

## San Francisco Young Democrats | Local Questionnaire - November 2024

(Mayor, Supervisor, District Attorney, City Attorney, Treasurer, Sheriff, SFUSD, CCSF)

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*Please answer the following in 300 words or less:*

1. Please answer these informational questions:
    - a. What is your full name? Myrna Elizabeth Melgar
    - b. What will be your age on Election Day? 56
    - c. What are your pronouns? She/Her
    - d. Are you a registered Democrat? Yes
    - e. What office are you running for?
    - f. Do you have a campaign website?
  2. Why should the San Francisco Young Democrats endorse you for this race? I am the most qualified candidate for this race; I have spent my entire career in public service. I have a strong legislative record supporting young people: Free MUNI for youth, creation of the Department of Early Childhood, the Student Success Fund, and have supported young leaders in their development throughout my career.
  3. How do you personally uplift young people through your work?
    - a. Do you commit to paying the interns on your campaign? I always have.
  4. Do you accept campaign contributions from the SF Deputy Sheriff's Association, SF Police Officers' Association, or leaders within those unions? If so, who? I have not.
  5. What is one example of a piece of legislation that you supported that came from an office you might not typically agree with? I have worked on legislation with every single one of my colleagues. One example is the Shelter for All legislation that my colleague Rafael Mandelman introduced but was stuck at the Land Use Committee for 2 years. I worked with the Coalition on Homelessness and the neighborhood advocates for several weeks to come up with amendments that reflected language everyone could agree with. The legislation passed unanimously.
  6. If elected, how would you empower and prioritize the needs of young people in your district, and encourage their participation in the political landscape?
    - a. Do you commit to meeting periodically with SFYD to check the progress made on your commitments made in this questionnaire? Yes!
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***Please go into more detail on the following questions (you may go beyond 300 words):***

7. Please share your top three priorities affecting San Francisco, why they are important, and how you plan to use your platform to advocate for them if elected. Housing, particularly affordable housing, public safety for all our residents, sustainable transportation.

**\*SFUSD BOE & CCSF BOT ONLY\*:**

8. What is your vision of how to best support students, educators, and staff?
9. Students have advocated for significant investments and improvements to school resources, including, but not limited to: mental health services, school safety infrastructure, and academic support. How will you deliver on these priorities?
10. Do you support school site closures? If so, please explain how you'll support affected communities during and after the closures.
11. Disrupted by a pandemic and recalls, [SFUSD](#) and [CCSF](#) have been in fiscal crisis for years. If elected, how will you ensure SFUSD's/CCSF's financial security for the years to come?
12. As of today, frictions and disagreements persist between SFUSD's/CCSF's administration and the Board. How will you work to improve collaboration with administration, while also fully holding them accountable for their actions?
13. (SFUSD only) Lowell High School's merit-based admissions process has been under scrutiny for years, in addition to the lottery system as a whole for SFUSD schools. What is your vision on the best process for students going into high school? Do you believe in lottery, merit, or an alternative?

**Policy Area-Specific Questions:**

In a poll of our members, Housing, Transit, and Homelessness were our top policy priorities.

**HOUSING**

14. California's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) mandates that San Francisco construct 82,069 new residential units between 2023 and 2031. In 2023, SF approved 1,136 unit permits, falling far short of the 9,118/year needed to meet our housing goals.

- a. What do you perceive to be a bottleneck to the permitting and construction process and what do you propose to accelerate our local permitting process for both affordable and market-rate projects? What are your thoughts on the recent implementation of [SB 423](#) (Wiener, 2023) in San Francisco? Right now the main impediment to housing construction is cost, and when interest rates decrease, we will once again start producing more housing. We can reduce fees and taxes to incentivize production, but this should only be temporary.
  - b. Do you support ending the [RH-1 zoning designation](#) of single-family homes in favor of establishing sixplex multi-family residential buildings as the city-wide minimum residential density? Do you support the proposed [SF Housing Element plan](#) to increase housing density? I do, and I wrote [the legislation](#) to do this.
  - c. Do you support increasing residential density within ½ mile of major public transit stops or high-quality transit corridors? If so, to what extent? Yes, 8 stories, with density decontrols.
15. Do you support converting any of our [six public golf courses](#) to be zoned for low-income housing? If so, which golf courses would you convert and how many residential units would you propose building? If not, why? I would be open to it, but I also think we have a shortage of open space for kids whose parents cannot afford to pay for sports, particularly for recreational soccer, so that would be my first choice.
16. Would you modify the existing [Rent Ordinance of 1979](#) which outlines San Francisco's rent control policies? If so, how? If not, why not? *This question can be a yes or no response. If you'd like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so.* **Yes**
17. Do you support the roadmap outlined in the [SF Climate Action Plan](#) (2021) to have the city achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040? If not, why? **Yes**
18. The [SF Climate Action Plan](#) (2021) states that 35% of San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions come from burning natural gas in building appliances (gas stoves, gas-powered water heaters, and gas-powered centralized heat). *The following questions can be yes or no responses. If you'd like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so.*
- a. Do you support decarbonizing / phasing out / banning the use of carbon-emitting appliances from existing buildings? If so, what is your proposed timeline to accomplish this goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2040? **Yes**

