



**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](mailto: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 ( $\leq 200$  words) to each question.

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

Our City is facing a serious affordable housing and eviction crisis. Developers are not building enough affordable housing for middle class and low-income residents, and tenant advocates fight tirelessly for eviction services and over insufficient housing options. Mayor Lee's proposal to add 30,000 units by 2020 (with half of these units for low and middle income families) is a good start, but more needs to be done. D10 needs a strong supervisor to provide thoughtful planning to support the rapid growth that the City and D10 will face.

The MTA has many planning, design, and operational challenges. One of the most frustrating issues is the lack of outreach. MTA habitually fails at empowering those adversely affected by their changes, people feel out of the loop and as if the planning process goes too fast and doesn't incorporate enough public opinion. As a community transit advocate for over 25 years, I will continue to solicit residents' input to improve MUNI services & parking issues in D10 and in the City.

Having taught 30+ years in both the CCSF & SFUSD systems, I understand the importance of preparing our students for the workforce through exceptional education. Education is the first line of defense for reducing family flight out of San Francisco. If we offer the best education possible, then people will keep their children here. I'll work closely with the Boards, schools and other stakeholders to strengthen our educational

system by empowering administrators, teachers, and students. Education is the way to combat the growing inequality that our region is experiencing and will continue to experience in the coming years.

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

In my 25 years of experience, I have worked to mitigate the rampant crime in my neighborhood. Inadequate police training in language barriers and public outreach, which led to public distrust and resulted in a lot of non and under-reporting of crimes. With my multilingual and multicultural background, I was able to mobilize hundreds of residents to monthly meetings in order for them to communicate directly with SFPD officials and Project SAFE.

Since youth crimes have been the most problematic, my comprehensive approach that received over 3,000 signatures in support of my petition to change the Cow Palace to a Youth Palace will be a priority when I get elected. Many underserved youth in D10 lack access to safe outlets outside of school, therefore improving safety also means improving the lives of D10 youth.

The San Francisco Foundation report on the D10 demographics gives an in depth view of the high unemployment amongst D10 residents highlighting a need for professional development and opportunity. D10 needs leaders who understand job training and who will advocate for greater access to employment services for unemployed residents. I had helped to expand the CCSF program in Visitacion Valley in addition to secure funding from the SF Enterprise Foundation to provide the first summer immersion and job program. Even after retirement from 30+ years at CCSF, I continued to lobby for job training programs by convening a large meeting of 100+ residents to meet with then Chancellor Griffin and CCSF trustees. I will continue to fight for job training programs.

San Francisco's housing crisis is adversely affecting low-income and middle-income D10 residents. Families are being pushed out by increasing rents and are forced to move because D10 lacks affordable housing options. If elected, I will propose legislation to help our D10 residents with more access to safe and affordable and low income housing options.

3. Please answer either question a or b.

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

San Franciscans are proud to live in a World Class City but, for D10, conditions have worsened in some areas and stagnated in others despite our City's economic boom. The 2012 San Francisco Foundation's report on D10's high unemployment and foreclosure rates raised serious concerns about the current Supervisors commitment to advocating for underserved communities. The February 2014 *A San Francisco Analysis* indicated that unemployment rates in 94124 and 94134 are almost 11%.

Another reason for challenging the current Supervisor is her lack to follow through with important community development affairs such as when the Visitacion Valley Community Center was abruptly sold last year, which ended senior and other vital community programs that residents have relied on for almost a century.

In over 25 years of fighting City Hall for our fair share of services and resources, I have earned the trust and respect of D10 residents who have pledged their support for me. I will advocate for the residents of D10. The voices of D10 residents are being left out and need to be heard, the current Supervisor is not listening, and I want to lend my ear and my ability to serve.

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

While San Francisco has been attracting established companies for years, City Hall has not made adequate plans to accommodate the huge influx of high-income renters, which has led to gentrification and the displacement of nonprofits, and it has caused frictions to surface between property owners and renters. The City is in desperate need of affordable housing but due to a combination of building costs and strict building codes, and many development firms are building luxury condos, we need more incentives for developers to build below market rate and low-income housing backed by the City. First time home buyers should be given incentives for buying these new developments with tools such as the down-payment assistance, then we will see the families moving into D10 instead of out of it.

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

Although San Francisco has attracted almost 2,000 startups and new major companies within the last few years, City Hall needs to provide adequate infrastructure to accommodate their many needs. While the addition of high tech industries has helped with high-wage jobs, these employers have also increased office/rental market costs and making it extremely competitive for local businesses to secure or keep rental spaces. City Hall needs to ensure that we do not lose existing nonprofit services that are vital to residents.

With a great influx of new residents, MTA, Walk First, City departments and community groups must work together to prevent main corridor congestions. Since many D10 residents rely on MTA, I will continue to listen to their needs to improve services. I have had the honor of being recognized by MTA for gathering over 5,000 signatures to extend the #8X to 7 daytime services, which has been vital to D10 residents.

To accommodate the booming high tech industries, the service industry needs to train and hire more workers to supply their needs from within the City. By providing generous funds to expand the CCSF Hospitality programs and job training classes, the large immigrant, low-income, and youth workforce can benefit.

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

Given the fact that D10 has the greatest potential for housing developments in all of San Francisco. More Affordable housing and commercial corridors are needed to help accommodate future growth. Schools will also need to be able to accommodate more students with learning that focuses on technology, science, arts, and civic engagement. In order to support the growing number of residents D10 is facing, D10 will also need road improvements, dedicated pedestrian walkways and bicycle lanes, and traffic flow strategizing.

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

In general, City Hall has neglected D10 residents for too many years. Therefore, my first piece of legislation would focus on improving the quality of life for D10 residents who are facing staggering rents increases, eviction notices, and subpar living conditions by proposing housing priorities for D10 residents and higher living standards for city housing.

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

Yes, I support a living wage for San Franciscan residents who face astronomical rents and living expenses in what is arguably one most expensive city in the country. Having worked with low-income families for decades, I definitely support the wage increase but our City must work to limit the strain on small businesses, we do not want to lose these vital small businesses, we should focus on higher wages form bigger companies and offer qualifying small businesses subsidies that will ensure they keep their employees employed.

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

Since I filed very late to run for Supervisor in D10, my dedicated volunteers and I had less than a month to gather more than enough In-Lieu signatures by the deadline date. Since my campaign is " of the people, for the people and by the people" I have applied for partial public financing to fund my campaign.

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