



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

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Monday, April 4th**. 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: Gladys Soto
Contact person: Gladys Soto
Email address: holderg@sbcglobal.net
Phone number: 415-713-9424
Web site:

Please write a brief response (≤ 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 would love to see more unity among DCCC members to work together on finding solutions to + Housing crisis, homelessness, land use
+ Gigantic Development and the impact on neighborhood character and the environment
+ Increase Community members on the democratic process

2. Please describe your current and past community activism.

For 20 years, I have been working in several nonprofits organizations serving low income community members. I am a product of public education, I attended San Francisco City College and graduated from SFSU, earning a Masters' in Counseling. For over a decade, I have been involved in politics. I have phone banked, precinct walked, merchant walked, attended numerous rallies, protests, registered new voters, gathered signatures, run for the SF School Board in 2012, and won two assembly delegates races. Also I have been a board member of several non profits and Democratic Clubs. I am the SF Latino Democratic Club Representative to the California Democratic Party Chicano Latino Caucus. A position I earned for being the top caller for a Democratic Latino Mayoral candidate in San Diego. I was appointed to the Library Citizens Advisory Committee and the SFUSD Bilingual Committee. I was part of a community effort to help with the petition for Prop I that collected

15,000 signatures in 20 days, and worked on the Prop I campaign as a Volunteer Coordinator. Currently, I am serving as one of the Senate Delegates representing Senator Mark Leno's District. I helped organize over 200 people to testify for Senator Mark Leno SB 364 bill in Sacramento to change the Ellis Act to help tenants.

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?

Yes. For regular citizens aspiring to be elected to the DCCC, it is extremely difficult to even receive \$500 per donor. When I run for School Board in 2012, I spent hours on the phone talking to potential donors and it was difficult to raise money. If candidates and also an elected official or connected to wealthy people, they most likely would receive thousands of dollars and probably get elected just by virtue of reaching out to thousands of voters with several mailing pieces. And of course, after creating name recognition with that well funded DCCC race, they can run a successful campaign in November because they are considered viable/electable. And democracy becomes a joke.

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

Senator Mark Leno, Assemblymember David Chiu, he Laborers International Union 261, and of course the Latino Young 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. It would have eased real estate speculation in San Francisco.
- + Proposition F (2015), Short-Term Residential Rentals
 - Supported. Because, it would have allowed to turn residential housing units into tourist hotels and make the housing crisis worse.

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?

- + Get data of eligible voters and registered voters
- + Reach out to all non profits organizations in District 10
- + Identify and work with community leaders in District 10, including Supervisor Malia Cohen, Tony Kelly, Ed Donaldson, Lynette Sweet, and all former supervisorial candidates.
- + Have a collaborative meeting with nonprofits and community leaders to create a strategic plan to reach out to community members
- + Sponsor community meetings inviting neighbors to participate in a series of discussion in their own neighborhood: Bayview-Hunters Point, McLaren Park, Portola, Potrero Hill and Visitation Valley.

- + Develop and implement a voter registration drive and turn out

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 12th.

Executive Committee, Potrero Hill Democratic Club