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Candidate Questionnaire
for the office of San Francisco Supervisor, District 10
General Election, November 6, 2018

Please return this questionnaire electronically to president@potreroboosters.org **no later than noon, Monday, July 16, 2018**. This questionnaire will be available online, and will be evaluated to determine which candidates shall be invited to participate in the August 28 debate.

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

I'll answer these two questions together in 400 words.

San Francisco is the richest city in the richest state in the richest country in the history of the world. The City's District 10 has more land and more children than any other district. So what happens here in the next 10 years - how we manage our growth, how we decide who gets to live and work here - will determine the City's future.

But District 10 has a very dangerous combination of the most threatening health and quality-of-life issues for City residents. We have the largest disparities in wealth, income, employment, and life expectancies in San Francisco. We have the worst public housing in the City; the worst-performing parks, schools and transit; a chronic deficit of city services, especially those dedicated to immigrants in a district where well over 40% of our residents were born outside of the US; the worst pollution, by far; and a severe shortage of health services.

- A child born in Bayview-Hunters Point can expect to live 14 years less than a child born on Russian Hill.
- African American mothers in San Francisco are more than six times as likely to lose infants as white mothers.

- A planned development site for 12,000 homes has had eight years of faked tests for radioactive soil, and environmental concerns plague the entire district.

So San Francisco's District 10 Supervisor must fight inequality, build working-class neighborhood power, and support our communities. As part of a serious effort to repair the ongoing damage of decades of racist policies and practices that affect Black and Brown lives in San Francisco today, I will commit substantial resources — including what can be done through a public bank — to accountable pollution cleanup in District 10, to living wages, stable housing, access to health services and treatment, and educational and employment support.

My interest in elected office is not in a future political career. It is to provide direct City Hall access for the working people of District 10, to actively work against the systemic racism and inequality in modern day San Francisco, and to build a diverse coalition of intersectional power that can lead the City during and long after my time in office. This relates closely to my volunteer work over two decades.

3. How are you qualified to serve as District 10's Supervisor?

I have grassroots organizing experience on environmental issues, public health, affordable housing, tenants rights, police violence, and Sanctuary protections. I've written legislation and ballot measures, led multiple neighborhood organizations, and served on task forces for the Mayor, the Port, and the Board of Supervisors.

In recent years:

- I've worked with Greenaction and Bayview neighborhood groups to demand better pollution cleanup along the waterfront, including radiological contamination at the Lennar Shipyard. I've also worked to force better cleanups of toxic dirt at construction sites in SoMa and Mission Bay, including the site of the new Warriors arena project.
- I'm helping lead an effort in Bayview for safe spaces for our homeless populations to sleep — in extra bedrooms in existing homes, and on public land for transitional villages, until better shelters or housing are found.
- I was an author of 2016's Proposition S (dedicating Hotel Tax revenues to support San Francisco artists and end family homelessness), which built a unique coalition of family homelessness service providers, arts organizations, and neighborhood artists, and received 63% of the vote in the November 2016 election.
- I've been a leading community advocate for a public banking solution to San Francisco's budget and infrastructure struggles since 2009.

4. How do you define affordable housing in San Francisco? How would you address SF's current housing affordability crisis?

The City's General Plan is clear: San Franciscans who live here should be able to work here; San Franciscans who work here should be able to live here. City Hall's market-driven policies over

the last 30 years have repeatedly undermined that promise, to the point where many residents of District 10 don't even earn enough to qualify for our local affordable housing programs. (This is one of the many flaws in the notion that expanding neighborhood preference programs will automatically lead to more neighborhood residents gaining access to new affordable housing.)

In District 10, we need to be especially conscious of our resident population, and dig deeper to reach more levels of affordability in our new and rehabilitated housing. That's why I'm a strong proponent of using our publicly-owned land for affordable housing, and for establishing a public bank to remove the profit motive from some housing financing. The largest expenses in new housing are the cost of the land and the cost of the money; the City needs to use its land and its financial power to compete in the housing marketplace and bring affordable housing to more people.

5. What investments in infrastructure are needed for the City to accommodate future growth?

6. What specific investments in infrastructure are needed to accommodate D10's future growth?

I'll answer these two questions together in 400 words.

