

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

Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate name: <i>Marlene Tran</i>
Contact person: <i>Marlene Tran</i>
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Anticipated budget: <i>\$20,000</i>
Funds raised to date: <i>About \$ 5,000 (I filed my candidacy late)</i>
Percentage of donations under \$50 (70%)

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

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

Since I moved to Visitacion Valley about 20 years ago, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for many neighborhood services and programs for our diverse residents. After I retired from over 30 years of teaching children and adults in San Francisco in 2009, I can now devote my full time to expand my services for all of District 10. Some of the qualities of life issues I fought for include:

Public Safety - I am currently a Community Advisory Board member of both Ingleside and Bayview precinct after 20 years of persistent efforts to improve

neighborhood safety

Muni – The MTA recognized me as a “ Community Treasure” for my many years of services and especially for gathering over 5,000 signatures to extend the #8 Express to 7 days to serve the high transportation needs of our residents.

Expansion of CCSF Classes - I spearheaded the expansion of the ESL/Citizenship classes to help thousands of residents acquire English skills to become American citizens and get better jobs.

Job Training- To address the disparity of work opportunities, I initiated surveys to lobby for jobs and job training.

Green Jobs/Environment- I encourage jobs, housing and other developments to feature environmentally- friendly and green technology. I practice what I preach: My building has 40 solar panels.

In addition, I have initiated signature drives that led to many improvements in our neighborhood parks and for our modern new library.

I believe my strong track records, integrity and commitment to lead District 10 deserve your consideration for endorsement.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

My multicultural and multilingual backgrounds enable me to listen directly to our diverse neighbors’ input and concerns. I am known for my years of tireless grassroots work in the Southeast Sector. While residents fondly call me their “ Voice of her Neighbors” , the press called me a “ Modern Day Woman Warrior” .

On January 1st, 2010 I was recognized by the World Journal to be one of the six “ Bay Area Heroes” for my community work.

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

My education at UC-Berkeley has taught me to recognize the need to conserve for our Mother Earth. I still have my simple solar experiment that inspired me to promote the 3 R’s in my 35 years of teaching children. My building also represents what I preach. It has 40 solar panels in addition to other environmental considerations . I donate to socially/environmentally responsive groups.

During my two decades of volunteer work in Visitacion Valley, I have applied for SF Enterprise Funding on behalf of our residents to get educational and job training programs that otherwise the non-and limited-English-speaking residents would be left out. For this low budget, I volunteered to help the

program to maximize the offerings to benefit many residents.

And, during the 15 years I taught for CCSF in my community, I also helped Southeast Campus (without pay) to supervise the evening program and saved much needed funding for our students.

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

- San Francisco must provide more incentives for investors to promote job opportunities. The Small Business Administration should provide multilingual assistance and more personable services to attract international businesses to our City.*
- We must ensure that programs for our vulnerable population (seniors, youth, the disabled, low-income families) are maintained. For years, I have initiated petitions and lobbied City departments and members of the Board of Supervisor on behalf of our residents.*
- Since our economic downturn, construction projects in San Francisco have dwindled, so I support legislation that defers up-front developer fees as a strategy to spur development.*

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

- District 10 residents need thousands of jobs to lift us from our high unemployment rate and to revitalize our communities.*
- Many of our folks need the mega housing developers to allocate a higher percentage of affordable housing for them. District 10 must focus on a smart and an environmentally sustainable economic growth.*
- Our neighborhoods need quality schools and comparable services/resources for our children and youth.*

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, big businesses, especially those located in the northeastern part of San Francisco, benefit from Muni and from the City's police and fire services, yet they provide very low property taxes due to Proposition 13.*

- *In our district, the UC campus should provide more tax revenues to benefit our communities.*

I will fight hard to help District 10 get our fair share.

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

- *After retiring from 30+ years of teaching children and adults in SFUSD and CCSF, I truly appreciate the needs of youth. Three years ago, I received 3,000 signatures of support for a petition I initiated to stop the demise of the Cow Palace . I proposed that we convert this historic building to a “ Youth Palace ”. My win-win proposal will house innovative, educational and recreational programs for youth and also provide help for their families..*

- *In addition, I have spoken out at community groups and at the Board of Supervisors to stop the serious cuts to our neighborhood after-school programs. We have to mobilize all efforts to fight for our future leaders.*

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

- *To bring more jobs to District 10, our City can provide special tax credits for hiring low-income people in zip codes with high unemployment rates above 15%.*

- *Geographically speaking, District 10 is the largest in San Francisco therefore we can promote our City’s big green growth industries with more jobs for our residents and more tax revenue for our City*

- *The Small Business Administration should provide more language access and personable help for diverse small business owners to bring more business into our district.*

9. Please give your views on Rebuild Potrero.

Like the strong advocates in Potrero Hill who have been engaged in the community design processes for the Potrero Annex and Terrace ,I , too have participated in similar types of meetings regarding Mercy Charities’ huge housing developments in Sunnydale. I am also considering the impacts that the huge developments create, both physically and socially, to our main community. In response to needed affordable housing facilities and economic opportunities, we must make sure that amenities such as open space, neighborhood and other comprehensive services will have positive impacts on the adjoining

neighborhoods as well.

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

As an individual who cares very much about our environment, I am also concerned with the mega developer, Lennar, to build 10,500 homes in parcels that the Navy claimed to have spent \$700 million in the cleanup process from the Superfund site.

At our community meeting, Sol Bloom of Arc Ecology, told our group that the environmental reports are inadequate because the toxic substances still left in the ground could endanger people and the wildlife in the region.

District 10 needs a smart and environmentally sustainable economic growth that Lennar must address.