



**Candidate questionnaire for the office of
San Francisco Supervisor, District 10
General Election, November 4, 2014**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Monday, June 23** (ten days before the debate/endorsement meeting). The questionnaires will be available to our members online.

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

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

1) Top 3 issues facing San Francisco are the affordability crisis, infrastructure improve to accommodate future growth and education.

In addition to building more affordable housing consistent with Supervisor Kim's proposed Housing Balance ballot initiative I would look at introducing legislation that requires the City to preserve rent control units and/or affordable housing. If that is possible I would explore the San Francisco Retirement Board to look into what it can do to preserve the existing rent controlled units and/or affordable housing. Currently, I am exploring the possibility with doing this with SEIU 1021 pension fund.

San Francisco needs to continue to repair its aging infrastructure to accommodate a growing population. For example, I support Sunday metering and the Vehicle Licensing Fee (VFL) to support improvements to Muni and other modes of green transportation like bicycle and pedestrian safety. If the City is to assist with meeting the mandates of reducing greenhouse gas emission as prescribed by SB 375 and AB 32 we must stabilize Muni funding in an effort to improve its on-time ratings and further incentive people to get out their cars to walk or cycle.

As Supervisor, I would use the position to advocate for creating quality neighborhood schools in all communities. The southeast sector of San Francisco has the highest number of

school age children in the City and I do not see the logic in the current assignment system that result in the busing of children all around the City when we should be focus on assuring we have adequate resources to fully fund each school.

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

2) The top 3 issues in District 10 are housing development, infrastructure improvements and public safety.

District 10 is the last frontier for housing development in San Francisco. The Hunters Point Shipyard accounts for over 10,000 units and there are existing environmental concerns that need to be address. This coupled with the other developments in the district like the HopeSF, HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, Eastern Neighborhoods, Pier 70 and Schlage Lock we need to ensure the respective developers are held accountable regarding the needs for affordable housing and smart growth planning. As supervisor, I will not sign off on any developments without strong community involvement. Furthermore, depending upon what happens with the Housing Balance ballot initiative I would be prepared to introduce legislation supporting this important issue. Furthermore, I worked to defeat Prop B & C in Nov 2013 and supported Prop B this June.

The infrastructure improvements at SFPUC Wastewater Treatment Facility are of vital importance to the City of San Francisco and District 10. Over the years, District 10 has carried the burden for the rest of the City and it's time to improve upon this burden by updating this facility. My recent appointment to SFPUC's Working Group is to ensure that there is strong community input. Furthermore, as stated above we must ensure that Muni's budget is stabilized if we expected to increase its on-time reliability.

San Francisco can do better with how it spends its precious workforce development dollar and ensuring accountability with its First Source Hiring Program. I would work to connect these programs to San Francisco's Re-entry programs since having a job is important to reducing San Francisco's 75% recidivism rate. This coupled with ensuring that ex-offenders have adequate housing opportunities and access to drug treatment programs are vital to addressing this highly unstable population that is driving the crime rate in San Francisco.

3. Please answer either question a or b.

b. If you are a challenger, why did you choose to challenge a sitting supervisor?

3) I have chosen to challenge the sitting supervisor being that many of her positions taken have contributed to the current housing crisis and developer's attempted infringement upon the public waterfront. For example, the foreclosure crisis that has claimed over 4,500 homes in San Francisco (65% in Districts 10 & 11) help spark the ramped speculation that we now see in the City. Supervisor Cohen in her capacity as a commissioner on the San Francisco Retirement Board had pledged to sponsor a resolution calling for the divestment of retirement funds from the banks, under its socially responsible investment policy, for their role in the predatory lending that led to the mortgage crisis. Unfortunately, Supervisor Cohen reneged on her promise to sponsor such a resolution

and her failure to do so led to a 2 – 2 deadlock on the question. Had Ms. Cohen lived up to her promise it would have led to greater awareness of how banks targeted working class communities of color on the southeast side of the City and led significant policy changes to how the banks deals with mortgage delinquencies in San Francisco.

Also, Supervisor Cohen’s “Yes” vote on 8 Washington was clearly out of sync with the district’s vote on Prop B & C. Another example is her 2011 vote failing to close the loophole in Healthy San Francisco and it’s clear that her support of a recent compromise on the issue is due to this being an election year. Finally, District 10 needs a Supervisor that we can count on to uphold our values and properly balance the corporate interest that is a big part of the politics in San Francisco.

4. How would you address San Francisco’s current housing crisis?

- 4) Currently, I am in discussion with SEIU 1021 regarding making a sizable investment into the preservation of rent controlled units and/or affordable housing. SEIU 1021 has millions of dollars currently sitting in short term accounts bearing little if any interest. These funds can be used to stabilize properties for working class and low income families. They are interested in using a portion of these funds to invest in an effort to curtail the speculation that is driving the housing crisis in San Francisco. Furthermore, I support the use of protest and civil disobedience and a means of reclaiming rent controlled and foreclosed properties since I have been a part of several successful situations that have convinced speculators to do the right thing.

Over the past 2 years, I have assisted approximately 70 families throughout the Bay Area to remain in their foreclosed homes with an acquisition strategy using private equity. Partnering with advocacy organizations and nonprofit HUD approved counseling agencies, 7 of these families have been among the high profile cases that have made the news in San Francisco.

5. What infrastructure investment is needed if the City is to accommodate future growth?

- 5) The infrastructure investment most needed to accommodate future growth in with Muni. This is why I support the Vehicle License Fee (VLF) that will produce approximately \$1 billion over 15 years for transportation improvements. Also, I support Sunday metering as a means of fully funding Muni. As Supervisor, I would work on both items to bring more stability to funding for Muni, bicycle and pedestrian safety.

6. What infrastructure investment is needed to accommodate future growth in District 10?

- 6) The infrastructure investments needed to accommodate future growth in District 10 are in the areas of Muni/MTA as listed above and ensuring SFPUC Sewer Treatment Project is subject to a community driven process and completed on time.

7. What is the first piece of legislation you plan to introduce as Supervisor in 2015?

- 7) The first piece of legislation I plan to introduce would be in conjunction with the passage of \$15 minimum wage ballot initiative. The idea behind this legislation would be how can the City better support small businesses with an investment and/or reduction in City fees in an effort to offset the cost associated with the increase of the minimum wage.

8. Do you support a minimum wage of \$15 an hour? Why or why not?

- 8) Yes, I do support an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 being that San Francisco has the fastest growth rate of inequality in the nation, real wages have not increased in the U.S in over 40 years and household incomes have only increased due to an increase in household size. However, I would support an increase in investment into small business or reduction of fees to offset an increase in the minimum wage since small businesses employ a large number of workers in the City. I'm not comfortable with the discussion being framed as minimum wage workers vs. small business and/or restaurants.

9. Have you qualified or are you planning to qualify for SF's partial public financing program? Why or why not?

- 9) Yes, I plan to qualify for public financing since it is a means of leveling the playing field against corporate funded candidates.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. We look forward to seeing you July 2nd.