

SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2026 Primary Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Friday, February 27th if you wish to be considered for the League's endorsement. Please use this form rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

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Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

Our city and our country are facing multiple crises. Donald Trump is attempting an authoritarian coup, and our Democratic leaders in DC have no idea how to stop him. At the same time, a corporate oligarchy is cementing its hold on our nation, AI threatens to put millions of people out of work and further consolidate power and wealth into the hands of a few, and climate change continues to ravage our environment.

But we must realize that Trump is a symptom, not the cause. For decades, working people have worked longer hours to afford less. Trillions have been transferred from the working class to the elite. The American Dream has been declared dead for the next generation. For many, Trump represented a wrecking ball to a system that broke a long time ago.

I have spent over a decade in the trenches of national politics fighting to change that system. I served as Director of Organizing Technology for Bernie 2016 and co-founded Justice Democrats, where we recruited non-career politicians to run for Congress, challenging not just Republicans but also corporate Democrats at a time no one else would. I managed Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's 2018 campaign, defeating the third-most powerful Democrat in the country. As her Chief of Staff, I led the creation of the Green New Deal. Since then, at my think tank, New Consensus, I've helped develop the Mission for America, a comprehensive, detailed plan for how to create a clean economy that creates prosperity for all—the detailed sequel to the Green New Deal.

I am running because I know exactly what it takes to make change in Washington. It requires challenging not just Republicans, but corporate money and a failed Democratic establishment. I am the only candidate in this race willing to say I will challenge Democratic leadership and support primary challenges against corporate Democrats from the inside. We must completely change the direction and leadership of the Democratic Party.

I am also running because we are living in a huge change moment where it will be possible to change the system. Zohran Mamdani just won in New York. And right now, there are candidates running all across the country stepping up to challenge a corporate status quo, and I am starting to organize with them now.

Ultimately, I am running because I love San Francisco. I've lived here since 2009. I'm raising my family here. It kills me to see more and more of my neighbors getting priced out everyday. Our city is ground zero for the inequality and cost of living crises – we need real solutions to these problems more than any place in the country. But you also see versions of these problems everywhere. San Francisco did not create these problems on its own, and San Francisco cannot solve these problems alone. We need federal solutions: Medicare for All, a national housing plan that makes housing a human right, universal childcare, public power, an end to corporate money in politics, a wealth tax on billionaires, and a true Green New Deal.

We have a narrow window to build a society that works for working people. To succeed, we need a strategy, a movement, and the courage to take on the status quo. I am running to turn that opportunity into reality.

What are your values, and how did you get them?

My parents grew up poor in India, especially my father. He was a refugee during the Partition of India and Pakistan. His family fled from Dhaka to Kolkata overnight carrying what little they could, and he grew up with his family of twelve in a small, one bedroom apartment often having no idea where his next meal would come from.

He took the risk to come to this country with only eight dollars in his pocket because he knew he could provide a better life for his family, and he was right. In America, he was able to get a job and on a single income, provide a middle class life to me and my family. Growing up, money was tight, but I had a roof over my head, food on the table, and a great public school education.

But I also saw my father constantly sacrifice on behalf of others. He would save every extra dollar to help our family and friends in India who were still in poverty, or to help our immigrant community in Texas. He viewed his visa to America as a lottery ticket, and that meant it was his moral duty to give back any chance he could – to use whatever he gained to uplift others.

My values and morality today come from my childhood and my parents. I know, from my own family's experience, that every person is worthy of dignity, justice, and a good life. I know that the problem is an unjust and broken system. And I have seen how broken politics and bad political decisions – like the decision to do Partition – can create a broken system.

And I have a moral conviction to do whatever I can with whatever luck I've had to fix a broken system today to create a society where all can prosper. When I first moved to San Francisco, I worked in the tech industry. I ended up working as the second engineer at a company called Stripe, and just because I was in the right place at the right time, I ended up making a lot of money. It was a shocking, and weird experience. But it gave me a window into how wealth inequality works in America and how unfair it is. I've seen how, thanks to our rigged casino economy, the rich get richer without ever lifting a finger while everyone else struggles to hang on to what they have.

Sure, I worked hard at Stripe, but I didn't work harder than a nurse or a teacher or the people cleaning our offices did every single day. I just won the startup lottery. And an economy that works like that – where you either hit the lottery and get rich or you'll never be able to afford a home or a secure retirement – is completely broken.

I think back on my dad, and given my luck, I feel I must do everything I can to fix this broken system – to finally build an economy that works for everyone, not just the richest few. I feel I must do everything I can to ensure we get Medicare-for-all, affordable housing for all, universal childcare, and a wealth tax on billionaires. Given my family's history, how could I not?

What communities do you represent, and how do they hold you accountable?

