

# Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Questionnaire for March 2024 Election

## PART 1: Required Information

5

1. **Full name:** Dean Preston
2. **Campaign address:** 767 Bryant St #201, San Francisco, CA 94107
3. **Campaign phone number:** (415) 516-1933
4. **Campaign email address:** info@dean2024.com
5. **Campaign website:** www.dean2024.com
6. **Political party:** Democratic Party
7. **Are you a member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club? If so, since when?**  
Yes.
8. **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. Feel free to add anything that you would like for our members to know about you and your candidacy.**

As District 5 Supervisor through my past term, and in my previous decades of work as a tenants rights attorney and affordable housing advocate, I've focused my work on improving conditions for low-income and working class people.

I took office three months before the City shut down due to the global pandemic. I've passed legislation banning evictions due to COVID-19, championed acquisitions of housing for homeless families, championed SF's groundbreaking right to counsel law for tenants, wrote Prop. I to tax the rich to fund social housing and rent relief, led efforts to create a vacancy tax, and so much more, all in partnership and with the help of Milk Club.

This city has become increasingly unaffordable, less diverse, and is at risk of losing so much of what makes it special. Neighbors are fed up with seeing the people we know and love forced out of this city so that real estate speculators and billionaires can make more money.

I am running for office to continue fighting for vulnerable people, and continue my work standing up to mega landlords and other powerful corporate interests.

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

With over 13 months till my election, I'm proud to have early endorsements from so many unions and community leaders, including: SEIU 1021, IFPTE Local 21, California Nurses Association, CA Working Families Party, United Educators of San Francisco, National Union of Healthcare Workers, SEIU 2015, Democratic Socialists of America, San Francisco, Affordable Housing Alliance, and San Francisco Tenants Union. I've also been endorsed by a number of elected officials like Supervisors Ronen, Chan, Peskin, Walton, Anabel Ibanez, Li Lovett, Gordon Mar, Keith Baraka, Janice Li, Susan Solomon, Jovanka Beckles and former electeds like Art Agnos, Tom Ammiano, and Mark Leno, and many more.

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

Eviction prevention and affordable housing are the most immediate solutions to homelessness, accompanied by supportive services where needed. Stable housing must also be paired with free higher education, healthcare, mental health, job training, living wages, and a strong social safety net and more equitable society. Ultimately homelessness is a failure of our system to take care of our people. That is why I wrote Prop. F to guarantee a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction, and Prop I – the transfer tax on property sales over \$10 million to fund the creation of affordable, social housing. I also believe we need to fully fund and implement Prop C and expand Navigation Centers and supportive housing throughout the city, including in District 5 where many homeless are LGBTQ youth. We cannot continue to criminalize and further victimize those who are homeless.

In my first term in office, we've moved dozens of women and families in D5 into a hotel when the Administration would not, championed the acquisition of the 114-unit Gotham Hotel for supportive housing, launched the city's most successful Safe Sleeping Site in the Haight in collaboration with the Homeless Youth Alliance, and fought evictions – a leading cause of homelessness. We will continue and expand on these efforts in a second term.

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

I worked as a tenants rights attorney for over 20 years to keep vulnerable low-income residents in their homes. I first ran for office to pursue a vision for housing, economic and racial justice driven by working class residents and activists instead of corporate interests. To stop further displacement of low-income residents and people of color, I believe that we must invest in housing that is truly affordable, and reject false solutions offered by the same profit-seeking real estate lobby that created this crisis in the first place. In 2020, I passed Prop K, a measure to authorize 10,000 units of low-income social housing in San Francisco. We led the fight to establish the largest ever dedicated fund for community land trusts. We championed an unprecedented \$112 million affordable housing deal that funded site acquisitions, public housing repairs, SRO repairs, and educator housing. If re-elected, I will

dedicate my efforts to rapidly expand affordable and social housing, paid for by taxing the wealthiest in this city. We need to make sure that we prioritize our affordable housing goals and do everything possible to ensure that real estate industry profits are not achieved by displacing currently housed residents.

In addition, to address economic disparities in San Francisco, I've backed efforts to create the first municipal bank in the nation to serve the interests of underbanked and underserved communities. I look forward to continuing working with the San Francisco Public Bank Working Group to create the San Francisco Public Bank.

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

I have organized in partnership with BIPOC communities for years to fight discrimination and racial injustice. In 2018, I championed Prop F to establish SF's Right to Counsel law which led to 80% of Black tenants facing eviction being able to stay in their homes. I supported the No on H campaign in 2018, which fought against the POA's effort to allow police officers to use tasers on unarmed people. At the Board, I've pressed SFPD on their ongoing racial disparities and consistently called for an end to pretext stops.

