

# Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club November 2024 Endorsement Questionnaire (June)

## PART 1: Required Information

1. **Full name and pronouns:** Aaron Peskin, he/him
2. **Office running for / ballot measure:** Mayor
3. **Campaign consultant / primary point of contact:** Jim Stearns / Kaitlyn Conway
4. **Campaign address:** 2055 Market Street
5. **Campaign phone number:** 817.287.1116
6. **Campaign email address:** kaitlyn@aaron2024.com
7. **Campaign website:** <https://www.aaron2024.com>

**If you are representing a ballot measure, you may skip to the “Only Ballot Measures” section of Part 2 below, and you may then skip the rest of the questionnaire.**

8. **Political party:** Democratic
9. **Are or were you a member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club? If so, please provide timeframe.** Yes, I have been a member for the past 15+ years
10. **Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and / or queer (LGBTQ)?** No

## **PART 2: Short-Answer Questions**

*(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)*

### **General Questions**

#### **1. Describe your qualifications for the office you are seeking.**

Shortly after earning my bachelor's degree at UC Santa Cruz, I started my career in community organizing. For the past 25 years, I have dedicated my career to serving the city of San Francisco through the Board of Supervisors, where I had the privilege of serving three times as President of the Board. In addition to representing our communities on the Board of Supervisors, I have been a lifelong environmental activist, working with California tribes and organizations such as the Sierra Club and Audobon Society to help create a sustainable future for all Californians. I have also served as a Commissioner on both the Bay Conservation & Development Commission and the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and was previously on the California Coastal Commission.

#### **2. Specify key endorsements you have and why they are meaningful to you.**

##### Elected Officials:

**Connie Chan**, D1 Supervisor  
**Dean Preston**, D5 Supervisor  
**Hillary Ronen**, D9 Supervisor  
**Bevan Duffy**, BART Director  
**Phil Ting**, California State Assembly  
**Art Agnos**, Former SF Mayor  
**Tom Ammiano**, Former State Assembly  
**Mark Leno**, Former State Senator  
**John Burton**, Former Senator  
**David Campos** Former Supervisor, Chair  
SF Democratic Party  
**Sandra Lee Fewer**, Former Supervisor  
**Jake McGoldrick**, Former Supervisor  
**Norman Yee**, Former Board President,  
**Eric & Gordon Mar**, Former Supervisors  
**Matt Gonzalez**, Former Board President

**Sophie Maxwell**, Former Supervisor  
**Jane Kim**, Former Supervisor

##### Community Leaders:

**Cleve Jones**  
**Juanita MORE!**  
**Sal Rosselli**

##### Organizations:

**San Francisco Tenants Union**  
**Small Business Forward**  
**Berniecrats**  
**League of Pissed-Off Voters**  
**SF Rising Action Fund**

##### Labor:

**UESF**  
**NUHW**  
**Teamsters 853**  
**Teamsters 2785**  
**AFT 2121**

Endorsements are an expression of confidence in one's ability to capably lead and represent the people of San Francisco. I'm honored to have each and every one of the above.

#### **3. What is your win number? How many doors have you knocked so far in your race, and how many do you plan to knock?**

We plan to knock on as many doors as we can and talk to as many voters as possible before election day.

**4. What is your fundraising goal, and how much have you raised so far?**

We raised over \$250,000 in the first two month and aim to raise at least \$1.6 million with public financing

**5. What will you do to end homelessness in your jurisdiction (short- and long-term)?**

I will continue creating legislation for more affordable housing across the city, as I have for my entire career. One such example is spearheading Prop A this past spring, which will issue \$300 million to construct, develop, acquire or rehabilitate affordable housing in San Francisco. I will continue to support shelters, navigation centers, eviction prevention, tenants rights and rent control expansion.

