

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for June 2022 Election

Greetings from the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club,

We invite you as a candidate or ballot measure representative to participate in our June 2022 election endorsement process.

There are a couple steps in our endorsement process:

- 1. Schedule your interview by this Thursday, April 7th*
- 2. Complete and return the attached questionnaire by this Friday, April 8th*
- 3. Interview (15 minutes) with representation from the Club's Political Action Committee (PAC) on either Saturday, April 9th, from 9am to 1pm, or Sunday, April 10th, from 9am to 1pm, via Zoom*

From there, our PAC will vote on endorsement recommendations at the April PAC Meeting on the 12th, with the final endorsement vote taking place at our April General Membership Meeting on the 26th.

Your participation in our Club's endorsement process will allow our membership to better understand your campaign.

The interviews will be open to the public, including Q&A. The interviews will also be recorded and shared with our members ahead of our endorsement recommendation and final votes.

To schedule your interview:

- 1. Sign up for a time slot [here](#)*
 - a. Please sign up by this Thursday, April 7th, to give the PAC enough time to prepare for your interview*
 - b. If you're representing a candidate as a proxy, please include the candidate's name in parentheses next to your name in the Name field of this signup form*
 - c. If you're representing a ballot measure, please include the ballot measure's letter in parentheses next to your name in the Name field of this signup form*
- 2. Register on Zoom [here](#)*

Your participation in our endorsement process will weigh heavily in our endorsement decision.

Thank you,

*Reid Coggins (he / him)
Vice President of Political Action
Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
www.milkclub.org*

Required Information

Full Name: Joel Ventresca

Office Running For / Ballot Measure: California Governor 2022

Campaign Address: 3934 Ortega Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-3944

Campaign Phone: 415-463-5963

Campaign Email: ventrescaj@aol.com

Campaign Website: www.joelventresca.com

If you are representing a ballot measure, you may skip to the “Only Ballot Measures” section below, and you may then skip the rest of the questionnaire.

Political Party: Democratic Party

Are you a member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club? No.

If so, since when?

Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ)? No.

PART 1:

Short-Answer Questions

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

Questions for All Candidates

1. Describe your qualifications for the office you are seeking. Feel free to add anything that you would like our Members to know about you and your candidacy.

As an award-winning administrator, safety security risk expert, and analyst at the City and County of San Francisco International Airport, I demonstrated leadership in business, finance, facilities, operations, and maintenance and built one of California's largest international airports into an industry-leading economic powerhouse creating 300,000 jobs and \$62.5 billion in sales annually (1987-2018).

I learned how to manage people, resources, and challenges efficiently and competently over three decades of public service.

Prior Impactful Leadership Positions: 2021 Most Qualified California Gubernatorial Democratic Candidate; 2019 Democratic Party Runner-up for San Francisco Mayor; City and County of San Francisco Environmental Commissioner; President, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods; Executive Board Member, Service Employees International Union (790); Environmental Justice Pioneer; Nationally-known Successful Community Organizer.

50 Years of Activism & Accomplishments: Organized the winning coalition that passed the most restrictive commercial office highrise growth control law in the nation; Started term-limits for politicians on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Defeated corporate welfare sports facilities promoted by the superrich; Headed the public power movement in San Francisco; Testified before Congress against privatization of national parks; Led the effort to close the last two fossil-fueled burning power plants in San Francisco; Crafted open government law; Drafted detailed plan to cleanup radioactive-contaminated closed military bases; Adopted the first landmark City and County of San Francisco Sustainability Plan.

2. Do you have any key endorsements that you would like to share? Why are these endorsements meaningful to you? The endorsement part of the campaign has just started.

3. What do you see as the most important short-term and long-term solutions to San Francisco's / your jurisdiction's homelessness crisis? What can you do in your office to help end homelessness?

As the Governor of California, with a New Groundbreaking Equal-Opportunity-for-All-to-Succeed Platform (www.joelventresca.com), I will:

- End homelessness, poverty, and economic inequality.

- Enact free, universal, high-quality healthcare, education prekindergarten-through-college, childcare & job training fully-funded by wealthy individuals & corporations, government revenues, and high-income workers.
- Raise minimum wage to \$18.50-an-hour with no exceptions & annual upward cost-of-living adjustments (everyone who works full-time 40-hours-week will make over \$38,000-a-year).
- Launch a government-funded and government-directed massive relief program to provide decent shelter, food, and clothing to all 160,000 homeless individuals in California while providing targeted healthcare, treatment, assistance & services.
- Place, with due process, homeless individuals who are a danger to themselves or others into a humane setting with appropriate monitoring & treatment.
- Change state law to allow counties and cities to pass tenant protections & rent control to freeze or bring down rents.
- Provide emergency financial help to tenants and homeowners facing eviction and foreclosure for up to three years.
- Build large-scale multi-unit permanent affordable housing.
- Eliminate taxes & fees on small businesses for five years.
- Grow the economy by creating new jobs and building new public infrastructure.