As the parent of a young child in San Francisco, I am deeply committed to making sure San Francisco can be a city where everyone can raise a family and will represent the parents and their families of this city in DC. To me, that means creating universal healthcare and ensuring our public schools are fully funded.

As the child of immigrants, it is deeply upsetting to me to see the attacks this administration is making on immigrants. I will represent the immigrant communities in San Francisco, which is especially crucial in a time like now.

And as a progressive, I commit to representing the working people of this city. For decades, our government has worked for the corporations and wealthy few rather than for all. In San Francisco, we are facing the results of that harder than anywhere else. We must completely change the system to work for working people.

And fundamental to that means building a strong labor movement. We know that throughout history, we have only ever managed to build a society for working people when there has been a strong organized labor movement. I have spent my decade-plus career in politics working for and supporting candidates who have always put labor first.

I will be accountable by meeting with the representatives of all these groups regularly as well as holding regular town halls. I am taking no corporate or lobbyist money in my campaign, so if I am elected I will be accountable only to the people of San Francisco. I take that job of being a representative very seriously. To me, it means being as transparent and available as possible to the people who have put their trust in me as their representative.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I am proud to be endorsed by Matt Gonzalez, who has been a long time champion of progressive values in the city and has been unafraid to challenge the establishment here. He represents the kind of values and fight that I believe in.

At the national level, I'm proud to be endorsed by Jamaal Bowman. He is a progressive champion who I helped to elect in 2020. He defeated a pro-war, corporate Democrat to win his seat while staying true to his values and being an outspoken voice against the genocide in Gaza. It is an honor to be endorsed by someone with his moral clarity as that is foundational to my politics as well.

I'm proud to be endorsed by the Stanford College Democrats. Young people are the future of the progressive movement and are facing the hardships of our current economy the most, so it is valuable to have their validation in this campaign.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and what is your plan for achieving your goals?

My main priorities are to 1) make life affordable, 2) end political corruption, and 3) tackle our extreme wealth and income inequality.

To tackle affordability, I will focus on housing, healthcare, childcare, and utilities. For housing, I will build out social housing and create public financing to ensure affordable housing actually gets built. For healthcare, I will fight to pass Medicare-for-All. On childcare, I will fight to create truly universal childcare. And on utilities, I will enforce the Raker Act to force the city to use its eminent domain powers to take over PG&E's infrastructure and create public power.

To tackle corruption, I will ban congressional stock trading, ban the revolving door between Congress and the lobbying industry, and fight to create a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and move to fully publicly financed elections.

To tackle inequality, I will raise income taxes for the highest earners and institute a national wealth tax on centimillionaires and billionaires. Raising taxes is a necessity to reduce inequality and also to pay for the expansion of the social safety net I advocate for.

What local and state commissions or policy bodies have you served on?

I have not served on any local or state commissions.

What political organizations are you a member of (e.g., democratic clubs)?

I am currently a member of Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club and Working Families Party.

What for-profit or non-profit boards have you served on, including political organizations?

I've served on the board of the Friends of Duboce Park where I've helped keep Duboce Park clean and safe and helped put on multiple events at the park to bring my community together. I am also on the board of New Consensus, a think tank I co-founded that works on economic and climate change policies. In the past, I've served on the board of Justice Democrats, a political organization that recruits progressive candidates to run for Congress.

What campaigns have you worked on?

In 2016, I worked on the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign as the Director of Organizing Technology. In 2018, I co-founded Justice Democrats and helped recruit and manage over a dozen congressional candidates across the country. Most notably, I was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's campaign manager and also helped run Cori Bush's campaign in 2018. I went on to serve as Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's chief of staff in Congress.

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

Recently, I donated to Chi Osse, who was briefly considering a primary challenge to Hakeem Jeffries. Additionally, I've supported Graham Platner, Abdul El-Sayed, Angela Gonzales-Torres, and Donovan McKinney.

Last cycle, I supported Jamaal Bowman, Summer Lee, and Cori Bush, and Sherrod Brown in their Congressional races.

Locally, my largest financial contributions were towards passing California Proposition 5. I was proud to be one of the early donors to that campaign to help get it off the ground. I have also contributed to Jane Kim, Natalie Gee, Bilal Mahmood, Matt Haney, Michael Lai, and Frank Lara.

What is one concrete thing about the League of Pissed Off Voters (for example, something we have done, said, or published) that you appreciate and that would make you proud to have our endorsement?

At the League, you all have fought for what is right even when the politics wasn't yet there. You believe in organizing and making the case for your values, and persisting until you win. That is exactly how I believe politics should work – we shouldn't just follow political winds, but rather, we should present a real vision for a better life.

