

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for November 2022 Election

Greetings from the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club,

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

There are a couple steps in our endorsement process:

- 1. By noon on Friday, August 5:*
 - a. Schedule your 10-minute interview [here](#) (5-minute buffers between interviews)*
 - i. 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*
 - ii. If you're representing a ballot measure, please include the ballot measure's number (state) or letter (city) in parentheses next to your name in the Name field of this signup form*
 - b. Complete and return the attached questionnaire*
- 2. Interview with representation from the Club's Political Action Committee (PAC) on Saturday, August 6th, during your 10-minute window between 10:30am and 3:30pm, at either of the following locations:*
 - a. Main Library of San Francisco, Mary Louise Stong Room, 100 Larkin St*
 - b. Zoom (register [here](#))*

The interviews will be open to the public, recorded, and shared on our public website.

Your participation in our endorsement process will allow our membership to better understand your campaign, and will weigh heavily in our recommendation and endorsement decisions.

The PAC will vote on endorsement recommendations at the August PAC Meeting on the 9th, with the final endorsement vote taking place at our August General Membership Meeting on the 16th. There is no expectation of your / your staff's attendance at these meetings. Results will be posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) after each of these meetings.

Thank you,

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

Required Information

1. **Full name:** Adolfo Velasquez
2. **Office running for / ballot measure:** College Board Community
3. **Campaign address:** 3861 25th St. #A San Francisco Ca, 94114
4. **Campaign phone number:** 415-722-2905
5. **Campaign email address:** adolfov4collegeboardtrustee@gmail.com
6. **Campaign website:** not created at this point

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.

7. **Political party:** Democratic
8. **Are you a member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club?** No
9. **If so, since when?**
10. **Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and / or queer (LGBTQ)?** No

PART 1: Short-Answer Questions

Questions for All Candidates

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

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

I was born and raised in San Francisco. My history at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) is long and diversified which I believe highly qualifies me for the position of a College Board Trustee. I began at CCSF reentry student then, equipped with a Master's degree in Counseling, I returning to work as an Career and Academic Counselor and ended as Chair of the Educational Opportunity Programs & Services (EOP&S) a program for low income, disadvantaged and marginalized students, before retiring in spring of 2021. It is from those different perspectives that I would bring to the table in making decisions on policies at CCSF. While I have seen many success stories working with many students I've also witnessed students concerns, frustrations and fears with the crisis that CCSF has faced in the last 10 years beginning with the accreditation crisis.

2. Do you have any key endorsements that you would like to share? Why are these endorsements meaningful to you? I'm currently working towards

I have interviews coming up this weekend with the Democratic Central Committee (DCCC), Berniecrats, SF Latinx Democratic Club, Alice B Toklias, ICLU Longshoresman for possible endorsements.

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?

The city must do more to house those want the help find spaces to live. There are many empty spaces in San Francisco that can house many of the homeless population short-term or long-term housing. As a CCSF trustee, our goal is to provide the opportunity to earn an education, find a good paying job/career and help them rise above their economic and housing situation.

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?

My work as an educator CCSF and SF State assisting students to complete their education goal that would give them the possibility of earning a livable wage and be able to live with all their basic needs met.

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

My work has been done with each election where I vote with my values of justice and equality for all, not just the few. My work has also been as an educator helping marginalized students rise out their current situations and allow them to be productive people in this city and society so that they can better address the injustices, police brutality and inequalities in existence.

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

Yes I have, when I vote, I vote for those that hold the same view and values as mine that strives to improve the quality of life for all.

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

I do my part by recycling and cleaning up as much as I can in and out of my home.

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?

I have marched against police murders, women's rights, Palestinians right to Statehood. I've marched in May Day activities and at City College rallies.

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 is 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 population?

In all honesty, I was not aware of the current statistics listed in this question. In part, because of all the attention given to Covid, the media is quite silent about HIV or I just haven't seen it. But as I have done in the past I vote and donate for services that provides help where needed.

Only Supervisorial Candidates
(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

1. What are your top three legislative priorities if elected?
2. Should SFPD be reformed, defunded, or abolished? And why?
3. How should San Francisco balance its budget during this current economic crisis?
4. How should the Board of Supervisors handle the current monkeypox health crisis?
5. Do you support expanding transit-only lanes in your district?
6. How will you preserve and expand affordable housing in your district?
7. Do you support a navigation center in your district?
8. How would you characterize the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government in San Francisco?
9. Who do you currently see as your closest allies on the Board of Supervisors?
10. If district add-back funds are available in the future, where and how would you allocate them in your district?
11. Which of San Francisco's governmental bureaucracies is most in need of an audit and why?

Only School Board Candidates
(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

1. Do you support charter schools in San Francisco? Why or why not?
2. Do you support Common Core education standards?
3. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?
4. How will you address the needs of homeless students?
5. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families?
6. What are the most important actions that you can take in your office to stabilize and support Black students?
7. Do you support alternatives to a student's suspension in instances of disruption or *willful defiance*?
8. Do you support the removal of the *Life of Washington* mural at George Washington High School? Why or why not? If yes, what form of removal do you support?
9. Do you support the removal of the *Life of Washington* mural at George Washington High School? Why or why not? If yes, what form of removal do you support?