Newsom stood with Big Landlords and killed rent control; tenants face skyrocketing rents, displacement, evictions, and homelessness.

4. What work have you done to address economic inequality and housing unaffordability in San Francisco / your jurisdiction? What will you do to address them if elected?

I have worked against economic inequality and housing unaffordability over decades in San Francisco. I have consistently supported increasing taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations. I have consistently supported rent control and tenant protections.

As governor, with the legislature and the electorate, I will work to increase taxes on the rich and allow cities and counties to adopt rent control.

5. Describe your work addressing racial injustice, economic inequity, and police brutality in San Francisco / your jurisdiction.

I have worked against racial injustice, economic inequity, and police brutality in my political and professional career for decades.

6. How have you supported LGBTQ San Franciscans / residents of your jurisdiction, and how will you continue to do so if elected?

I endorsed Harry Britt and helped him win his first election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in December 1979. This was the first time a gay candidate to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was elected with a majority of the vote in an election.

I was the first straight politician in San Francisco to support gay marriage in 1979.

I will continue to support the gay community as I have for 50 years.

7. Describe your work addressing the climate crisis, and what specific steps you would take if elected to confront climate change and environmental injustice.

As a San Francisco Environmental Commissioner, I adopted the first landmark City and County of San Francisco Sustainability Plan. In 2019, I drafted a detailed plan to clean-up the radioactive-contaminated closed military bases in San Francisco. I have been an Environmental Justice Pioneer for decades. As a San Francisco Environmental Commissioner, I was the first public official who called for the closing of the last two fossil-fueled burning power plants in San Francisco.

California, the most populous state in the nation with the 5th largest economy in the world, is not doing enough to slow down or stop global warming.

As a former City and County of San Francisco Environmental Commissioner and as governor of California, I will:

- Reinvent California into the first zero-carbon-emissions state in the nation.
- Restructure energy utilities into one full-service consumer-owned statewide public power system that operates efficiently, reliably, sustainably & safely with 15% lower rates.
- Convert to non-nuclear 100% clean renewable energy.
- Establish free public transit getting people out of cars and onto public transportation.
- Build bullet train between Los Angeles and San Francisco getting people out of airplanes and onto trains.
- Cease fracking & oil drilling.
- Eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and gas-powered vehicles.
- Promote the manufacturing of zero-emission electric vehicles in California to bring down costs.
- Require polluters to cleanup land, water, and air contamination impacting communities of color.

Newsom stood with Big Oil and approved 2,849 new fracking, oil & gas drilling permits while California is 60 years behind on its climate goals. Newsom stood with Big Investor-Owned Utilities, took \$700,000 from California's largest utility (PG&E) for his own family and campaign contributions, then engineered a massive Wall Street-friendly ratepayer-funded \$21 billion bailout while the state was hit with out-of-control wildfires, blackouts, and rate increases.

During the Newsom administration, the California legislature has not passed a single significant climate change law. The group California Environmental Voters assigned its first "D" grade to California for failure to address climate change in 2021.

8. Describe a time when you worked against an established power structure or entrenched authority to achieve progressive change. How was this positive change accomplished?

Since 1995 as a San Francisco peaceful warrior champion, I fearlessly battled the *Most Corrupt Machine in America* that *amassed* unprecedented power & wealth, *rigged* the economic & political system to make the superrich richer, and *caused* ever-expanding

criminal prosecutions. This decades-old establishment, status quo, insider Willie 'political mob boss' Brown & protégés corruption machine is linked to widespread scandal, bribery, money laundering, contract & rate fixing, kickbacks, fraud, patronage, violence, threats, war profiteering, insider trading, missing records, election irregularities, conflicts of interest & backroom deals.

I have consistently fought for progressive fundamental change. Through community organizing, I was able to bring about positive change. Some of my 50 years of activism and accomplishments are listed in Question 1.

9. In 2019, there were 132,911 people living with HIV in CA, 50% or more of whom were over the age of 50 (in San Francisco, it's 70%). Many have no family or friends to look after them as they grow older, having little to no family ties and having lost a vast majority of their social circles. Aging comes with its own challenges, and HIV complicates that process even more. What plans do you have to help support and care for this growing population?

As a former Department Head Assistant & Aging Specialist, who reorganized the City and County of San Francisco Aging Commission into a model city department, I am knowledgeable about challenges senior citizens are facing.

