

SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2026 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire **by 5pm on Friday, August 7th** 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.

Email *



Name

Gary McCoy

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Daijon Jackson

Phone Number



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Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I'm running for Supervisor because San Francisco gave me a second chance and I've dedicated my life to giving back to this amazing city. After overcoming homelessness and addiction, I rebuilt my life here. I found a path to public service and have spent my career fighting for the things our communities deserve: accessible healthcare, more housing, good-paying union jobs, and real support for people struggling on our streets. I've seen how City Hall works, and I know we can do better. I'm running to cut through the bureaucracy, bring urgency to our biggest challenges, and make sure District 8 is a place where everyone – including families, seniors, service workers, and young people – can live, work, and thrive.

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

I've lived what I'm fighting for. I got sober 15 years ago, and I know what it's like to depend on this city's safety net, and where the safety net falls short. I've spent my career giving back to the city, protecting healthcare as campaign manager for the Save Our Health Care campaign, and standing up for our LGBTQ community through the Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk Democratic Clubs.

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

I'm a renter in a district where most of us rent. I'm a gay man living with HIV, a member of the recovery community with over 15 years of sobriety, and someone who spent his twenties homeless on the streets of this city. Those aren't talking points for me, they're the communities I answer to and am actively part of to this day. They do and will hold me accountable when I see them at 12-step meetings, or run into them on our neighborhood streets, or show up to local events. I live and breathe this community, and what matters most to me is showing up for the people of District 8, who have spent decades showing up for me.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I'm honored to have earned the endorsement of Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, the San Francisco Labor Council, and the San Francisco Tenants Union. You can see my full list of endorsers at garymccoysf.com/endorsements.

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

Housing affordability, small businesses, and safer streets. San Francisco's biggest challenge is affordability, and housing is at the center of it. We need to build housing everyone can afford, including affordable, middle-income, supportive, and market-rate homes, especially along our transit corridors. That means cutting red tape, speeding up approvals, and stopping misuse of laws that delay projects. At the same time, we must protect tenants, fund affordable housing, and ensure new construction creates good union jobs so working people can afford to live here. Expanding family housing and meeting state housing goals are essential to keeping San Francisco livable and equitable.

Supporting small businesses is about protecting the backbone of our neighborhoods. From our merchant corridors and small businesses to local shops, this is how we nurture and create community, and economic opportunity. I will focus not only on vacant storefronts, but ensuring our existing small businesses can continue to thrive. We need safer streets and reliable transit, and policies that help them stay open and thrive. That includes investing in public transit, and ensuring we have adequate bicycle and pedestrian safety infrastructure in place.

We should continue to invest in mental health responses, substance use treatment, and violence prevention, while making sure first responders have the resources they need. Keeping our communities safe also means redesigning our streets so they are safe by default for pedestrians and cyclists. Expanding slow streets, building protected bike lanes, lowering speeds, and adding traffic-calming infrastructure like bulb-outs and raised crosswalks are proven solutions. Safety should not depend on who you are or where you live. It should be a guarantee for everyone.

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

September 2017 to December 2021, Appointed Member, California Homeless Coordinating & Financing Council (appointed by Governor Brown, reappointed by Governor Newsom); January 2017 to January 2018, Member, San Francisco LGBTQ Advisory Committee, San Francisco Human Rights Commission; December 2015 to August 2018, Member and Vice Chair, San Francisco Shelter Monitoring Committee, where I also chaired the Policy Subcommittee; March 2012 to March 2015 Member and Vice Chair, San Francisco Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee; July 2014 to October 2015, Member, Market and Octavia Community Advisory Committee.

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

Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club

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

I am a former President of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, where I also served as Vice President of Communications, and a former Co-Chair and longtime board member of the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club. I served as President of the Eureka Valley Foundation, stewarding Pink Triangle Park and Memorial, and on the advisory board of the Castro Country Club, a sober gathering space for the LGBTQ community and allies in recovery. I currently serve on the board of the Alcoholics Rehabilitation Association and am active with the HIV Action Network. I also remain active in my 12-step recovery community.

What campaigns have you worked on?

