



HARVEY MILK

LGBTQ DEMOCRATIC CLUB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, August 31, 2024

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*** STATEMENT ***

HARVEY MILK LGBTQ DEMOCRATIC CLUB STATEMENT ON EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

SAN FRANCISCO – We've got unfortunate news to tell you. It has come to our attention this week that a number of our recent endorsement votes (PAC and General Membership) have been compromised and potentially fraudulent, and through the process of identifying the various related issues, we've also found other irregularities in our systems. Overnight on Friday, most of our operational accounts for a number of committees had been deleted.

The Executive Board of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club held a special meeting yesterday to discuss the situation and next steps - the first of which resulted in Jeffrey Kwong, President, stepping down in order for a full investigation to proceed. As President of the club during these systems compromises, Jeffrey thought it best for the credibility of the club and our endorsed candidates to remove himself.

Per our bylaws, this triggers an election for an Interim President at our next general membership meeting, to be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 3pm as detailed below. Until that time, Melissa Hernandez, VP of Membership, will be our Acting President, as outlined in our bylaws succession plan. The individual elected during our special election will serve the remainder of the term, which ends in January 2025.

This email will also serve as notice for our upcoming Special PAC & General Membership meeting of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 3pm PT (location TBD, and will be sent out in the coming days). At this meeting, we'll hear from our newly created subcommittee and members that will be leading the investigation efforts on these improprieties with the guidance of an attorney we voted to authorize retention of yesterday. **We will have no further information on this situation until this meeting.**

Additionally, we will hold a PAC vote and subsequent General Membership endorsement vote for the following races that have been impacted:

United States Senate

San Francisco City Attorney

San Francisco Board of Education (3 of 4 Seats)

San Francisco City College Board (3 of 4 Seats)

Proposition F - Police Staffing & Deferred Retirement

Proposition K - Park at Upper Great Highway

Vote on Whether to Rescind State Senator Scott Wiener's Endorsement

The meeting will be a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting, but we strongly encourage all members who can attend in-person to do so. In light of recent events, virtual members attending will be required to verify their identity, and will need to have their cameras on for the duration of the meeting for their votes to be considered valid. As we've previously held very thorough discussion for these races, there will not be any candidate or committee discussions for the PAC and General Membership portion of the agenda being noticed below.

Thanks for your understanding and patience while we diligently work through these very serious issues with full transparency and the utmost accountability.

- *Executive Board, Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club*

PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES TO GARY MCCOY, VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
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