- b. Do you support adopting a building performance policy requiring large commercial buildings to completely transition to efficient and all electric equipment no later than 2035? Yes

## **PUBLIC TRANSIT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

- 19. What is your primary mode of transportation?
  - a. How often do you take public transit and how often do you ride a bike or other form of micromobility (scooter, skateboard, etc.)? I ride a bike
  - b. If you own a car, how often do you use it? Once every couple of months
  - c. What barriers may prevent you from taking public transit or using micromobility more often/at all? None
- 20. Since the pandemic, both MUNI and BART face structural operational budget deficits due to reduced fare box revenue. Without additional operational funding, BART will be forced to make major service cuts, resulting in significant transit worker layoffs and scenarios including the end of weekend service, termination of an entire BART line, or multiple station closures. MUNI will be forced to gradually end the service equivalent of 15-20 bus lines.
  - a. What new funding mechanisms do you propose to alleviate these budget shortfalls in both the short term and the long term? I support the ComMUNItY transit act, and all other measures that can be built into the MTA and BART business plans to generate income from rents, merchandizing, trademarking of logos, and/or sale or development of surplus property.
  - b. Do you support [SB 532](#) (Wiener, 2023/24), which would temporarily increase Bay Area bridge tolls by \$1.50 from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, in order to prevent major near and medium-term service cuts that agencies around the Bay Area, including but not limited to MUNI and BART, are facing, until additional long-term, sustainable transit operating revenue sources are identified? Yes
  - c. Do you support the [ComMUNItY Transit Act](#) on the November 2024 ballot? If not, why? Yes
  - d. Did you support [Prop L](#) (2022)? If not, why? Yes, and campaigned for it – as Vice Chair of the Transportation Authority

21. Do you support the construction of the Rapid Bus Lanes included in the ongoing [Geary Boulevard Improvement Project](#) between Stanyan and 34th Ave? If not, why?
- In the future, would you support the creation of a new Geary and/or 19th Avenue corridor BART or MUNI rail line? Yes, I commissioned the study.
22. Do you commit to working alongside the SFMTA to install three additional dedicated bus lanes in your district by the end of your term? If so, for which bus lines? Yes, the 29R, greater frequency of the 18, and improvements to the K so double trains can run along Ocean Ave
23. Do you commit to working alongside the SFMTA to install three additional protected bike lanes in your district by the end of your term? If so, along which corridors? Yes, Holloway, Portola, Clarendon.
24. What was your stance on [Prop I](#) in 2022? Do you support the November 2024 ballot measure to transform [the Great Highway into a permanent car-free park](#)? I opposed Prop I. I put the Great Highway measure on the ballot along with my colleague, D4 Supervisor Joel Engardio
25. Do you support expanding the Slow Streets program in your district to include commercial corridors? What streets within your district, whether commercial or residential corridors, would you expand the program to? Not at this time. I have thought about it for a segment of Irving Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues, and there is some community support, but a lot of planning and investment would have to happen to make this successful.
26. SF's BayWheels bike share program has the highest user fees of any bike share program in the United States. Do you support appropriating an additional \$5 million dollars from the General Fund General Reserve to the operational budget of the Baywheels bike share program to lower the cost of use for one-time rides and annual memberships? If not, why? Yes
- Would you support financing a [city owned and operated bike share program](#) (as they have in Montreal) in lieu of a privately owned and privately operated bike share program (as we have in SF today)? Yes
  - Do you support adding additional Baywheels stations in neighborhoods where a network gap currently exists? *This question can be a yes or no response. If you'd like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so.* Yes