January 2025 - July 2026: Campaign Manager, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi's National Save Our Health Care Campaign; January 2018 - July 2026: Political Director, Nancy Pelosi for Congress; August 2025 - November 2025: Lead Consultant, Working Families for Fair Elections - Yes on Prop 50; June 2014 - November 2014: Campaign Manager, Adjust Transportation Funding to Population Growth; June 2014 - November 2014: Reelect Scott Wiener D8 Supervisor

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

Natalie Gee for D4 Supervisor

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?

I have been a fan of the League for many years – although I don't always agree with the League's endorsements, the guide is always well-researched and every description is punchy and highly informative. It's a unique voter guide and carries on the tradition of SF's alternative culture – one close to my heart as a fan of punk and former music booker for venues in Virginia. I always grin when I see the League emphasizing an endorsement with a "hell yes!" or "hell no!!"

Board of Supervisors

How long have you lived in your supervisor district?

Over 15 years.

How would you explain the biggest challenges your district faces?

Affordability is the through line. Rents keep climbing, working and middle-class families are getting pushed out, and the kids who grew up here can't afford to stay. For decades District 8 hasn't built enough housing, and the ladder that carried me from the street to a shelter to an SRO to treatment to supportive housing to a rent-controlled apartment no longer exists. We have exactly one permanent supportive housing site in the entire district. Our seniors, including the generation that led the LGBTQ civil rights movement this neighborhood is famous for, are one Ellis Act notice away from losing the city they built. Our small business corridors are fighting to hold on, and our streets still aren't safe enough for the people walking and biking on them. All of it comes back to whether regular people can afford to live here, and that's the fight I'm running to lead.

What do you feel are your district's biggest opportunities?

District 8 has extraordinary assets hiding in plain sight. The Castro Safeway at 2020 Market sits on one of the best-located development sites in San Francisco, a single-story store in a sea of parking on a major transit corridor. Glen Park has something almost no neighborhood in America has, a BART station surrounded by vacant and underused land. Diamond Heights has acres of surface parking that could hold senior homes and family housing. Upper Market still hosts gas stations steps from the Castro Muni station. Each of these can become hundreds of homes without displacing a single tenant.

And beyond land, we have the strongest community fabric in the city. The Castro is the queer capital of the world, our merchant corridors and legacy businesses anchor our community, and 1939 Market will bring affordable LGBTQ-affirming senior housing from Mercy Housing and Openhouse.

In what ways would your work as supervisor align with, or be different from, the last supervisor from this district?

I share the district's priorities on housing and on getting people off the street and into care, and I'll continue that work. What I'll put my own stamp on is the basics of running the office. Constituent services will be the heart of my operation, because that's where I started, answering calls about streetlights, potholes and clogged storm drains as a volunteer then legislative aide in this very district office. I'll bring more voices into the room, from tenants to labor to small business owners to the recovery community, before decisions get made, rather than after. And I'll build an office people want to stay in, because low turnover means institutional knowledge, and institutional knowledge is what gets constituents real answers instead of voicemails.

Do you support getting rid of district elections for the Board of Supervisors? Why or why not?

Absolutely not. District elections are how a renter, a bartender, or a nonprofit worker can knock on enough doors to win a seat at City Hall without a citywide fundraising machine behind them. They keep supervisors close to the ground, answerable to actual neighborhoods instead of donors, and they're how communities like ours won real representation in the first place. I'd fight any attempt to roll them back.

Which specific city services do you feel should be protected from budget cuts, but have not been?

Budgets are moral documents, and mine will start with protecting the people and services that keep San Franciscans on their feet. That means defending the City workforce from layoffs and safeguarding the public health programs residents rely on, including HIV services. I will fund the full continuum on homelessness and behavioral health, from shelter to permanent supportive housing, HIV services, and vouchers and tenant legal aid that keep people housed. Keeping Muni running is also a top priority, which is why I support both transit funding measures on this November's ballot, and I will protect childcare and early education funding so working families can stay in this city.

The City cannot keep balancing budgets by removing vacant positions and passing on the work to the remaining staff, with many now effectively doing the jobs of two or three people. I will fight to lift the hiring freeze and fill essential permanent positions, and push to reduce the length of the hiring process that averages more than 200 days. I will also push to convert long term temporary exempt workers into permanent civil service roles, because temporary status has become a way to dodge the protections permanent workers have earned.

