

# 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](http://www.milkclub.org)*

## Required Information

**Full Name:** Tony Thurmond

**Office Running For / Ballot Measure:** State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Campaign Address:** 248 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Apt #437 Oakland CA 94607

**Campaign Phone:** 818-471-9308

**Campaign Email:** tony@tonythurmond.com

**Campaign Website:** www.tonythurmond.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?**

**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.**

*I am the sitting Superintendent of Public instruction over seeing six million students over 10,000 public schools. I oversaw the California public school system through the COVID-19 pandemic. I worked tirelessly with county superintendents every day to ensure that students were able to go to school from a remote setting, I quickly secured one million units of computers and worked with corporations to provide free high-speed internet in communities of color and rural areas to address the digital divide.*

*Working with the state Legislature and Governor, I brought in more resources to mitigate learning loss through additional summer school and address mental health trauma among students, teachers, and school employees.*

**2. Do you have any key endorsements that you would like to share? Why are these endorsements meaningful to you?**

*Governor Gavin Newsom, Toni Atkins, Senate Pro Tem, Assemblymember Evan Low, Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes, Rick Chavez Zbur, Assembly District 50 Candidate, California Teachers Association, and Equality CA*

*These endorsements are from individuals and groups that have allied or identify with the LGBTQ community and have fought for acceptance of same sex couples and friendly policies that were inclusive for the community across all levels. As an ally, I am grateful for their support as I fight to protect LGBTQ students in our schools every day like I did when Chino Valley Unified School District issued a proposed anti-transgender resolution over bathrooms.*

**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?**

*Youth homelessness is integral part of the growing homelessness crisis in the state. In the short term, youth homelessness can be tackled by providing the supportive resources such as mental health resources, universal meal programs, and temporary beds till we find homes for them. In the long term, local governments need to coordinate with state and federal levels to combat this problem by building out of the problem.*

*Teachers and school employees are increasingly having to live further from the major cities that they have to work in because housing affordability is becoming unfeasible. Teachers and School employees should be able to live closer to where the school districts are situated. That is why I supported legislation in the past that makes affordable housing possible for teachers and school employees.*

**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?**

*As your State Superintendent, I have been working to achieve universal preschool possible for every four-year-old in the state and a universal meal program possible for every student in the state. Studies show that families that have access to universal preschool and childcare programs are more likely to do better and can improve their economic status.*

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

*As Superintendent, I have used my duties to address the school to prison pipeline across California's public schools and reduced absenteeism through disciplinary reforms that moved away from punitive punishments to restorative justice practices.*

*As State Superintendent, I oversaw the launch of the state's first ethnic studies curriculum in California public schools. Over the past four years, I have introduced many equity grants that were aimed at closing the opportunity gap. Specifically, I created the End the Hate equity grant that targets implicit bias in California public schools in 2020.*

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

*I have supported LGBTQ community for my whole public service career. When Prop 8 was on the ballot, I wrote letters and attended No rallies to stand with the LGBT community. I introduced resolutions opposing Proposition 8, and participated in many ways as I was a Richmond City Councilmember and candidate to be on the West Contra Costa School Board.*

*I have also helped to pass legislation that provides funding to all CA schools to train teachers on how to support LGBBTQ+ kids and my office is currently working to establish more gender inclusive bathrooms in schools across the state.*

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

*Most recently as a member of the CalSTRS Board, I have called for the divestment of fossil fuels. While in the Assembly, I authored a number of groundbreaking pieces of legislation such as AB1496 to monitor Methane emissions, AB2756 to enforce oil and gas operations and co-authored SB32 and SB100, groundbreaking legislation to address climate change. As SPI, I have prioritized ensuring all new schools are looking at alternate energy sources and have sponsored curriculum in our schools to increase environmental education, outdoor education. Environmental justice has been something I have been passionate about because of where I live, Richmond CA, in the shadow of the Chevron refinery and other refineries in Contra Costa County. I continue to fight for environmental justice for my community and others where vulnerable communities of color feel the most impact statewide of environmental injustice.*

**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?**

*My life has been a struggle against power structures. I was orphaned at 6 and I could have ended up in foster care or criminal justice system, but public education saved my life. I was taught early on to never let someone say I'm not good enough, wait my turn or not fight for what is right. I fought Chevron's ability to process heavy crude in Richmond and won beating*

*the false narrative of jobs vs environment. As a school trustee I fought the establishment to make sure our high schools had a health center. As an Assemblymember, I passed legislation to fight for marginalized communities across the state that did not have a voice in Sacramento. As SPI I continue to address systemic racism and bias in our schools. I've secured historic investments in education for Anti-bias and LGBTQ+ curriculum and professional development for teachers. None of this was easy to accomplish, but it has taken building coalitions, finding resources, hard work and the willingness to keep fighting for what is right.*

**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?**

*I spent most of my career as a social worker providing protective services for kids who were at risk for abuse and in need services and have taken on the responsibility as caregiver to aging friends and family. We face two challenges, the continuing stigma faced by those living with HIV and a shortage of individuals to support this growing population. For the first challenge, it is critical that we use education to erase the stigma of HIV and bias against the LGBTQ community.*

*As Chair of the Assembly budget committee, I increased allocations to provide PrEP to Californians in need. In my time on the Richmond City Council, I oversaw the development of affordable housing for seniors. As a legislator in the assembly, I championed legislation to increase financial support for seniors and passed legislation to allow people to build junior accessory dwellings which could be used to support senior citizens and others in need of affordable housing.*

*Through on-going development of health curriculum and professional development supporting LGBTQ youth, I am hopeful our youth can break the cycle of isolation and bias. There are staffing shortages in health and supportive services. Staffing for mental health is at a crisis. I've sponsored a bill to add 10,000 more mental health clinicians in our state. At CDE, we are funding career pathways in all of the health and medical fields and many of the programs are unique to the needs of the city or region. I would be interested to explore programs tailored to fit the needs of the aging population living with the complexities of HIV.*

## **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.)*

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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? __Tausif Khan _____	X	
Have you sought a Milk Club endorsement at any point in the past?	X	
<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 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	
<b>TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?		
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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?		
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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?		
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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	Kamala Harris
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CA State Senate, District 11	Scott Weiner
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San Francisco District 1 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 3 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 7 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 11 Supervisor	
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**2019 Candidate**

San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District Attorney	
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**2018 Candidate**

San Francisco Mayor	London Breed
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San Francisco District 4 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 6 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 8 Supervisor	
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San Francisco District 10 Supervisor	Shamann Walton
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