

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

Darshini Patel

Campaign Contact

Thomas Christian

Phone Number



Website

<https://votedarshini.com>

Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I'm running because San Francisco doesn't have a values problem. It has a follow-through problem. People in District 8 aren't asking for a revolution; they're asking for the things they were already promised. The permits. The buses. The childcare slots. We voted for the bonds, funded the programs, filed the 311 cases, and then we waited. I've spent my career closing the gap between a promise and a result — coordinating Hurricane Sandy recovery, building an Obama field operation in Virginia that made 250,000 voter contacts, delivering COVID relief to 100,000 small businesses, running GOTV in New Hampshire for Harris in 2024. After that loss I came home with a simple conclusion: the only way to fix what's broken nationally is to fix what's broken locally first. I kept looking for the person doing that work in this district and not finding them, which is how I ended up running.

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

I'm a queer, first-generation American and a Bay Area native. My father worked the overnight shift at Denny's to put himself through college; I learned English late and grew up translating not just between languages but also between cultures and between systems. Public school teachers who came in early and stayed late pushed my family toward a private school we didn't know existed, and walking through that door taught me how access actually works: wealth doesn't only buy things, it buys the knowledge of what's achievable. Every job since has been a version of the same work: making a system deliver for people who don't have someone on the inside. My values are non-negotiable — evidence leads, the budget is where we write down what we value, plain language always, earn credibility before expressing outrage, admit what I don't know and then go find out — but the policies serving those values can evolve with the data.

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

I represent the District 8 I've lived in for more than ten years: seniors in Diamond Heights who depend on the 35, 36, and 37; queer residents and long-term survivors in the Castro; renters along Market who are one bad month from leaving; families in Noe Valley staring down 71 infant-care slots for an entire district; small business owners in Glen Park a year deep in permitting. Accountability is built into how I run: every commitment gets an owner, a timeline, and a metric; a quarterly public scorecard grades my own office; and when I get something wrong, it goes in a public corrections log. I take no corporate money and no institutional PAC money, so no donor sits upstream of the people I answer to.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I don't have institutional endorsements to list yet. I entered this race without anyone's permission, nobody recruited me, and many endorsement lanes in D8 were largely spoken for before I even joined the race. What I'm proudest of is the support of neighbors who sat with me before I asked them for anything and continue to show up to support the campaign: small-business owners, queer parents, long-term survivors, Diamond Heights seniors, teachers, and the budget activists who read the line items the rest of us skip. As institutional processes open, I'm seeking out organizations whose values match how I'd govern.

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

First, housing that actually gets built. Nearly 21,000 homes in San Francisco are entitled and still haven't broken ground, which is what a neighbor means when she says the city approved something on that lot years ago but nothing ever happened there. Approved is not built. I'll publish a public housing pipeline tracker on day one, legislate permitting deadlines the city has to answer for when it misses them, and fight for a second dedicated affordable site in District 8.

Second, childcare. This district has 71 licensed infant slots, and parents build their whole working life around that number. I'd require childcare-ready ground floors on our commercial corridors, open the rec-center rooms we already own to providers, and cut the enrollment wait so a subsidy a family qualifies for turns into a slot they can actually use.

Third, a budget that tells the truth. Thirty recommendations from the Board's own budget analyst on police overtime still sit unadopted, and every one of them reflects money that could be doing something else. I'd adopt them, enforce the commercial vacancy tax, and publish a quarterly scorecard on office's progress so residents can check the work instead of taking my word for it.

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

None at the local or state level. This is my first run for office, and I've never held an appointed city or state seat. The closest thing on my record is federal: I served on the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and in the Obama White House on the Domestic Policy Council.

Locally, I serve on the board of directors of HealthRight 360, a San Francisco health and recovery services nonprofit. My policy work has been independent: I researched and wrote all 28 proposals on my platform myself, and I built tldrSF.com, a free public tool for reading the city budget, Board of Supervisors outcomes, and the housing pipeline.

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

Noe Valley Democratic Club
SF DSA
SF YIMBY
SF Women's Political Committee
Upper Noe Neighborhood Association

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

HealthRight 360, a San Francisco health and recovery nonprofit that holds city contracts. That's the only board seat I hold. If elected, I'll step down from it and recuse myself from any vote touching that would cause a conflict of interest.

What campaigns have you worked on?

Obama 2012 staff, Regional Field Director in Virginia: I led the Virginia Beach region, where I inherited an underperforming operation and grew it into a 250-person, 19-team organization that made more than 250,000 voter contacts and ranked among the top regions in the state.

Hillary 2016, GOTV volunteer in Ohio.

