

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



Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate name: Tony Kelly
Contact person: Tony Kelly
Mail address: 1459 18 th Street #266, San Francisco CA 94107
Telephone: 415 341 8040
Email address: Tony @ tonykelly2010.com
Web address: Tonykelly2010.com
Anticipated budget: \$143,000
Funds raised to date: \$56,000
Percentage of donations under \$50 53%

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

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

I'm running because District 10 needs to be in charge of its own future, with a Supervisor who comes from the neighborhoods, who knows the neighborhood issues, who recognizes that we know our district better than anyone.

San Francisco has changed so much in the last eight years, with so much more on the way. We have seen the effects of gentrification, of schools and services that are poorly budgeted and maintained, of deeply rooted environmental problems – and a growing sense that government can't do much to help. But more than ever, there are people who need affordable housing, children who need a good education, neighborhoods that need to be free from the threat of violence, and workers who need a future for themselves and their families. I know that local government can help these problems, because I've seen it through a decade of leading community advocacy efforts.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I have a far wider and deeper range of experience on the specific issues of District 10. For more than a decade I have been volunteering and leading neighborhood efforts for sustainable land use, working-class jobs, open space & transit planning, affordable housing, and environmental justice. We improved the Eastern Neighborhoods plans, we

are closing the City's power plants, we are turning around our neighborhood schools and public housing. Because my experience comes from grassroots work with residents and workers, I know that the people of district 10 are the experts about the future of District 10.

If we're going to build a new, more sustainable future – in the economy, in the environment, in the neighborhoods – we have to listen to the people more, and better, than we ever have before. I am truly committed to representing all the people of the district, and that is shown in my record.

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

I have the most substantial record of advocacy of any candidate in this campaign, through hundreds of neighborhood meetings and City Hall hearings. I have continually pushed for front-line services and opportunities in our communities, especially for the poorest and most disadvantaged populations; and against overpaid management, corporate subsidies and outright giveaways (see question #10, Lennar). My advocacy has often aligned me with the progressive majority of the Board of Supervisors.

One example: During the Eastern Neighborhoods re-zoning process, I built a cross-neighborhood alliance with affordable housing advocates and neighborhood organizations in the Mission and SOMA. We were a strong influence on the re-zoning plans, saving light-industry jobs and affordable housing opportunities throughout the southeast portion of the City, and demanding better open space and transit services in Potrero Hill.

For my leadership in the arts community and in the communities of District 10, I was named a Local Hero by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* in 2006.

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

5. What are the top three issues facing District 10? What will you do about those issues? I'm going to use 300 words to answer these two questions together.

The biggest issue is the need to use the full power of our City budget to support our community goals. City Hall has not invested sufficiently in the infrastructure or operations that really provide for the economy, health and safety of all our residents, and the livability of all our neighborhoods. Front-line services that help workers and residents are continually cut. That has to stop, and the Board of Supervisors needs to exert more authority as the final arbiter of the City's budget.

A second huge issue is managing the immense growth planned for the neighborhoods of District 10 (100,000 new residents projected in the next 30 years), to preserve and create quality jobs in diverse industries and the public sector, and maximize housing affordability, diversity and livability. We have an opportunity for a stronger, more sustainable local economy at all levels of income – by supporting smart development of complete neighborhoods, and new opportunities for quality jobs in creative-economy businesses and the light industrial businesses that support them. (The creative economy is the business sector that has created most of San Francisco's economic growth in the last decade, including services and industries relating to design, media, advertising, film, music, arts, publishing and interactive software.) Along with building the creative economy, I would pursue job-creating and union-organizing opportunities in the coming green economy, such as urban agriculture, truly the greenest economy there is. Because of my extensive community involvement in land-use issues, I have a history of building

neighborhood support for economic development. In the next decade, we will need that kind of consensus more than ever.

Third, we simply must get more serious about pollution and community health issues in southeast San Francisco and specific health dangers affecting immigrant communities and people of color throughout the City.

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?

Thanks to Prop 13, there are inequities throughout the budget - the current business-tax system, the way MUNI is funded, etc. But the (necessary) reform of Prop 13 is a state issue.