**6. What work have you done to address economic inequality and housing unaffordability? If elected, what will you do to address them?**

I have been a champion of local programs to zone for, fund, and build tens of thousands of affordable housing units and have pioneered and crafted new approaches to secure funding and otherwise intervene in the housing market in favor of affordability, including supporting the first inclusionary zoning policy, four housing bonds which successfully raised over \$1.3 billion in funding and the Community Opportunity to Purchase Act which gives community-based non-profits the ability to have first access to affordable acquisition opportunities. I am pioneering new forms of affordable housing funding, including more expansive housing revenue bonds, which can radically expand funding available for workforce housing projects that serve labor union members, including teachers and public sector workers, healthcare workers, and more.

**7. How have you addressed racial injustice and police brutality? How will you work to ensure Limited English Proficient (LEP) community members have access to government services?**

I have always listened to community concerns and acted accordingly throughout my time in office. I have advocated for low-income individuals and disadvantaged communities, particularly communities of color, fought gentrification at every turn, and taxed the rich to pay for affordable housing and services in areas of the city that are not being adequately serviced. In nearly all of my direct appointments to Citizens' Advisory Committees, I have sought to advance the leadership of women and people of color. I have pushed for similar representation on the Planning Commission and the MTA Board of Directors. I am a supporter of the Office of Racial Equity and intend to do what I can and what is asked of me to help build the stature and viability of that office, including by expanding its role in development and transportation decisions in San Francisco.

In the course of representing the Chinatown community, I have joined progressive efforts to bridge gaps and engender support for community-led criminal justice reform. I am a strong proponent of progressive taxation and have opposed regressive taxes that disproportionately impact low-income San Franciscans.

**8. How have you supported LGBTQ residents, and how will you if elected?**

LGBTQ San Franciscans are disproportionately impacted by homelessness, and this is even more true of young people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. I have supported every budget ask of Our Trans Home SF and was proud to join community representatives from Larkin Street Youth Center, TAJA's Coalition, St. James Infirmary, TGI Justice Project, El/la para TransLatinas and the City's Office of Transgender Initiatives to open the first transitional housing program for trans and gender non-conforming San Franciscans on Washington Street in District 3.

**9. Describe your work addressing the climate crisis, and what specific steps you will take to confront climate change and environmental injustice.**

As someone who has worked as an environmentalist and conservationist for my entire adult career outside of public service, I have repeatedly identified climate change as one of the most pressing issues that San Francisco must address.

Since my first term in 2001, I have advocated for and prioritized sound environmental policy. I led the effort to stop the City from filling in two square miles of San Francisco Bay for runway expansion at SFO. I have passed various environmental reforms, such as working to get the city off of natural gas. I have also advocated to divest the SF Retirement Fund from fossil fuels and sponsored legislation to protect Tuolumne River from the Trump Administration's attempts to divert critical water flow from salmon breeding grounds – which was vetoed by Mayor Breed. I partnered with former Supervisor Sophie Maxwell to finally address years of environmental racism in the City's southeast neighborhoods by closing the toxic Potrero and Bayview Power Plants (we even took the fight to Sacramento) . I have supported the use of groundwater from the Lake Merced aquifer to supplement San Francisco's water supply, and fought against the use of manufactured drought numbers that promote excess water usage. I sponsored legislation to allow the SFPUC to issue revenue bonds for the purposes of acquiring power infrastructure from PG&E to use for the City's Clean Power program, and I led the effort to secure essential bond and grant revenue to initiate the first phase of the critical Seawall Resiliency Project, as well as many other accomplishments during my time as a member of the Bay Conservation Development Commission, the California Coastal Commission, and the SF Bay Restoration Authority.

As Mayor, I will continue these efforts, focusing on open space and waterfront resiliency. I will continue to work to secure the local, state, federal, and philanthropic funds necessary to not only fortify the seawall against sea-level rise but use it as an opportunity to reimagine the public waterfront for scientific, educational, recreational, and cultural uses. I worked to secure funds to re-envision Aquatic Park, complete with plans for a needed restoration of the historic Muni Pier, which provides critical wave attenuation. This work includes the local Native American community and our stakeholder meetings have also included ideas ranging from a Water Protectors Trail and medicinal garden of native plants in partnership with the American Indian Cultural Center to a marine biology center that would study wave patterns and climate change strategies.