In 2020, I introduced legislation to secure rent control for Midtown Apartments in the Fillmore, home to many Black families. Due to our efforts, Midtown Apartment residents, 68% of whom are Black, now benefit from rent control protections that were previously taken away, reversing triple digit rent increases that would have priced many residents out of their homes. We are also working with Midtown residents to explore a path to homeownership and resident control.

Since taking office I've worked closely with residents of Plaza East, one of the last remaining public housing sites in San Francisco. We secured a commitment of \$2.7 for emergency repairs for Plaza East. In partnership with residents, we passed a resolution calling for alternatives to the Plaza East redevelopment plan which would add market rate units on this public housing site. We also won \$20 million for public housing repairs as part of a budget deal, funds that the Mayor's office has to date failed to release.

In 2020 I also passed Prop K, a ballot measure to authorize 10,000 units of permanently affordable social housing, carving out a local exception to Article 34, the racist constitutional amendment passed in 1950. 40% of homeless residents in San Francisco are Black, even though Black people make up only 6% of San Francisco's total population. The city's homelessness crisis is an egregious form of racial discrimination that disproportionately impacts Black residents. In 2023, I authored a resolution to immediately house at least 500 people experiencing homelessness in permanent supportive housing units lying vacant in the city. In response, the city introduced the Streets to Home program to fast track placements to these vacant units.

As the representative of the Fillmore district, I've worked closely with community leaders to prioritize investments in the Black community, including pushing for the Administration to re-open the Fillmore Heritage Center, launching a seed-funding program for Black

entrepreneurs, and supporting fillmore community events like Juneteenth, Western Addition Sunday Streets, Friday Fillmore Market, and other street fairs and events.

I'm a strong advocate ending our reliance on war-on-the poor policing strategies that don't work and disproportionately harm Black and brown San Franciscans, and directing resources to the African American community. Our office has also prioritized honoring African American leaders (such as renaming Willow street after Earl Gage Jr, SF's first black firefighter), and banning racist policing tactics like biased police stops. I started my career representing victims of police misconduct as a new lawyer in 1996, and have consistently opposed racism in law enforcement and mass incarceration. I stood with Chesa Boudin and Mano Raju to demand an end to cash bail. In 2022, with the help of Milk Club and many others, I helped lead efforts to stop SFPD's use of killer robots.

I am also proud to have stood with Black San Franciscans and Supervisor Shamann Walton to support the establishment of an Office of Reparations so we can begin the work of identifying folks who are eligible for reparations from the city or otherwise.

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

I have always made it a priority to support LGBTQ San Franciscans, particularly through initiatives to expand affordable housing and stop evictions and displacement. This is especially important given that trans people are disproportionately represented in the homeless community.

Housing LGBTQ youth is a priority issue for me District 5. I will continue pushing for the use of Prop I and Prop C dollars to house our LGBTQ community. I was an early backer of Prop C and my team led District 5 outreach. I also support navigation centers and supportive housing in every district.

In 2021 I supported Homeless Youth Alliance's work to create and operate a sanctioned sleep site in the Haight, and will continue supporting their efforts to provide services to young and unhoused communities. We also need to be sure that our LGBTQ community has the same opportunities for employment as others. My office will continue to support efforts to end widespread employment discrimination especially against the trans community. When women, LGBTQ, and people of color do not feel comfortable or safe in their work environments, this is an injustice with broad and lasting impact.

Most recently, amid much anti-trans backlash, I led efforts at the Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution celebrating San Francisco's trans community and calling for local, state, and federal entities to protect trans youth and adults. I also joined my colleagues and members of the community to call for justice for Banko Brown, the young trans man who was killed outside a downtown Walgreens by a private security guard. My legislation to ensure our local laws do not allow private security guards to draw weapons in defense of property only was passed by the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee and will be up for a vote at the full Board next week.

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

We're running out of time. We urgently need to implement bold plans to address climate change like a Green New Deal for San Francisco that prioritizes public transportation, ending our reliance on fossil fuels, municipalizing PG&E, and creating a robust Green Jobs program.

I plan to redouble my efforts to create free and fast MUNI (and a robust regional bus system) that, to the greatest extent possible, moves people from their cars that rely on fossil fuels to public transit. During the pandemic, our office partnered with community groups to restore transit lines and service that were on the chopping block. We passed a free muni pilot that the Mayor vetoed, but through the fight, we were able to win permanent free muni for youth. I believe strongly that we must invest in public transit, and inspire people with a vision of public transit that lives up to our Transit First mandate.