As governor, with input & consultation from all stakeholders, I will prepare and implement a comprehensive plan to help support and care for Californians living with HIV who are over 50.

Only Congressional Candidates

- 1. Please explain why you are running for Congress.**
- 2. Do you support Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's *Green New Deal*? Why or why not?**
- 3. Do you support Medicare For All? If so, how would you implement it?**
- 4. Do you support reducing military spending, and diverting these funds towards domestic programs? If so, how would you help implement this?**
- 5. Do you support reducing America's military presence in other countries?**
- 6. What would you do to improve America's current immigration policy?**
- 7. What steps will you take to ensure reproductive freedom?**
- 8. Do you support raising the Federal Minimum wage? If so, to what amount?**
- 9. Is your campaign accepting any corporate or PAC money? If so, please list those sources.**
- 10. What are your main strategies for meeting potential voters during this campaign?**

Only Ballot Measures

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

- 1. Please include any and all contact information for your proposition.**
- 2. Please describe what policies or outcomes this proposition would achieve.**
- 3. What would be the fiscal impact of this proposition if it passes?**
- 4. Who crafted this proposition, and how was it placed on the ballot?**
- 5. Who are some of this proposition's individual and organizational supporters? What are your main funding sources?**
- 6. Why do you think the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club should support this proposition?**

PART 2:

Yes or No Questions

(Please "X" Yes or No for each question.)

GENERAL	YES	NO
Are you registered to vote as a Democrat?	X	
Have you ever sought elected office before?	X	
Do you have a campaign consultant or other main point of contact? If so, who? Joel Ventresca	X	
Have you sought a Milk Club endorsement at any point in the past?	X	
LGBTQ ISSUES & SEXUAL LIBERATION	YES	NO
Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class; e.g., a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual nonmonogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare?	X	
Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	X	
Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	X	
Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	X	
TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS	YES	NO
Do you support immediate rent cancellation and mortgage forbearance for all tenants and homeowners impacted by COVID-19?	X	
Do you support the creation of an independent commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Services (or similar)?	X	
Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	X	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	X	

Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	X	
Have you ever evicted a tenant?		X
Do you support the sweeps of homeless encampments by the Department of Public Works or SFPD (or similar)?		X
Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and/or supportive housing for the homeless?	X	
Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, in 2020 (or would you have, had you been a San Francisco voter)?	X	
Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco / your jurisdiction?	X	
Do you support a public municipal bank in San Francisco / your jurisdiction?	X	
Did you support the proposed real estate transfer tax in 2020 for properties valued at or over \$10 million (or would you have, had you been a San Francisco voter)?	X	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES

YES NO

Should U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?		X
Do you support sanctuary cities?	X	
Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	X	
Do you support allowing undocumented San Franciscans (or those in your jurisdiction) to serve on city / state boards and commissions?	X	
Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	X	

RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

YES NO

Do you support the death penalty?		X
Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		X

Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	X	
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Does your campaign accept contributions from law-enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		X
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Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association (or that of your jurisdiction) be disbanded or at least have its political influence in the City severely curtailed?	X	
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Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?	X	
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Do you support reparations for Black people?	X	
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Do you support the implementation of supervised injection / consumption sites?	X	
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Do you support extending voting rights in local / state elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	X	
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Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		X
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Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	X	
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Do you support repealing California Proposition 209?	X	
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Did you support California Proposition 22 (App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative)?		X
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If San Francisco is within your jurisdiction: Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?		X
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

YES NO

Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	X	
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Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program (or similar)?	X	
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Would you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide / within your jurisdiction?	X	
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Would you support a ban on fossil fuel extraction in the state of California?	X	
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If San Francisco is within your jurisdiction: Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		X
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PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

YES NO

Did you support the <i>Sunlight on Dark Money (Prop. F)</i> measure on the November 2019 ballot (or would you have, had you been a San Francisco voter)?	X	
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Do you support expanding San Francisco's / your jurisdiction's public financing program to all elected offices?	X	
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PART 3:

Support of Other Candidates

(Please answer whom you support or supported in each race. If you made a ranked endorsement or voted for more than one candidate using IRV, please indicate the rankings.)

2020 Candidate

Democratic Presidential Primary	Bernie Sanders
CA State Senate, District 11	Jackie Fielder
San Francisco District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
San Francisco District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin
San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
San Francisco District 7 Supervisor	No endorsement
San Francisco District 11 Supervisor	John Avalos

2019 Candidate

San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
San Francisco District Attorney	No endorsement

2018 Candidate

San Francisco Mayor	Angela Alioto
San Francisco District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
San Francisco District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
San Francisco District 10 Supervisor	Tony Kelly