Please describe your familiarity with the City Charter. Please give specific examples of what you would change in the charter, and what you think is important to preserve.

I've worked under the Charter from just about every angle, as a legislative aide in three district offices, as Chief of Staff to a Supervisor, and as an appointee to bodies the Charter and code create. I know where it empowers residents and where it gets in its own way.

What I'd preserve is the balance of power. The Board's oversight role, independent commissions with real authority, and the public's ability to bring measures to the ballot are checks that protect residents.

I support Charter updates that modernize contracting and budgeting while adding accountability through the City Administrator, and thoughtful consolidation where bodies are genuinely redundant. Reform should make government work better for San Franciscans, not make it answer to fewer people.

Please describe your familiarity with the Board of Supervisor budget process. How would you approach the City's budget? What would you prioritize? How would you ensure community voices are represented?

As a former legislative aide, I've worked inside the budget process. I understand how the Board's add-back negotiations work, and what it takes to organize community pressure to restore funding once cuts are already on the table.

My priorities are protecting the workforce and safety-net services and making sure the money we do spend is accountable. I'll push for progressive revenue measures so the wealthiest corporations and individuals pay their fair share, and call for audits of City contracts and large nonprofit grants based on outcomes achieved, not just spending totals.

Budget decisions deserve information residents can actually act on, and their input as well. I'll hold office hours and budget town halls in District 8, and work directly with the labor and community organizations already advocating around specific line items.

Under what circumstances do you think it's appropriate for the Board of Supervisors to delegate its oversight function to the Mayor?

Never. Oversight isn't a favor the Board does when it's convenient, it's the job the Charter assigns and the check residents depend on. The very narrow exception is a genuine emergency, the way COVID demanded fast executive action. Even then, delegation should come with a sunset date, mandatory reporting back to the Board, and a defined scope, so temporary emergency powers never quietly become permanent ones.

How did you vote or would you have voted on Mayor Lurie's Family Zoning Plan? How would you explain your position to your constituents?

I supported the Family Zoning Plan because San Francisco refused to build its fair share for decades, and the plan moves us closer to our state mandated housing goals. I also supported the Tenant Protection Ordinance, because building more housing and protecting tenants must go hand in hand. Upzoning must be paired with strong demolition controls that protect occupied and rent controlled buildings, along with real tenant protections such as replacement requirements, right to return guarantees, relocation assistance, and access to legal help.

To make sure affordable and workforce housing actually gets built, the funding has to match the zoning. I will work with our state and federal partners to bring dollars back to San Francisco earmarked for affordable housing, and I will support regional and local housing bonds. As the federal government continues to cut vital services, I will also work with local leaders to backfill Section 8 voucher funds and strengthen the San Francisco Housing Authority, which is woefully understaffed. And new housing construction should create good union jobs, so the working people building this housing can afford to live in it.

Whose voices are not being heard at City Hall? What new voices would you bring into City Hall?

The people with the most at stake are heard the least. Tenants facing eviction, young people, people living in shelters and on our streets, people in recovery, immigrants afraid to walk into a government building, monolingual residents, seniors aging alone, and the frontline city workers doing the jobs of two or three people are often cut out of civic life. Meetings happen at times working people and people with families can't attend, in language that shuts people out. I got my own start because someone gave a formerly homeless guy in recovery a seat on an advisory committee, so I know what opening the door does. I'll appoint people with lived experience of homelessness, addiction, and the rental market to commissions and advisory bodies. I'll build a district office that meets people where they are, in the languages they speak, and I'll bring tenants, labor, small business owners, and the recovery community into the room before decisions are made, not after.

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

Yes, I joined families and educators on the picket lines across District 8, and visited 3 different District 8 school sites each day. In the fall of 2024, I opposed the slate of proposed school closures, including Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy in District 8, where I walked picket lines with families and students and I was proud to stand alongside those same families, educators, and administrators this past winter.

How will you vote on the Affordable Housing Guarantee Act in the November election? Explain your position.

I'm voting yes. San Francisco has almost never lacked plans for affordable housing, it has lacked a reliable way to pay for them.

