco.
- **Encourage economic development** – We must attract new businesses to District 10, particularly those from industry-sectors poised for sustained growth such as biotech and clean technology.

9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.

As a member of the Community Building Advisory Group I have been a participant in planning and visioning meetings as well as collaborating with neighbors and a community organization on the oral history component of the rebuild. The oral history project aims to capture "living history" or historical accounts of life on The Hill from its many longtime residents. I have found Bridge Housing to be responsive to questions from the community, open to feedback, and sensitive to community concerns.

The project will produce a vibrant mixed-use and mixed-income community.

I will continue to be watchful for the displacement of families as the project continues to mature. I remain hopeful that this project will remain a good example for future public-private partnerships.

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

The Lennar project presents an extraordinary opportunity to facilitate huge amount of change for the Southeast Sector of San Francisco. It is our role to work with the elected family to create strong accountability measures for the commitment Lennar has made to our community. It is imperative that an environmentally sound project is produced. It is necessary for the process to be transparent.

We cannot be singular in our vision for development in District 10 and allow the Lennar project to dominate the conversation. We as a community must balance development and growth. There are several other major development projects underway, which must also warrant our diligent attention (e.g. Schlage Lock, Sunnydale and Hunter's view public housing rebuild, Brisbane Bayland development project and its impact on Viscitacion Valley). We must be smart and forward thinking in our plans for our community and not squander any opportunity.

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

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