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

My entire career has been characterized by this dynamic, and I've never been afraid to confront powerful interests to achieve progressive change that benefits the City's most marginalized including taking on tech giants like Airbnb, Uber and Lyft.

**11. Among San Franciscans with HIV, overdose is the #1 cause of death, 1/6 are homeless (or at-risk), and new infections are increasing. 50% of HIV-related federal funding is at-risk. How will you address this and involve HIV communities directly in your decision-making? Will you support housing subsidies, fully funded HIV programming, and decriminalization of substance use? Why / why not?**

I work with listen to impacted communities in all of my decision making and consistently collaborated closely with progressive organizations. I have always been committed to funding all aspects of public health, and I am actively working to expand housing subsidies with an Extremely Low-Income housing subsidy Charter amendment that I drafted for the November ballot. Together with former Supervisor Norman Yee, I pioneered senior housing subsidies, which has already helped hundreds of extremely low-income seniors pay their rent for the last 6 years. While I support the decriminalization of substance use and safe injection sites, I also support the prosecution of drug dealers, especially fentanyl dealers, but believe that people with substance use disorders need treatment, not jails.

**12. What is your commitment to transgender, non-binary, two-spirit, intersex, and gender-expansive individuals in lieu of Banko Brown's murder and 320 transgender people killed in 2023 (a historically underreported statistic)? How will you ensure justice and equity for all transgender individuals?**

I have supported Our Trans Home SF and was proud to join community representatives from Larkin Street Youth Center, TAJA's Coalition, St. James Infirmary, TGI Justice Project, El/La para TransLatinas and the City's Office of Transgender Initiatives to open the first transitional housing program for trans and gender non-conforming San Franciscans on Washington St. in District 3. I also pushed for and succeeded in opening the first and only TAY Navigation Center in my district. And I am a strong supporter of the City's commitment to end Trans homelessness.

Finally, I led the Board of Supervisors work in standing up to District Attorney Brooke Jenkins and StopCrime SF to call for the release of all video documentation and case information in the killing of Banko Brown, which DA Jenkins wrongfully in my opinion, decided not to prosecute.

**13. How long have you lived in your jurisdiction? Explain any effects of redistricting.**

I have lived in D3 since 1990. I am an advocate for redistricting reform to defend fairly drawn district maps and avoid the bitter partisanship and backroom deals that characterized our recent redistricting process across the City. I have introduced a Charter amendment for this November's ballot to undertake redistricting reform so that the shameful shenanigans that happened two years ago won't happen again.

**14. See the Club's platform at [milkclub.org/platform](https://milkclub.org/platform). Any disagreements?**

Nope

## **Only Mayor Candidates**

*(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)*

### **1. What are your top three legislative priorities if elected?**

My top focus areas will be public safety, affordable housing, and homelessness.

### **2. Do you oppose closing public schools in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)?**

The answer is not a simple yes or no. While the School District is not under the purview of the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors, the City has an obligation to help the SFUSD through their fiscal turmoil as a collaborative partner. First and foremost, school closures must not impact low-income or communities of color. The City should assist the SFUSD in creating an equitable plan that does not harm communities of concern and ensures that every community has appropriate teacher-student ratios

### **3. The Mayor's office has a tremendous ability to influence what gets included in the City budget.**

#### **a. What should be increased / decreased to balance the City budget?**

I have long been a fastidious steward of city resources through the budget process and in anti-corruption work. I believe we can find creative ways to fund essential health and human services including taking advantage of lower lease rates for city offices as I did at 1145 Market Street.

#### **b. Which of the local governmental bureaucracies is most in need of an audit? Why?**

Regular auditing of government agencies is important but what San Francisco really needs to create a Charter mandated Office of the Inspector General to root out corruption, fraud and abuse as I have proposed for the November ballot.

#### **c. Do you commit to fully funding the Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART) for the homeless, starting in your first term?**

Yes, I am a continuous supporter of CART and will fund it to the best of our ability within the constraints of our budget.