When I worked in the 2000s on the community response to the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, we succeeded in getting two important measures into the plan at the Board of Supervisors:

- Tax increment financing, so a portion of the increased property taxes from re-zoned sites would be dedicated to infrastructure improvements in the neighborhood;
- A clawback provision, where the Board must find that there is enough new infrastructure in the neighborhood to support the planned growth, or else building permit approvals stop.

Unfortunately, these two measures were removed from the Plan before passage, due to pressure from the Mayor and the City Controller. We need these provisions; otherwise, our neighborhoods have little leverage to mandate infrastructure investment in developing neighborhoods.

I want to create a new community-based equity planning process in Bayview and Visitacion Valley next year. Using the tools of equity planning in District 10 would help us correct the grave errors of the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan, expand access to public transit and bikes, and keep more of us in San Francisco.

Then, in order to catch up on our current infrastructure deficits, we must move forward on public banking. With an \$11 billion City budget, at least \$8 billion dollars in City reserves sit in commercial banks every day. Why don't we put that money to work for us? We can use City reserves to create a new local credit market, via existing credit unions or the creation of a municipal bank, funding new infrastructure and affordable housing.

The City Treasurer has the power to enact some of public banking's programmatic goals immediately, by working with local banks, credit unions or Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) on expanded community lending programs with City reserves. Getting those reserves into the hands of local banks enables those banks to borrow from the Federal Reserve, greatly increasing their impact. I would push hard for the immediate expansion of such programs.

We also have to manage our growth by limiting displacement. Corporate housing, short-term rental abuse, no-fault evictions, and speculative purchases that lead to vacant or underused homes are taking tens of thousands of housing units out of the marketplace. So in addition to building new affordable and price-controlled housing on public and private land, we also need the City to step up on further limiting the tools of displacement and speculation.

7. What policies can you implement as Supervisor to better support families living in the City?

Using the Board's unlimited power of inquiry, and the budget and land use powers conferred to them in the Charter, I would seek to:

- Study and publish the data (now suppressed in some cases) showing longstanding health disparities in the City's southeastern neighborhoods.
- Commit to equity planning principles and practices for the coming re-zoning of Third Street, Bayview, and Visitacion Valley, using the planning and development process to identify public and private resources for vulnerable and underrepresented peoples.
- In short, stop trading our community's health for promises of jobs that may or may not come true.
- Implement eviction protections and school and housing lottery reforms for our public housing residents who receive very little City support for such efforts today.
- Fund new and increased wraparound family support services in District 10, including increased access to school playgrounds; new and better funded community centers throughout the District; case-management and safe-haven services to keep schools open 24/7 for students in unstable home environments; and a new school-based music program along the lines of El Sistema, to reduce truancy and engage more families in our public schools.

8. What is the first piece of legislation you plan to introduce as Supervisor in 2019?

I know that my first act as Supervisor will be to hold Community Office Hours in a District 10 neighborhood, like I will every day of the year with me or my staff – to listen, to respond to concerns, and to give access to City Hall for many underserved District 10 families and residents.

I will also immediately charge the City's Department of Public Health to investigate and detail the multiple overlapping causes of District 10's massive health disparities.

I will also move to take specific actions to protect our neighborhoods and the current and future residents of the Lennar Shipyard:

- Re-test all sites and residents at Treasure Island and the Shipyard, including land that has been presumed clean, with independent monitoring and review.
- Oppose all plans to cap contaminants at the Shipyard site, because of the Navy's proven ineffectiveness at definitively addressing toxic issues throughout its history.
- Empower a civilian oversight board to oversee the Shipyard project in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, replacing the dissolved Restoration Advisory Board.
- Restore direct oversight of the Shipyard by the Department of Public Health, the Planning Department, and the Board of Supervisors, instead of the Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure.

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

I am running a corporate-free campaign and have raised almost \$100,000 so far. That amount secures almost \$120,000 in public financing (yet to be disbursed- we know we have enough donors to qualify). Our total budget is \$280,000, including \$155,000 in public matching funds.

With our people-powered field campaign and a strong team of volunteers, we have already knocked on more than 10,000 doors, and I collected 1,000 signatures to get onto the November ballot in 24 days – far faster than any supervisorial campaign in the City.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service.