We must boldly advance pedestrian and bike improvements, not just to save lives, but to promote biking and walking as primary modes of transportation. I'm proud to have established several slow streets in District 5 and leading on the new Fell street bike lane by the Panhandle. Our office also passed a resolution to restart Vision Zero Task Force meetings. We have been a leading voice pushing for a citywide network of safe streets for pedestrians and cyclists

Lastly, we must fight like hell to kick the climate deniers and fossil fuel-backed candidates out of office at the federal level before it's too late.

**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've spent my entire career fighting wealthy corporate interests and dismantling established power structures to achieve progressive change.

Prior to taking office, I worked as a tenants rights attorney and founded California's only statewide tenant organization. I've fought on behalf of tenants against established power structures, profit-driven speculators and developers for many decades. Alongside a grassroots coalition, I played a leadership role in fighting to save rent control in 2008 and a decade later, authored and championed Proposition F, our city's groundbreaking law to provide legal representation for all tenants facing eviction. I continue to fight for the full implementation of voters' will to this day. In this work, I've directly taken on the real estate industry, perhaps explaining why GOP billionaires have pledged to donate thousands of dollars to defeat me.

**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?**

Elected leaders cannot sit idle as seniors with HIV are priced out of their homes and live under precarious conditions without the support they need. I'm committed to expanding access to healthcare to communities most impacted by HIV in our city, especially seniors living with HIV and creating supportive housing units that meet their healthcare and housing

needs. I will continue to support the work of nonprofits like the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and proactively engage with members of the community to make sure people living with HIV can thrive in our city. We have been a strong voice in the budget process for these priorities.

## **Only Supervisorial Candidates**

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

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

Affordable housing and tenants' rights, community safety (including violence prevention, overdose prevention, and vision zero), and ending homelessness.

### **2. Should SFPD be reformed, defunded, or abolished? And why?**

Contrary to the Mayor's own propaganda in 2020, the San Francisco's police force has never been defunded. Year after year, the city has directed astronomical amounts of money to the police, even though city data clearly indicates that their carceral tough-on-crime strategies have done very little to keep us safe. I am a 100% fund public safety candidate. I support reallocating funding from ineffective, tired strategies like bloating our police budget without any accountability, and moving it into public safety strategies that actually work.

### **3. How should San Francisco balance its budget during this current economic crisis?**

We need to balance the City budgets in ways that are equitable and sustainable and do everything we can to bring a fair recovery for all residents and small businesses of San Francisco. We can steer through the economic crisis by supporting workers, small businesses, and vulnerable residents.

I want to be clear: I oppose cross the board cuts, even in a pandemic and recession. We need to go after more revenue at the ballot and target cuts to things like the mounted unit of the police, not social services.

We also need to be clear that progressive taxation has saved our City from deficits. I do not support the current push by downtown interests to gut progressive taxes.

### **4. How should the Board of Supervisors create more transparency from and accountability within the Department of Public Health?**

I am a strong supporter of leading our work through the lens of public health. But the reality is that our Department of Public Health is a massive department with a massive budget, and the average person doesn't understand where and how that money is being spent— or if it's being spent at all.

The Board of Supervisors cannot force a department to spend money or to direct money to any specific organizations, but it has the power of inquiry and oversight of the department, and it can use that power to ensure that there is some accountability in spending for DPH or any other department by filing letters of inquiry, holding hearings, and when warranted, demanding an audit.

## **5. Do you support expanding transit-only lanes in your district?**

Yes. This is a transit first city and we need a robust transit system that moves people reliably, affordably, and without overcrowding. That said, I want to emphasize that it is essential to have real community input and involvement before launching permanent transit improvements, including transit only lanes.

Since taking office, I've taken the lead working with MTA on a number of projects. We announced significant safety improvements at Masonic/Oak, launched Slow Streets on Page and Golden Gate, and I have publicly stated my support for building out our network of car free streets. My office and the MTA led ongoing efforts to establish the Fell street bike lane, the first new protected bike lane of the Slow Streets program, which is scheduled to open soon. I will continue fighting to make sure that San Francisco is a transit first city, and stop letting Uber, Lyft, Cruise, and Waymo take over our streets, causing traffic and accidents without giving anything in return.

## **6. How will you preserve and expand affordable housing in your district?**

The city's underinvestment in affordable housing is fuelling the homelessness crisis on our streets. The city's lack of affordable housing is a shameful political failure. I will continue to do everything possible to keep working class San Franciscans in their homes by expanding rent relief programs and getting funds out the door for housing that is truly affordable. Despite the Mayor's obstructions, my office will continue fighting for Prop I and Prop C dollars to expand affordable and permanent supportive housing units in the city.

I helped secure millions of dollars for affordable housing by authoring Prop I and passing the ballot measure in 2020. With Prop I funds this year, the city will acquire 5 new sites for 100% affordable housing, including 650 Divisadero in D5.