#### **d. San Francisco's HIV care and prevention safety net is one of the best in the world. This year, however, we're facing budget deficits at all levels of government, and we're facing a nearly \$500K - \$800K cut in our CDC funding. Do you commit to backfilling federal funding cuts to maintain San Francisco's HIV safety net?**

My tenure in office has been marked repeatedly with standing up for backfilling cuts from the federal government in HIV and other public health programs. I stood up for backfilling cuts when Ryan White Act dollars were cut and am prepared to do so again.

#### **e. San Francisco is facing an unprecedented overdose crisis with hundreds dying every year. Safer Consumption Sites are a proven public health**

**intervention that have existed for over 30 years across the world including most recently in New York and unofficially in San Francisco through the Tenderloin Linkage Center. When the Tenderloin Linkage Center closed, we saw a sharp increase in the number of overdoses. Do you commit to opening one or more Safer Consumption Sites in San Francisco during your first term?**

The medical data supports standing up safe consumption sites and I am on record in being committed to doing so.

**f. Do you support preserving existing navigation centers and expanding their number?**

Yes

**4. How can the mayor create more transparency from and accountability within the public health department?**

First of all we need to oppose Together SF's Charter amendment that would set us back by eliminating the Public Health Commission. Second, we need a mayor who will encourage transparency and listens to our public health experts. I have already introduced a charter amendment calling for an inspector general's office to investigate fraud, waste and abuse in city government and by city contractors as corruption scandals continue to tarnish City Hall.

**5. Do you support expanding transit-only and protected bike lanes?**

Yes

**6. What are your thoughts on the role of law enforcement and corporations in the annual Pride parade?**

I believe in real community policing and believe anyone who walks in pride should be welcome, including law enforcement officers. This allows for more dialogue between communities with differing views and promotes understanding of one another's differences.

**7. Do you support lowering the voting age to 16 for local elections? Why or why not?**

Data shows that the earlier you vote, the more consistent you are and the more frequently you will vote for the rest of your life. I voted yes to put Vote 16 on the ballot and campaigned on its behalf albeit it didn't pass.

**8. Who do you currently see as your closest allies on the Board of Supervisors? How will you work with other supervisors when disagreements arise?**

I am able to work with all of my colleagues and they have elected me as their president but my natural allies are the progressive members of the board.

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

1. BART faces a [long-term structural deficit](#).
  - a. What will you do to address this deficit?
  
  - b. Will you vote or have you voted for fare increases? Parking fees?
  
  - c. Do you support a regional sales tax to fund transit? Why or why not?
  
2. What is the best way to provide for public safety on BART? Please include what you see as BART police's role.
  
3. Please take another look at our [Transportation Justice platform plank](#). How would you improve it from a BART perspective?

## **Only Ballot Measures**

*(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)*

- 1. Please describe what specific policies or concrete outcomes your proposition would achieve.**
- 2. What would be a) the fiscal impact of your proposition if it passes and b) the fiscal impact if it does not?**
- 3. Who crafted your proposition, and how was it placed on the ballot?**
- 4. Who are your proposition's individual and organizational supporters of note? What are your proposition's primary funding sources?**
- 5. Why do you think the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club should support your proposition?**

### **PART 3: Yes or No Questions**

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

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Have you ever sought elected office before?	Y	
Have you previously sought a Milk Club endorsement?	Y	

<b>LGBTQ ISSUES &amp; SEXUAL LIBERATION</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class; e.g., a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual non-monogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare?	Y	
Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	Y	
Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	Y	
Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	Y	

<b>TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do you support independent oversight of your jurisdiction's agency that is responsible for services to the homeless?	Y	
Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	Y	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	Y	
Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	Y	
Have you ever evicted a tenant?		N
Do you support requiring the consent of homeless encampment residents prior to their displacement by your jurisdiction's city government(s)?	Y	
Do you support the public acquisition of hotel rooms for permanent shelter and / or supportive housing for the homeless?	Y	
Did you support Measure D, the vacant property tax, in 2020 (or would you have, had you been a San Francisco voter)? [I authored it, thx for asking! :)]	Y	
Would you support a licensing system for landlords in your jurisdiction?	Y	
Do you support a public municipal bank in your jurisdiction?	Y	
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)?	Y	

