



**Candidate Questionnaire for  
San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee  
Primary Election, June 7, 2016**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to [contact\\_us@phdemclub.org](mailto:contact_us@phdemclub.org) **no later than Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to appear at our April 12th endorsement meeting. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Rafael Mandelman  
Contact person: Rafael Mandelman  
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Please write a brief response ( $\leq 200$  words) to each question.

1. Why are you running for the DCCC and what do you hope to accomplish if elected or re-elected?

I have been active in the San Francisco Democratic Party for nearly fifteen years, serving on the boards of the Noe Valley Democratic Club (three years as president), the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club (two years as president), the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club and the District 8 Democratic Club. First elected to the San Francisco DCCC in 2006, I have served as a member and vice chair of that body and have served on the Resolutions Committee of the California Democratic Party. As a member of the SF DCCC, I have at various times helped lead the Party's voter registration efforts, chaired the local Party's Resolutions Committee, and worked to strengthen relationships between the Party and our partners in labor, the environmental movement, the tenants rights movement, and the peace movement.

If re-elected, my priorities will include:

- A. Helping elect excellent progressive candidates at every level of government;
- B. Engaging more young people, women and minorities in the work of San Francisco Democratic Party; and
- C. Developing the grassroots of the Party by encouraging the formation of new Democratic Clubs and other organizations and structures to build the Party and make it relevant to more

people.

2. Please describe your current and past community activism.

In addition to my Democratic Party activism described above, I have been active with a number of community organizations. I served for several years on the Jewish Community Relations Council and currently serve on the Public Policy Advisory Committee for Jewish Vocational Services. I am currently Chair of the Board of Directors of the LGBT Community Center and President of the Board of Trustees of City College of San Francisco.

3. Would you support closing the campaign finance loophole that allows candidates running for their party's Central Committee to raise unlimited funds, while other candidates for local elected office are limited to \$500 per donor? Why or why not?

I would support that change. It doesn't really make sense to have contributions limits for particular offices if candidates can get around those limits simply by running for the Democratic County Central Committee in the same year. I suspect that if we were to close this loophole, we would also reduce the number of elected officials and would-be elected officials seeking seats on the DCCC, which in turn would open up more seats for grassroots activists.

4. Please name the 3 endorsements of which you are most proud.

SF Bay Guardian  
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club  
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club

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5. Please indicate, and explain, your position on the following past ballot propositions.

- Proposition G (2014), Additional Transfer Tax on Residential Property Sold Within 5 Years of Purchase
  - Supported  Opposed  Why?

Housing displacement is one of the City's biggest policy challenges at the moment. Given the success of the statewide real estate lobby in blocking any type of Ellis Act reform, I supported Proposition G as a modest local intervention to try to slow the misuse of the Ellis Act by speculators trying to make a quick buck.

- Proposition F (2015), Short-Term Residential Rentals
  - Supported  Opposed  Why?

I supported Proposition F in 2015 for the same reasons I supported Proposition G in 2014: the growing popularity of short-term rentals has exacerbated our affordable rental housing shortage in much the same way that condo conversions and TIC's have done. I would have preferred to see City Hall enact strong short-term rental regulation, but given that at the time City Hall seemed to lack the political will to enact strong and effective regulation, Proposition F seemed to me a reasonable response.

6. The population of SF is up, but Democratic Party registration and turnout have mostly been down in recent years. What specifically will you do to improve the Party's registration efforts and organization in District 10?

The local Party needs to prioritize registering and engaging voters in minority and low income communities. I do not sense that the Party has made this a priority over the last several years, and that should change. I would support efforts to create and fund a local bounty program to register San Francisco Democrats.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. Pending timely receipt of your questionnaire, we look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club*