

POTRERO HILL MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM
Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
Mayor of the City of San Francisco

Candidate/Campaign Information

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Anticipated budget: 1.475 Million
Funds raised to date:
Percentage of donations \$100 or less:

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Questionnaire for the Potrero Hill Mayoral Candidates Forum. Note that your responses to this Questionnaire will be used as one of the criteria by which candidates will be invited to participate in the event ; completion of the Questionnaire is not a guarantee that you will be invited to participate.

Please write a brief response (fewer than 200 words) to each question.

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

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, I worked hard to focus City Hall on the future. I wrote and led the effort to pass the city's first long-term economic plan; I created the successful Biotechnology Tax Credit and the Film and Television Rebate Program, which have created thousands of Jobs. I'm running for Mayor because I believe San Francisco needs an innovator in Room 200, not just a caretaker. We need a top to bottom review of the city's budget to focus our spending on things that really matter. We need policies that encourage small business growth, and we need neighborhood schools, better parks and safe communities so families will stay in the city.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I am the only candidate in this race with a record of proposing and passing job-creating legislation. I did it by building trust and solid working relationships on an ideologically divided board, and I can do the same as Mayor. As a Supervisor, I worked on issues that were important even if it took me outside my district. I fought to close dirty power plants in Bayview, and I worked to keep St. Luke's open in the Mission. I have, and have always had, a city-wide view.

3. Have you qualified for public financing? If not, do you plan to do so? If you do not plan to seek public financing, why not?

I have qualified for public financing.

4. What do you view as the top three issues facing San Francisco? Please describe your solutions for those issues.

First, we have to address the long-term deficits that continually plague the city. Every year, we patch together a budget using one-time fixes, which means that people who use city services never know from one year to the next if their programs will be properly funded. Second, we need neighborhood schools, to provide anchors in our communities and keep more families in San Francisco. And third, we have to find innovative ways to create jobs across all income levels and in all parts of the city. I'm proud of my efforts as a Supervisor to pass legislation that helped small businesses as well as large ones, and I know we can use targeted incentives to bring more jobs to our city.

5. What are some specific public safety strategies currently being implemented in San Francisco that you agree or disagree with? With these strategies in mind, what do you intend to do about public safety if elected mayor?

One of the biggest challenges to public safety in San Francisco is the number of first responders who live somewhere else. Police officers who live in the city are more invested in the city, fire fighters and paramedics who live in the city will be here if an emergency strikes. We need to expand homeownership opportunities to keep more public safety personnel in town and part of the community.

6. What does the term "affordable housing" mean to you? What, if anything, will you do to increase the quantity of affordable housing in San Francisco?

Affordable housing means housing options for people across the income scale. If we take a balanced approach to reforming the condo conversion

process in the city, we can expand both homeownership and rental opportunities for people at all income levels. It is also important that we continue the city's rent control policy.

7. In the 2000 census, San Francisco was the second most racially diverse county in California. In the 2010 census, we were twelfth. What issues do you see in the changing demographics of the City, and how as mayor do you plan to support racial, economic and cultural diversity?

Fixing the school assignment system will give more families the peace of mind they need to continue living in the city. We need proximity to be a key factor in determining school assignments, meaning more people will stay in San Francisco when their children reach school age.

8. What is your position regarding privatization of the public sector, i.e., contracting out public land and services to for-profit or private entities? Please explain with specific examples.

I believe that most of the services provided by the city are things city government does better, or needs to do to ensure they are done right. In some cases, like concession stands, it makes more sense to contract those facilities. But it must always be done in a fair, open and transparent way, and done rarely.

9. Do you support reforming the 1932 Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance to allow the City to contract out its garbage services through competitive bidding?

This is an issue that will require a great deal of negotiation between the next mayor and the Board of Supervisors. As Mayor, I will deal with those negotiations in the best interest of the city.

10. Do you believe that San Francisco should be a Sanctuary City, and will you remove San Francisco from the Secure Communities Program?

I support our sanctuary city policies.

11. What will you do as mayor to fulfill the promise of Hope SF and improve substandard public housing conditions? What changes, if any, would you make to the San Francisco Housing Authority?

As Mayor, I will carefully review all city departments, including the Housing Authority, to ensure they are focused on their core missions, spending wisely and listening the people they serve.

12. Complaining about Muni is a local pastime. That said, we have seen repeated decreases in service while the City has approved plans to substantially increase the population of zip code 94107 over the next 20 years. What, as mayor, will you do to fulfill the City's Transit First Policy for today's San Franciscans? How will you prepare for tomorrow's Muni riders?

Every MUNI route needs to be regularly evaluated to make sure we are serving the maximum number of riders in the most efficient way. We need to provide accurate information to riders, and we need to create channels for riders to give feedback that can be used to improve MUNI quickly. MUNI should be free for public school students, and we should be doing all we can to get young people to make a lifetime habit of mass transit.

13. Likewise, the San Francisco Unified School District provides an often-cited reason for families to leave the City and is a source of stress for those choosing to remain. What are the biggest issues related to public education in the City, and what factors contributed to these issues? What will you do in your term as mayor to improve education in the City?

In addition to the neighborhood schools initiative, I support more vocational academies in our school system. The Biotech programs that were part of the Biotech tax credit I passed as a Supervisor have helped young people learn real skills and develop a passion for science. We can do the same with more industries to keep young people interested in school and prepare them for life as productive adults.

14. How, as Mayor, would you facilitate better dialog and collaboration between City departments, such as SFMTA or Recreation and Parks, and neighborhood organizations?

As Mayor, I will make responsiveness a top priority and I'll work to find department heads and senior staff who share that vision.

15. Please review the policies and programs you have advocated in your responses to the questions above. Given forecasts of difficult budgets for the next several years, how do you propose that we fund the aforementioned policies and programs while maintaining other vital City services and programs?

There is no doubt that we have to make some tough choices. The first thing I'll do is implement a zero-base budget, to make sure that every dollar is being used as effectively as possible. The less we spend on overhead the more we can spend on vital programs. As a Supervisor, I effectively worked with the private sector to build partnerships that funded parks, preserved historic buildings and helped in the classroom. I will do the same as Mayor.

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Please return your responses to this Questionnaire by **Thursday, July 7, 2011**, to contact_us@phdemclub.org. Thank you again for your participation.