

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



Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate name: Eric Smith
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Anticipated budget: \$69,000 - \$89,000
Funds raised to date: \$32,500 +
Percentage of donations under \$50 Less than 1%

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

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

My candidacy grew organically from my work as an environmental activist in D10. Leaders in the progressive, environmental, and business communities—with whom I've worked closely on D10-based issues in the last 5 years—asked me to consider offering my talents and skills to the community as Supervisor. That being said, the bottom line is that I am in this race to become Supervisor because the struggles of the people of D10 continue to inspire me, and I believe I can help chart a course to a better quality of life for all our residents.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

My experience in helping to nurture a green economy that offers solutions to D10-specific problems by converting waste into energy and industrial challenges into jobs is unique among the candidates.

Also, I find in talking with the voters that my sincerity, honesty, and independence resonate immediately as something entirely new, different, and highly desirable.

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

As director of the biodiesel non-profit Green Depot and board member of Biofuel Recycling and Literacy for Environmental Justice, I work to implement fiscally responsible practices above all. That is a deeply held value of mine, which I will bring to political decision-making as Supervisor.

My progressive values became public record when I co-created the Tenderloin Housing Clinic's online paper, Beyond Chron. All of my work in D10 is part of a socially progressive agenda, beginning with my environmental vision that includes a first-hire job agenda for local residents. Also included is my work in urging the SF Department of the Environment convert the city's entire diesel fleet to cleaner burning biodiesel, helping to create the SF Greasecycle program with the SFPUC, and my efforts on the board of Literacy for Environmental Justice, builders of the city's first and only off-the-grid, LEED certified building.

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

My biggest concerns are the budget, development, and social services. In addressing those issues at a citywide level, is impossible to overstate the need for transparency, scrutiny, and accountability, which is why those issues are the cornerstones of my campaign. Because D10 is where the intersection of those issues will have the greatest impact, the new Supervisor will play a very important in the future of San Francisco governance. I will work to find and implement solutions to the budget deficit, including cutting waste and creating tax equity between individuals and business.

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

The top three issues facing D10 are land use, unemployment and the environment. Again, an extraordinary amount of accountability, scrutiny, and transparency must be employed in order to solve those problems. I work everyday on those very issues to take advantage of D10's opportunity to lead the way as an incubator of a new green economy that uses greener truckers, turns waste into energy, builds green buildings, transports goods by rail, and produces local, sustainable biodiesel.

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?

No. I am a supporter of the “Close the Loophole” campaign, which would repeal the part of Prop 13 that affects commercial property taxes. Having businesses pay their fair share is a great place to start. By hosting Phil Ting, a leading proponent of this idea, on my KPOO radio show, I’ve worked to educate the public about the importance of this movement. I am committed to working at the local and state level to righting this wrong that has been on the books for too long.

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

In order to secure vital programs and services to help youth and children in our neighborhoods, I will aggressively pursue mechanisms including community benefits agreements and project labor agreements as sources of sustainable funding. I will work diligently to ensure that all entities involved in administering these monies operate with as much efficacy and integrity as possible. To meet those goals, I am currently working with community leaders to develop a new Social Enterprise organizational vehicle to oversee funding from community benefits agreements.

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

I am a firm believer in mandating local hiring because the practice of "good faith" hiring is not working. My goal is to help implement experience-based, first-hire training programs that bring good jobs to District 10 residents, regardless of skill level. In the last five years I’ve worked with the recycling sector of the Green Academy, Green Depot, Biofuel Recycling, SFPUC, Global Exchange, the SF Bay Railroad, City Grazing and Waste Solutions Group — all within D10 — on greening the local economy with a focus on developing new local job opportunities.

As Supervisor, I will also work to protect District 10 workers from victimization by out-of-town interests who exploit loopholes in the local and small business laws and take jobs away from local residents.

9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.

Rebuild Potrero is an ambitious and much-needed project, however questions surrounding density, transportation, mixed-use, environmental impacts and a host of other issues must be addressed first and foremost. I will work to make this project a success by ensuring continued and substantive involvement by the community and other key stakeholders.

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

For years, the Lennar Corporation has been called a bad actor in District 10, accused of playing shell games, breaking promises, failing to monitor dust issues, etc., and they have the fines to show for it. They must be held accountable. For now, we must make the best of a seemingly bad marriage by holding their feet to the fire. As Supervisor, I will not tolerate

any further health violations or stand for any transfers until they have satisfied the concerns of the community.

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

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www.PHDemClub.org