I am interested in some specific local measures:

a) the current proposal to revise the payroll tax and establish a gross-receipts tax on commercial property rents, if that proves manageable for neighborhood merchants;

b) the current real estate transfer fee proposal, to sustainably fund affordable-housing efforts in return for some reduction of inclusionary housing requirements on developers; and

c) the temporary increase of the Hotel Tax, since we found during the meetings of the Arts Task Force that such an increase could be acceptable to hotels and the tourism industry.

But most of all, I would aggressively pursue new and increased sustainable revenue sources that do not raise taxes, such as a new fair-share agreement with UCSF.

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

Almost half of our City's children live in effective poverty, given our City's high cost of living. District 10 has the worst-performing schools in the City, and the most widespread poverty. So our longstanding crisis of outmigration of families of color is both alarming and predictable. We need to finally approach this problem as an emergency.

In addition to the economic opportunities I describe in #8 below, I would redirect Redevelopment resources away from the tragically flawed Shipyard project (see #10) and into family and child services (including childcare programs, substance abuse and mental health treatment, violence prevention, technology training, and probation/re-entry programs), based at our public schools and community centers. In addition to family services, I would also support establishing safe-haven services at public schools, so children in unstable home or neighborhood environments have somewhere to go besides the streets.

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

I would maximize opportunities for businesses, through programs like Grants for the Arts, Community Development Block Grants, or (especially) a new community banking program leveraging City reserves to make local loans. Billions of dollars in City reserves sit in commercial banks every day. We pay millions of dollars in fees on that money. Why don't we put those reserves to work for us? We can respond to the worldwide credit crunch by using the massive power of the City budget to create a new local credit market, via existing credit unions or possibly the creation of a municipal bank, funding local hiring for quality jobs.

This would help development projects get built, while also providing opportunities for local business-owners to create the permanent jobs inside the new buildings. We would return to building our economy the old-fashioned way, increasing the spending power of our people by creating high-quality permanent jobs.

9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.

I have been a primary advocate on Potrero Hill for HOPE SF, the citywide program rebuilding our worst public housing projects in the City's southeastern neighborhoods. I've facilitated community meetings and helped to create a neighborhood-wide advisory group for the Rebuild Potrero project. Like the Eastern Neighborhoods re-zoning, this is a substantial project with big promises of affordable housing and better neighborhoods, and a very small margin for error; and it is continually in danger of underfunding and a loss in focus and public trust. One major reason I am running for Supervisor is to make the HOPE SF project a success, in terms of the City's real estate and its level of service for its people. We need a Supervisor who understands land use and development, and is committed to the District's poorest residents, to fulfill this project's promise.

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

I'm sorry, this has to be more than 150 words.

I do not support the project. Why? Because it has many problems at the site and in its contracts, and it is certainly not the most efficient or effective way to deliver the many benefits promised by the City and the developer.

There are numerous unanswered questions about the environmental conditions of the site, and the Navy's plan to remediate the intense environmental risks there.

The financing mechanism is dubious, committing substantial City resources to guarantee loans and a high profit to a private developer with a record of loan defaults across the country. It is these City-backed loan guarantees that enable the developer to make the many promises contained in its Community Benefits Agreement.

As proof of the dubious financing, multiple measures to roll back developer promises and force the City to add value to prior agreements have been necessary to keep the project afloat. These measures include the elimination of affordable for-rent housing on the Hilltop parcel; the repeal of Proposition D, which limited the public resources to support the project and guaranteed local hiring for construction and permanent jobs; the sale of state park land to add to the project; and the addition of all of Bayview to the project survey area, in order to commit future Bayview property taxes to support this project.

We can use those property taxes, and the financial power of the City's Redevelopment Agency, to achieve the benefits of the CBA without this particular project. Using the same financing tools, we can put people to work right now, in projects up and down Third Street and throughout Bayview, to achieve the workforce and affordable housing goals of the CBA sooner and better, without moving forward on this project until the land is fully cleaned by the Navy, and without expensive and unnecessary loan guarantees.

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

Potrero Hill Democratic Club • 1459 18th St, #152 • SF 94107 • 415-648-6740
www.PHDemClub.org