Only City College Board Candidates

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

1. What specific experience do you have with the City College of San Francisco?

8 years after high school, I returned to CCSF for 3 years earning my first AA degree in General Studies before transferring to SF State. I returned to CCSF in 2004 with a MS in Counseling, working as a part-time Career Counselor (8 years), part-time Academic Counselor (3 years) in Educational Opportunity Program & Service (EOP&S) a program for low income, disadvantaged and marginalized students. I became a full-time tenured counselor in EOP&S in 2015 before becoming Chair in 2019, retiring in 2021. I earned my latest AA degree in *Critical Middle Eastern /SWANA (South West Asia North Africa) Studies* while retired Fall 2021. While working part-time at CCSF (2004-2014) I was an Academic Counselor at SF State, working with many CCSF transfer students. I served 1 year as the faculty advisor for the Computer Science student organization and a faculty Advisory Board member for *Middle Eastern Studies/SWANA* since 2018.

2. What is your plan to address the bullying of LGBTQ students, as well as students of traditionally marginalized communities?

As a trustee it would be important and my/our responsibility to get involved should bullying take place involving LGBTQ students and other marginalized students utilizing the appropriate services on campus including Queer Resource Center, Mental Health, campus police fortunately, during my tenure in EOP&S we did not have situations of bullying involving our students, and EOP&S is made up almost entirely of marginalized students. But had there been a situation of bullying it would have addressed appropriately.

3. How would you address the needs of homeless students? CCSF has a program called The Homeless At-Risk Transitional Students (H.A.R.T) <https://www.ccsf.edu/student-services/support-programs/harts-program> to assist students dealing with homelessness and home insecurity by way of offering book vouchers, supplemental book assistance, priority registration date, transportation vouchers, referrals to homeless shelters etc. It is vital that, as Covid, MonkeyPox and homelessness persists in the City, CCSF, in collaboration with outside services, continue to provide the best and up to date services that H.A.R.T was designed to do. But, in order to provide optimal services the program needs to be fully staffed. As a trustee it would be my responsibility to ensure that H.A.R.T and other programs and services at CCSF continue to exist and serve our students.

4. What are your plans to protect undocumented students and their families?

During my tenure at CCSF, I was always an ally of undocumented students regardless of if they were AB540 or not, although in EOP&S only AB540 students were allowed, sadly we could not serve and protect all. Regardless, I collaborated with the Latinx Service Network (LSN) and the Dream center when working with undocumented students regardless of AB540 status or not.

5. Did you support the recent City College staff layoff? What is your stance on future faculty and staff layoffs?

I did not support the lay-offs in May nor will I support future lay-offs without looking at every possible option. As usual the May lay-offs, from my understanding, did not include any administrator, it is time our top-heavy administration takes some of the brunt of the budget situation, with their high salaries. With the hope that the parcel tax measure passes in November, it is projected to generate \$45 Million dollars annually and prevent further lay-offs and loss of classes. As a trustee it would be the boards responsibility to ensure that the money is used appropriately. The downsizing of CCSF cannot continue, it is time to rebuild it, beginning with increasing enrollment.

6. Do you support Chancellor David Martin? How would you describe his tenure? I no longer support Chancellor Martin. In my view, he is there to clean house based on his and his administrations budget analysis, forecast and measures to address the deficit without taking consideration of others input as demonstrated when the AFT2121 presented their budget analysis and proposals demonstrating that the deficit could have been handled differently without the devastating lay-offs and cutting of classes. The budget process by chancellor and administration needs to be more transparent.

7. Do you support the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund that dedicates permanent funding for non-credit classes at City College?

Yes I support Workforce Education and Recovery Fund, non-credit classes is the starting point to many of the students at CCSF whether it's for the culinary (e.g. Bakery) or with English as Second Language (ESL) classes. Many students that begin with non-credit classes transition to credit classes. As we know CCSF is in need of students now is not the time to discourage students from attending our school whether it's for credit or non-credit classes.

Only BART Board Candidates

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

1. Will you vote or have you voted for fare increases? Parking fees?

2. Should BART police be defunded, disarmed, or banned entirely? Why or why not?

3. Do you support a regional sales tax to fund transit? Why or why not?

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? _____		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 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?		
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)?		
Would you support a licensing system for landlords in San Francisco / your jurisdiction?		

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	
Does your campaign accept contributions from law enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		x
Should the San Francisco Police Officers Association (or that of your jurisdiction) be disbanded / have its political influence severely curtailed?	x	
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		x
Do you support reparations for Black people?	x	
Do you support the implementation of supervised injection / consumption sites?		
Do you support extending voting rights in local / state elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	x	
Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		x
Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	x	
Do you support repealing California Proposition 209?	x	
Did you support California Proposition 22 (App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative)?		

<i>If San Francisco is within your jurisdiction:</i> Did you support 2022's San Francisco Proposition H (Chesa Boudin Recall)?		x
<i>If San Francisco is within your jurisdiction:</i> Do you support rebuilding the county jail at 850 Bryant?	x	

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	x	
Do you support expanding the CleanPower SF program (or similar)?	x	
Would you support a plan to provide free transportation citywide / within your jurisdiction?	x	
Would you support a ban on fossil fuel extraction in the state of California?	x	
<i>If San Francisco is within your jurisdiction:</i> Should the mayor continue to appoint all commissioners to the SFMTA?		x

PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY	YES	NO
Did you support the Sunlight on Dark Money measure (Proposition F) on the November 2019 ballot (or would you have, had you been a San Francisco voter)?		
Do you support expanding San Francisco's / your jurisdiction's public financing program to all elected offices?		

PART 3: Support of Other Candidates

(Please fill in who you supported. If you made a ranked endorsement or voted for more than one candidate using IRV, please indicate the rankings.)

	2020 Candidate
Democratic Presidential Primary	
CA State Senate, District 11	
San Francisco District 1 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 3 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 7 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 11 Supervisor	
	2019 Candidate
San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	
San Francisco District Attorney	
	2018 Candidate
San Francisco Mayor	
San Francisco District 4 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 6 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor	
San Francisco District 10 Supervisor	