<b>IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Should the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?	Y	
Do you support sanctuary cities?	Y	
Do you support due process protections for immigrant youth accused of crimes?	Y	
Do you support allowing the undocumented to serve on city / state boards and commissions?	Y	
Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	Y	

<b>RACIAL &amp; SOCIAL JUSTICE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do you support the death penalty?		N
Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		N
Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	Y	
Does your campaign accept contributions from law enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		N
Should your local Police Officers Association be disbanded / have its political influence severely curtailed?	Y	
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		N
Do you support reparations for Black people?	Y	
Do you support the implementation of overdose prevention sites?	Y	
Do you support extending voting rights in local / state elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	Y	
Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		N
Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	Y	
Do you support repealing California Proposition 209?	Y	
Did you support California Proposition 22 (App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative)?		N

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?	Y	
If you have a local clean power program partnered with your local utility provider, do you support its expansion?	Y	

Would you support a plan to provide free public transportation in your jurisdiction?	Y	
Would you support a national ban on fossil fuel extraction?	Y	

<b>PUBLIC CORRUPTION &amp; POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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)?	Y	
Do you support expanding your jurisdiction's public financing program to all elected offices?	Y	

## **PART 4: Support of Other Candidates / Propositions**

*(San Francisco races unless otherwise noted. Please fill in who you support(ed), or whether or not you supported the indicated proposition. If you made / will make a ranked endorsement or voted / will vote for more than one candidate using IRV, please indicate the rankings.)*

	<b>2024</b>
	November Election
U.S. Senate	Adam Shif
Mayor	Aaron Peskin :)
District Attorney	No Endorsement
District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
District 3 Supervisor	Sharon Lai and Moe Jamil
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
District 7 Supervisor	No Endorsement
District 9 Supervisor	Jackie Fielder and Stephen Torres
District 11 Supervisor	Chyanne Chen
	March Election
U.S. Senate	Adam Shif
Assembly, District 19	Catherine Stephanie
Superior Court Judge, Seat 1	Michael Begert
Superior Court Judge, Seat 13	Patrick Thompson
Democratic County Central Committee (if applicable, can indicate slate name)	Labor and Working Families Slate
California Propositions	
1 - Behavioral health services	Yes
San Francisco Propositions	
A - Affordable housing bond	Yes
B - Police officer staffing levels	Yes
C - Transfer tax exemption	No
D - Changes to local ethics laws	Yes
E - Police Department procedures	No Endorsement
F - Substance dependence screening	No

G - 8th grade algebra	Yes
	<b>2022</b>
Assembly, District 17	David Campos
District 2 Supervisor	Catherine Stefani
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Dorsey
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton
Board of Education (up to 3 names)	Alida Fisher
Community College Board (up to 4 names)	Susan Solomon
District Attorney	No Endorsement
Public Defender	Mano Raju
San Francisco Propositions	
H (June) - Chesa Boudin recall	No
D (Nov.) - Affordable Homes Now	No
E (Nov.) - Affordable Housing Production Act	Yes
I (Nov.) - Access for All	Yes
J (Nov.) - Safe Parks for All	No
M (Nov.) - Vacant residential unit tax	Yes
O (Nov.) - City College funding	No
	<b>2020</b>
Democratic Presidential Primary	Bernie Sanders
State Senate, District 11	No Endorsement
District 1 Supervisor	Connie Chan
District 3 Supervisor	Aaron Peskin :)
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
District 7 Supervisor	Myrna Melgar
District 11 Supervisor	Asha Safai

	<b>2019</b>
District 5 Supervisor	Dean Preston
District Attorney	Chesa Boudin
	<b>2018</b>
Mayor	Mark Leno and Jane Kim
District 4 Supervisor	Gordon Mar
District 6 Supervisor	Matt Haney
District 8 Supervisor	Rafael Mandelman
District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton