

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



**Candidate/Campaign Information**

Candidate name: Rodney Hampton, Jr.
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Anticipated budget: \$2,500
Funds raised to date: \$200
Percentage of donations under \$50 100%

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

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

Hello, my name is Rodney Hampton Jr. It is my honor and privilege to announce that I am running for District 10 Board of Supervisors, a goal and responsibility that I take very seriously. When elected, I vow to serve your interests to the best of my ability and with all my heart. Growing up in the San Francisco Housing projects "Hunters-view" taught me a lot about life and the world I live in. On a daily basis I saw drugs, guns, violence, fractured families, and dreams laid to waste. I also saw something else: people in the harshest, toughest, most do-or-die environments still finding a way to survive and even thrive. I've seen proof that there is a better life out there for all of us. I've seen proof that there is a better way of living together. I've seen proof that there's a NEW way of thriving and growing together.

I as for your vote in order to see a community held up by information and choice. When we give people access to information we empower them to do whatever it is they want to do. Whether you want to start your own business, go back to school, or get the job training you need. I know working with PHDC we can do it.

## **2. What sets you apart from your opponents?**

Growing up in the San Francisco Housing projects “Hunters-view” taught me a lot about life and the world I live in. On a daily basis I saw drugs, guns, violence, fractured families, and dreams laid to waste. I also saw something else: people in the harshest, toughest, most do-or-die environments still finding a way to survive and even thrive. I've seen proof that there is a better life out there for all of us. I've seen proof that there is a better way of living together. I've seen proof that there's a NEW way of thriving and growing together.

3. Potrero Hill Democratic Club endorses fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates. Please give examples of why you fit these criteria: Over the past five years I have been a driving force in helping District 10's residents get jobs. As a construction program director at Young Community Developers I helped hundreds of people get educated, get trained and become employable. As program manager at Ella Hill Hutch Community Center and Glide Foundation, I continue to lead the way in helping the underserved get the job training they need to become members of a vibrant and thriving workforce. As your Supervisor I would continue to expand this model by supporting people from all different levels of education and experience. My goal is to see a community held up by information and choice. When we give people access to information we empower them to do whatever it is they want to do. Whether you want to start your own business, go back to school, or get the job training you need, I will be here to support you every step of the way.

## **4. What are the top three issues facing San Francisco? What will you do about those issues?** Job Creation, Community Development, and Public Safety.

Community Development - The only way the Bayview Redevelopment Plan project moves forward is if we are driving this project. That's right, if the community gets to run the show we will let it flow. Bayview isn't "anti-development." Bayview isn't "anti-growth" and job training. We know there is a positive side to developing a community. How do we know? It's what we've been doing for decades in our fight for social equality and economic justice. When you look at who would benefit, it's obvious it's a private developer-driven project. We want, need and must stand only for a community-driven plan. A plan in which community benefit is the top priority for every phase of the project. People, not profit. When we take control of this project and make it come to life, we'll have nobody to thank but ourselves.

## **5. What are the top three issues facing District 10? What will you do about those issues?** Economic Development – Public Safety – Quality Education

I) Jobs Creation – by making the City structurally capable and business friendly so as to induce investment by job generating and entrepreneurs.

II) Economic Development is a major issue for every single neighborhood in District 10. The question for me always comes down to two things: 1) How can we support local business growth and 2) How can we create more jobs? The answer to both these questions comes in pulling together to support people and the programs that support them. Economic Development is supporting and investing in people. By supporting and promoting local

programs such as The Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, San Francisco Small Business Development Center, and the San Francisco Small Business Network, we give our residents the tools they need to be successful in the world of small business. Not everyone, however, knows these resources exist. We must be aggressive in promoting the resources and touting their effectiveness in empowering average citizens to become small business owners.

III) Environmental Justice – The Hunters Point Shipyard. PG&E. The Sewage Plant. Potrero Hill Peakers. Is any other district in San Francisco more of a toxic dumping ground than District 10? I can't imagine who else could make the claim. We need to be a lot more aggressive in our action plan for cleaning up this district. Child asthma, cancer, and chronic illness are a way of life for many residents of Bayview Hunters Point. Coincidence or correlation? The evidence is overwhelming.

From Hunters Point Shipyard, to PG&E, to the SF Municipal Sewage Plant, to Potrero Hill Peakers our district presents an ongoing environmental challenge. Beyond these challenges how do we empower everyday average citizens to become aware of the dangers around them? More importantly we must empower each other to become educated activists when it comes to environmental safety and public health concerns. As your Supervisor I promise to fight for the basic human rights of its residents. As someone who grew up across the street from the PG&E plant I understand the devastating consequences of ignorance and neglect. Let's work together to clean up District 10 and to lay this dirty legacy to rest.

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 would like to tax large business and and/or corporations!

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

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES: I support expanding early childhood development programs (such as those at Bay View's Burnett Child Development Center), and the implementation of quality academic, language and enrichment programs (such as the AIM High and College Bound programs) in the Southeast. Additionally, I support programs that draw in crucial parental involvement, such as Student Site Councils (SSC), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA's) and the San Francisco School Volunteers.

I would look into the Capital Improvement Programs funded by the City / State and targeted to communities lacking the financial base to pursue the capital improvements and have youth participate and engage in production workplace atmospheres (e.g. façade improvements, street-scape redesigns, tree planting beautification, small lot / pocket parks, traffic calming / pedestrian safety, public parking structures, etc.) needed for effective community renewal.

My goal is to see a community held up by information and choice. When we give people access to information we empower them to do whatever it is they want to do. Whether you want to start your own business, go back to school, or get the job training you need.

**8. How do you envision bringing more jobs to all parts of District 10?** My economic ideas are listed in a three pronged approach:

I) Jobs Creation – by making the City structurally capable and business friendly so as to induce investment by job generating and entrepreneurs.

II) Employment Opportunities Access – through a comprehensive training investment of our residents, we prepare and forge the into a workforce qualified to secure the job opportunities developed; and create a local hiring mandate.

III) Community (Neighborhoods) Revitalization – by promoting structural (aesthetic) improvements, coupled with technical assistance, in order to attract and retain small businesses, which produce over 80% of our tax revenue and 50% of our job opportunities.

Lastly, by supporting and promoting local programs such as The Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, San Francisco Small Business Development Center, and the San Francisco Small Business Network, we give our residents the tools they need to be successful in the world of small business. Not everyone, however, knows these resources exist. We must be aggressive in promoting the resources and touting their effectiveness in empowering average citizens to become small business owner.

**9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.** I am pro-development with full local residents' engagement and participation in all aspect of the planning and workforce development.

**10. Please give your views on Lennar's plans for Candlestick/Hunters Point.** In 1974 Hunters Point Shipyard was closed and so began one of the longest and most heartbreaking stories in all San Francisco history. It is a story of corruption, lies, distrust, and ultimately community health harm. Today as it stands the Hunters Point Shipyard is a toxic dump site, with asphalt and buildings above. The plan moving forward is to have a thriving community of thousands living above this dumpsite. A master planned community filled with homes, condos, apartment housing, and fields for children, it has the potential to be a 21st Century Love Canal. The Hunters Point Shipyard must be cleaned up by community standards before we begin construction on thousands of housing units on that site. The cleanup must be driven by community standards with heavy community oversight every step of the way. If full cleanup isn't a reality we don't let the SF Redevelopment Authority and private developers build ANYTHING! From Hunters Point Shipyard, to PG&E, to the SF Municipal Sewage Plant, to Potrero Hill Peakers our district presents an ongoing environmental challenge. Beyond these challenges how do we empower everyday average citizens to become aware of the dangers around them? More importantly we must empower each other to become educated activists when it comes to environmental safety and public health concerns. As your Supervisor I promise to fight for the basic human rights of its residents. As someone who grew up across the street from the PG&E plant I

understand the devastating consequences of ignorance and neglect. Let's work together to clean up District 10 and to lay this dirty legacy to rest.

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

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[www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org)