You did this with Free Muni for Youth. Years ago, when the League and local organizers started pushing for this, the 'adults in the room' at City Hall called it a pipe dream and a fiscal impossibility. The League didn't blink. You kept it in the Voter Guide, kept it on the priority list, and organized until it became a reality. Now, it's a beloved city program that every politician wants to take credit for.

Questions for Federal Office

What will be your legislative priorities if elected to Congress?

In a previous question, I identified affordability, democracy, and inequality as the animating issues behind my decision to run for Congress. While these are the issues that inspired me to run, they are all long-term issues that I will spend my entire career focusing on in some capacity. Instead of simply reiterating these three points, I want to use this question to highlight the short term priorities I will pursue in my first term in office.

First and most urgently, stopping Trump's authoritarian coup and holding ICE accountable. The moment Democrats win back the House, we must establish a special committee dedicated to investigating ICE abuses – every illegal detention, every rights violation, every death in custody needs to be on the public record. We have seen that Trump's approval numbers drop when the American public hears the details of what ICE is actually doing, and that Trump himself will back down under sustained pressure. We need to send a clear message to every ICE agent operating today: the next Democratic administration is going to investigate every reported abuse and prosecute agents to the fullest extent of the law. Beyond ICE, I will focus heavily on protecting San Franciscans directly through building the best constituent services office in Congress.

Second, reversing Trump's cuts to healthcare. The gutting of Medicaid, SNAP, and ACA marketplace subsidies is forcing millions of people off their coverage and driving up costs for millions more. I will not vote for any budget that does not restore funding to these programs, and I will organize a bloc of members in Congress around that same commitment so we have the collective power to hold that line.

Third, building the coalition and laying the groundwork for a national housing plan. There is real bipartisan momentum right now around some important incremental housing reforms in the House, and I will work to build on that. But my bigger goal is to spend this term assembling the legislative coalition and developing the detailed policy framework for the larger fights – repealing the Faircloth Amendment, funding a major public housing expansion, passing a national housing plan that incentivizes cities and states to adopt pro-housing reforms, and creating a federal financing entity to support new affordable housing construction. None of that will pass with Trump in the White House. But if we do the work now, we can have legislation ready and a game plan locked in on day one of the next Democratic administration.

Whose voices are not being heard in Congress? What new voices would you bring to Congress?

The largest voice not being heard in Congress is the collective voice of working people all around America. Our political system is fundamentally rigged in favor of corporations and special interests that finance the campaigns of most members of Congress. One of the main reasons I am running for Congress is to bring power back to working people by taking on the very system that disenfranchises them and tries to strip them of power.

When I was AOC's Chief of Staff I saw firsthand how some politicians were beholden to their donors. I would go to other offices to ask them to sponsor a bill with us and I would present polls, constituent letters from their districts, and any other piece of evidence I could possibly find that their voters wanted this policy – yet more often than not we would be met with skepticism. Generally, the office would not dispute that what we were pushing for was broadly popular in their district, but they were afraid of pushback from a small elite of wealthy donors. Any system that so clearly prioritizes the needs of a wealthy elite over the wants and needs of working people is fundamentally broken. That is why I am running to replace this system – not become part of it.

I strongly believe that my conduct throughout my professional career and during this race proves that I am committed to this goal. I am not taking money from special interests or corporate PACs, and am instead self financing my campaign. Instead of spending my time calling donors begging for money, I have been meeting with voters on weekly zoom calls, holding town halls across the city, and joining workers at picket lines. These are the people who I will be accountable to when I am in Congress.

Please describe your supporter base. Which parts of the City are part of your political base?

One of the things that is most humbling for me is the broad support that our campaign has received from so many people across San Francisco. When we started in February, it was just a few of us watching the Democrats fail to respond to Trump, realizing they wouldn't save us. That small group has turned into thousands of volunteers who have knocked over 200,000 doors. We have seen support across this great city, and that's shown up at our town halls in every neighborhood, which have all been packed. Many of the people joining our campaign and showing up to volunteer for us have never been involved in politics before.

My voters represent the city's working class, SWANA, Latino, Chinese and broader AAPI communities; young, first-time, and high propensity voters; and socially conscious members of the tech community.

Have you taken contributions from police unions or other law enforcement organizations?

No, I have never taken any contributions from police unions or other law enforcement organizations.

What is a top legislative achievement or policy you are most proud of delivering for California?

Local change comes from action at all levels of government, and I have been focused on making change at the federal level. There are two specific achievements I am most proud of from my time in national politics.

During my time with AOC, we challenged the CEO of Gilead in a congressional hearing. We made the case that PrEP should be generic because the research that led to its creation came from public funding. That hearing created the legal grounds for the DOJ to sue Gilead, which eventually led to generic PrEP years before Gilead's patents ran out. This made the cost of PrEP go down dramatically for thousands of San Franciscans who rely on PrEP to stay HIV-negative.