Earlier this year, I also identified 6 new sites that could be acquired by the city and converted into over 1000 units of affordable housing. One of the six sites is a DMV parking lot in the Panhandle. At present, my office is working to convert the parking lot into 500 affordable housing units.

## **7. Do you support a navigation center in your district?**

Yes, I support the creation of a navigation center in D5. We have tried to convince the Administration that we have the sites and the political willingness of our district. We must create a navigation center in every district to help unhoused residents exit homelessness. It's important that we defeat efforts by wealthy landlords and big businesses who have opposed navigation centers and create these centers to provide badly needed services to unhoused residents. I note that while we don't have a navigation center, we were successful in creating a 58-room (private rooms with bathrooms) for families and domestic violence victims since I took office.

## **8. How would you characterize the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government in San Francisco?**

Unfortunately, this Mayor often refuses to work with people she views as political opponents, which has meant we have had to work exponentially harder to get things done than should be necessary. We hope that will change if and when there is a new mayor.

The executive branch of SF government holds disproportionate power and influence in the city due to the city's strong Mayoral system. Every year we hear about a new corruption scandal in the executive branch, while the Mayor conveniently scapegoats the Board of Supervisors for the mismanagement that stems from her own office. D5 residents deserve a city government that operates with integrity, and as supervisor I will continue to do everything in my power to expose corruption and abuses of power in City government.

**9. Who do you currently see as your closest allies on the Board of Supervisors?**

It has depended on the vote but I most closely align with Supervisors Ronen, Chan, Walton, and Peskin.

**10. If district add-back funds were available, where and how would you allocate them in your district?**

We try to approach add-back funds using an equity lens to fund areas and projects of highest need first and foremost. That means prioritizing the Tenderloin and the Fillmore, while also providing for needs in all of our other neighborhoods. Funding is mostly focused towards services for unhoused people, access to food, housing and other critical needs. We also fund neighborhood beautification projects like murals and parks, or other innovative ideas our constituents dream up to make San Francisco a more livable, beautiful city.

**11. Which of San Francisco's governmental bureaucracies is most in need of an audit and why?**

At this point, which department is not in need of an audit? I think that a good place to start would be the big ones, including the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Public Health, and I have already called for an audit of the Police Department. The amount of oversight right now is clearly not sufficient to maintain the public's trust, which is why I support programs like the public advocate. In a time when we are faced with serious budget cuts, we need far better transparency and oversight to ensure we are making the most of our limited resources.

**PART 3: 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? Consultant: Jen Snyder <a href="mailto:jen@redbridgewins.com">jen@redbridgewins.com</a> or Gwen McLaughlin as campaign manager <a href="mailto:gmclaughlin415@gmail.com">gmclaughlin415@gmail.com</a>	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 independent oversight of the department in your city government that is responsible for services to the homeless?	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 sweeps of homeless encampments by your city government?		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 your jurisdiction?	x	
Do you support a public municipal bank in 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	

<b>IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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 the undocumented to serve on city / state boards and commissions?	x	
Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	x	

<b>RACIAL &amp; SOCIAL JUSTICE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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 your local Police Officers Association 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?	x	
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)?		x

<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?	x	
If you have a local clean power program partnered with your local utility provider, do you support its expansion?	x	

Would you support a plan to provide free transportation within your jurisdiction?	x	
Would you support a ban on fossil fuel extraction in the state of California?	x	

<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)?	x	
Do you support expanding your jurisdiction's public financing program to all elected offices?	x	

## **PART 4: 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.)*

	<b>2022 Candidate</b>
CA State Assembly, District 17	Campos
San Francisco District 2 Supervisor	–
San Francisco District 4 Supervisor	Mar
San Francisco District 6 Supervisor	Mahogany
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor	–
San Francisco District 10 Supervisor	Walton
San Francisco Board of Education (up to 3 names)	
San Francisco Community College Board (up to 4 names)	
San Francisco District Attorney	Boudin
San Francisco Public Defender	Raju
	<b>2020 Candidate</b>
Democratic Presidential Primary	Sanders
CA State Senate, District 11	
San Francisco District 1 Supervisor	Chan
San Francisco District 3 Supervisor	Peskin
San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	Myself!
San Francisco District 7 Supervisor	Vilaska
San Francisco District 11 Supervisor	Avalos
	<b>2019 Candidate</b>
San Francisco District 5 Supervisor	: )
San Francisco District Attorney	Boudin!
	<b>2018 Candidate</b>

San Francisco Mayor	Leno
San Francisco District 4 Supervisor	Mar
San Francisco District 6 Supervisor	Haney
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor	Mandelman
San Francisco District 10 Supervisor	Kelly