I understand the frustration some of my friends in labor have with set-asides, and they're right that ballot-box budgeting can tie the Board's hands, especially in tight budget years. But general fund promises to affordable housing have been broken in budget after budget, and the people who pay for those broken promises are tenants and the workers who can't afford to live in the city they serve. A dedicated fund drawn from a luxury surplus, not from workers' pockets and not from existing general fund revenue, is the right tool for this moment.

How will you vote on the Mayor's Clean Up City Hall ballot measures on the November ballot?
Explain your position.

I support updating our Charter, including how the City contracts and make our budgeting more flexible to respond to city needs while providing more accountability by the City Administrator. I'm skeptical of measures that alter the balance between the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office, San Francisco's charter built those checks and balances for a reason, and the way to fix our slow bureaucracy isn't less accountability to voters. I'd like to hear more from our City workers and residents before making a decision. I am supporting the Fair Ballot Access committee's opposition to the increased threshold for ballot measure qualification initiative. We shouldn't be making it more difficult for our voices to be heard when putting measures on the ballot. That said, our ballot qualification process right now leaves a lot to be desired, and we are spending too much taxpayer money on competing measures, symbolic measures, and measures that cycle on and off the ballot year after year.

How would you address affordability in your District? Provide concrete ideas.

Housing first, in every sense. I'll pursue a binding redevelopment agreement for the Castro Safeway site at 2020 Market within 18 months in order to bring hundreds of mixed-income homes above a full-service grocery store. I'll pursue a joint development partnership with BART at Glen Park station, phased redevelopment of the Diamond Heights shopping center parking lots with senior homes, and conversion of every Upper Market gas station to housing. I'll bring back the modern SRO and legal co-living, the most affordable housing the private market can build, because an SRO is a rung on the ladder that saved my life. I'll make ADUs cheaper to build with pre-approved plans and an end to costly curb-cut requirements, and I'll champion a social housing pilot on public land alongside a stronger COPA and small sites program so rent-controlled buildings become permanently affordable.

For tenants in D8, I'll continue to ensure right to counsel is fully funded, restore all civil legal aid, create an early-warning system before evictions are filed, and guarantee independent legal advice before any buyout. For everyday costs beyond rent, I'll protect Free Muni for Youth, back both transit funding measures so service doesn't get cut, support the legacy businesses that keep our corridors affordable and alive, and make sure new housing creates good union jobs with wages that let workers live in the city they're building.

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

Undecided

Supervisor, District 4

Undecided

Supervisor, District 6

Matt Dorsey. Matt Dorsey is one of the first people I met in my first 12-step meeting over 15 years ago, and while we don't always agree, we've been able to work well in finding compromise on policy and legislation over the years.

Supervisor, District 8

Gary McCoy

Supervisor, District 10

Undecided

SFUSD School Board

Ryan Hazelton Virginia Cheung Alida Fisher Phil Kim I realize these are more endorsements than seats available, but these are all candidates I've got great working relationships with.

City College Board of Trustees

Ruth Ferguson, otherwise I'm still undecided but will discuss further with AFT2121.

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

Connie Chan

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

Sharon Lai/Danny Sauter

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

No position

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

Myrna Melgar

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

No position

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

No position

November 2024 Mayor

Anyone but Mark Farrell

November 2024 District Attorney

No position

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

Catherine Stefani

November 2024 School Board

Parag Gupta

November 2024 City College Board

Aliya Chisti, Ruth Ferguson, Heather McCarty

Past Props

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

June 2026 Prop D: Increase Business Tax

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

In Closing

What is your favorite branch of the SF Public Library and what is the last thing you checked out from there?

Eureka Valley / Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library; Chasing the Scream by Johann Hari

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I'm not running because I decided a Board seat was the next line on a resume. I'm running because this city saved my life, and I've spent 15 years of recovery paying that back, in district offices, in shelters and treatment programs, at Rec and Park, in Sacramento, and in the Speaker's office. I know what it's like to sleep on the street in this district and I know what it's like to legislate. There aren't many candidates who can say both. San Francisco works when it fights for the people struggling the hardest, and that's the fight I'll bring to the Board of Supervisors every single day.

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