I also led the creation of the Green New Deal, which directly led to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The passage of the IRA had numerous benefits for San Franciscans. Environmental justice block grants from the IRA funded greening projects and community air monitoring projects in the Bayview. San Franciscans also received numerous grants from IRA money for heat pumps, induction stoves, and for home battery and solar upgrades. Direct Pay cash reimbursements also funded some of the upgrades of our Muni fleet.

Which recently cut federal services would you most prioritize in restoring funding to San Francisco?

My top priority will be reversing Trump's funding cuts to federal healthcare and food assistance programs. The cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and ACA marketplace subsidies are forcing millions of people off their health insurance and driving up rates for millions more who rely on private coverage through the ACA marketplace. These cuts are a major contributing factor to the affordability crisis hitting working families right now, and they are causing direct, immediate harm to San Franciscans.

I will not vote for any federal budget that does not fully restore funding to these programs. Furthermore, I will use my position in Congress to organize with other members around this same commitment. Throughout the second Trump administration we have seen that the public will support Democrats when they hold the line on issues like healthcare, even if it means causing a government shutdown, and that the political blame will fall to the Republicans. It is essential that Democrats actually use this leverage against the Republicans to extract real concessions on issues like healthcare and food assistance that can make an immediate and direct impact on people's lives.

Did you join educators at the UESF picket line during the strike? Which school site did you go to, when, and why?

Yes, I joined the UESF picket line every day between February 9th and February 12th, and also joined the UESF rally at Dolores Park that Friday. I joined the picket line at the following schools:

- Tenderloin Elementary School (2/9, Monday)
- UESF Rally at Civic Center (2/9, Monday)
- Galileo Academy of Science and Technology (2/10, Tuesday)
- Mission High School (2/11, Wednesday)
- Dianne Feinstein Elementary School (2/12, Thursday)
- UESF Victory Rally at Dolores Park (2/13, Friday)

Endorsements and Support - June 2026

Who will you support in the June 2026 election?

US Congress, District 11

Saikat Chakrabarti

Supervisor, District 2

SFUSD School Board

SF Superior Court, Seat 16

Governor

.....

Attorney General

Rob Bonta

.....

Insurance Commisioner

Jane Kim

.....

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Frank Lara

.....

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

.....

Supervisor, District 4

Natalie Gee

.....

Supervisor, District 6

.....

Supervisor, District 8

.....

Supervisor, District 10

.....

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

Connie Chan

.....

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

Sharon Lai

.....

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

Bilal Mahmood

.....

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

Myrna Melgar

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

Jackie Fielder

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

Michael Lai

November 2024 Mayor

#1) Daniel Lurie; #2) Aaron Peskin

November 2024 District Attorney

Ryan Khojasteh

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

November 2024 School Board

Matt Alexander, Parag Gupta, Jamie Huling, Virginia Cheung

November 2024 City College Board

Heather McCarty, Aliya Chisti, Luis Zamora, Ruth Ferguson

March 2024 US Senator, Primary

Barbara Lee

March 2024 Superior Court Judge, Seat 1

Michael Begert

March 2024 Superior Court Judge, Seat 13

Patrick Thompson

November 2022 School Board

Alida Fisher, Lisa Weissman-Ward, Lainie Motamedi

November 2022 City College Board

Anita Martinez, Vick Chung, Susan Soloman

November 2022 Supervisor, District 2

Catherine Stefani

November 2022 Supervisor, District 4

Gordan Mar

November 2022 Supervisor, District 6

Honey Mahogany

November 2022 Supervisor, District 8

Rafael Mandelman

November 2022 Supervisor, District 10

Shamann Walton

Past Props

How did you vote on specific ballot measures in past elections?

Nov 2024 Prop C: Inspector General

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop D: Mayoral Commission Reform

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 32: Raise Minimum Wage

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 33: Allow Local Rent Control / Repeal Costa Hawkins

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 36: Treat Misdemeanors as Felonies

Yes

No

Mar 2024 Prop E: Surveillance Tools for Police

Yes

No

Mar 2024 Prop F: Forced Drug Screening for the Poor

Yes

No

Nov 2022 Prop M: Empty Homes Tax

Yes

No

Jun 2022 Prop H: Recall District Attorney Chesa Boudin

Yes

No

Upcoming Measures

How will you vote on upcoming ballot measures?

Nov 2026 Statewide CEO Billionaire Tax

 Yes No

Jun 2026 Increase CEO Salary Tax

 Yes No

Jun 2026 Impose Lifetime Term Limits

 Yes No

Jun 2026 CA Public Financing of Elections

 Yes No

In Closing

What is your favorite San Francisco restaurant and what would you order there?

I love the Musakhan at Beit Rima!

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

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