27. If you were appointed to represent San Francisco on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), would you support an integrated transit fare structure for the Bay Area's 27 different transit agencies as outlined in [SB 917](#) (Becker, 2022)? If so, how?
- Would you support creating a monthly pass for unlimited 9-county-Bay-Area transit system use, expanding upon the recently instituted [Clipper BayPass](#) pilot program? YES!
28. The [SF Climate Action Plan](#) (2021) states that 47% of San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation (2.20 million mtCO<sub>2</sub>e). Of these total transportation emissions, 72% come exclusively from gasoline-powered privately owned vehicles (1.58 million mtCO<sub>2</sub>e).
- How do you propose building electric vehicle charging infrastructure for individuals who park their EVs on the street? Work with the PUC to have metered EV charging off of light posts as they do in other Cities.
  - Do you support a complete electrification of the City-owned vehicles? If so, what is your proposed timeline? If not, why? YES
  - Do you support timing stoplights to prioritize bike and pedestrian use rather than car use? Yes
29. Do you support the removal of the remainder of the Central Freeway stub (the portion of US 101 that diverges from the Bayshore Viaduct near 9th/Van Ness and ends at Market and Octavia Streets) and replacement of the structure with a surface boulevard, transit and active transportation improvements, and increased housing? If not, why? I do
30. Are you in favor of expanding the use of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) for ride- hailing services in San Francisco? If so, under what circumstances? If not, why? Not really, Avs are still private cars and we should be encouraging public transit.

## HOMELESSNESS

31. Do you believe we need to put additional funding into temporary shelters or permanent supportive housing? We need both. This is a false dichotomy
32. How should the City streamline the construction of new Navigation Centers?
- Do you commit to building a new Navigation Center within your district by the end of your first term? If so, where? No, because our population does not support it. But we desperately need a safe RV parking site. A navigation center might work if it's shared between districts 4,7 and 1, near GG Park.

33. Would you support a bill similar to [SB 57](#) (Wiener, 2022) which would authorize the City and County of San Francisco, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Oakland to approve entities to operate overdose prevention programs? If not, why? Yes
34. Did you support [Proposition C in 2018](#)? Would you make any amendments to the allocations within the proposition as it was written? Yes, I would support amendments in consultation to the community to meet emergent needs.
35. Do you support [SB 43](#) (Eggman, 2023), which expands state conservatorship laws by lowering the legal standard for the City or the State to implement a conservatorship on an individual experiencing homelessness, by expanding the definition of “gravely disabled”? Yes
36. Recently, the US Supreme Court decided in [Grants Pass v. Johnson](#) (2024) that people experiencing homelessness can be criminalized if sleeping outside, even if there are no shelter or housing alternatives available. Should SFPD be able to clear encampments of people experiencing homelessness? If so, under what circumstances? Yes, when there are enough shelter beds available, and people have refused better housing options
37. Do you support reforming or repealing the [Ellis Act](#) (1985) and the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (1995)? If so, how would you modify these laws? Yes, I would expand rent control past 1979 on a rolling basis.
38. San Francisco’s COVID-19 residential eviction moratorium for non-payment of rent ended on August 29, 2023. Do you support the end of this moratorium? If not, why? yes
- a. Should any additional services be provided for affected individuals who are evicted as a result of the end of the moratorium? All services should be provided to prevent evictions.

## EXISTENTIAL

39. If you were to modify the existing SF City Charter (effective as of July 1996 and [written by Supervisor Barbara Koffman’s committee](#) which re-established district-based Supervisorial elections) in any way, how would you do so? *SFYD does not have any specific policy proposals we advocate for on this topic, but we are curious how you perceive the efficacy of our local systems and their strengths and shortcomings.*

- a. Do you believe the Board of Supervisors would benefit from more or fewer districts? I would have less Supervisors and more staff. Most of what we do is constituent services and 80,000 people per district is a lot.
  - b. Do you believe the Board of Supervisors would benefit from any at-large Supervisorial districts? If so, why? Not at all. I think representation is important in this very diverse City.
  - c. Would you further empower the Executive Branch (Mayor) or further empower the Legislative Branch (Board of Supervisors)? I don't think the balance of power is the problem. Our problem I think is inefficiency and corruption. If I could rewrite the 1996 Charter, I would restore the Deputy Mayor positions or institute a City Manager.
  - d. There will be two competing measures to enact citywide commission reform in November. The first is to drastically cut city commissions and is proposed by TogetherSF Action, and the second is to create a task force and public process to increase efficiency and reduce the number of commissions by Supervisor Peskin. Which of these do you support? Why or why not? Neither. I think in general we have too many Commissions and Boards, but again, do not think this is "the" problem. If we are going to change the charter and reduce it, I would rather we create the process first, spend time on it with public, transparent input, and then go to the ballot. This did not happen with either of these efforts.
  - e. Do you think our existing system for ballot initiatives (also known as "Props") works well or would you choose to reform it? If so, how? I do, I like direct democracy.
  - f. Do you think the Boards of SFUSD and CCSF should remain elected offices? If not, why? Yes
  - g. Do you think the maximum campaign donation should be lowered or raised from \$500? If so, to what amount? I think 500 is fine
  - h. Do you support lowering the minimum voting age to 16 for municipal elections? If not, why? Yes, and have supported it every time.
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