Biden 2020, "late help" for Florida field team. Full-time volunteer for the final month, remote due to COVID.

Harris 2024 staff, GOTV Director for New Hampshire: built a 42-person operation in two weeks, the only battleground state Harris won.

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

Nate Adams for Oakland City Council
Josh McLaurin for Georgia Lieutenant Governor
William Lawrence for Congress (Michigan)
Michael Tubbs for California Lieutenant Governor
Patrick Hanley for Illinois State Senate

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?

You describe your guide as thoroughly researched and thoroughly biased, in the same breath, and I appreciate that more than I'd appreciate either one alone. Most guides manage one or the other: homework with an unstated lens, or a strong lens with no homework. Thirty-five editions since 2004 of telling readers where you stand and then showing them why real civic infrastructure exists in this city. It's also close to how I try to work. We all agree on the biggest issues in District 8, I'm the only candidate whose platform is built on follow-through and rooted in bringing accountability and community engagement into our government. I publish the numbers behind my platform, including the parts I'm still working out, because nobody can check work you won't show them.

Board of Supervisors

How long have you lived in your supervisor district?

10 of the last 15 years

How would you explain the biggest challenges your district faces?

The gap between what District 8 has been promised and what it receives. We have 71 licensed infant-care slots for a district of more than eighty thousand people. Zero emergency shelter beds, while 85.5% of our unhoused neighbors are unsheltered, the highest rate in the city. An affordable-housing pipeline that is 74% one building. Bus routes that a quarter of our seniors depend on sitting on the elimination list if this fall's transit measures fail. Forty-nine hate crimes in the Castro since 2019, every one classified "unknown" motivation. A commercial vacancy tax that 236 D8 properties never even filed. None of these are values fights. Every one is a follow-through failure, and follow-through is exactly what a supervisor can fix.

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

The district itself. D8 had 64% turnout in this June's primary against 50.8% citywide, the most engaged electorate in San Francisco, and one that actually reads the policy. That's an opportunity: a supervisor who publishes real data here will have real partners. The concrete openings: the Family Zoning Plan maps new homes onto our transit corridors, and delivery is now the whole game; 1939 Market will bring LGBTQ-affirming senior housing if the city protects its timeline; the Castro Theatre investment and 2280 Market are landing on the same corridor and need one strategy instead of three; and Glen Park, Noe Valley, and Church Street have small-business energy, the city mostly needs to step out of their way.

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

Rafael Mandelman has given this district real attention, particularly to the Castro's institutions and to behavioral health, and I'd align with him on defending both and on taking housing production seriously. Where I'd differ is method. My whole platform is delivery infrastructure: a public housing pipeline tracker, permitting deadlines with consequences attached, a quarterly scorecard on my own office, and a public log of what I got wrong and how I changed course.

I'd also push harder on childcare supply, on enforcing the commercial vacancy tax where 236 District 8 properties have never filed, and on closing the demolition loophole so new capacity isn't created by erasing rent-controlled homes. I'm not running against anyone's record. I'm running on the gap every D8 resident feels between what gets announced and what shows up at their doorstep.

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

No. District elections keep supervisors close enough to neighborhoods that a resident can actually reach the person who represents them, and they keep the cost of running low enough that a first-time candidate without institutional money can compete. Citywide seats would hand even more power to the donor networks that already outspend ordinary voters; this June a single committee outspent its opposition roughly two to one to defeat a ballot measure. What I'd change isn't the structure, it's the supports around it: real voter education so ranked ballots work in every language and every neighborhood, and published ballot-exhaustion data by district so we can see where the system leaves voters behind.

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

LGBTQ+ health services should never have been on the table. My red line is simple: I will not vote for a budget that cuts HIV prevention while police overtime keeps growing, when the Board's own budget analyst has thirty unadopted recommendations sitting on that spending.

Organizing restored about \$28.5 million citywide this year, HIV prevention among it, and that was a real win. Nearly \$3 million in cuts to the eleven-organization LGBTQ+ coalition is still unrestored. STAHR, the trans health program at SF Community Health Center, took a fifty percent cut in March, and the Michael Baxter Larkin Street Youth Clinic and the Cole Street Youth Clinic are closing this year, which leaves a high-risk youth population critically underserved.

The restorations also reflect only year one of a two-year budget. In year two the money disappears again unless someone puts it back, and I would rather fix year two now than run the same fire drill next June.

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 done the reading, including the 1996 Kaufman Charter, which consolidated a great deal of power in the Mayor's office; thirty years on it deserves an honest review. My test for any charter change is one question: does it shorten the distance between a voter and a result, or between a mayor and a department?

What I'd change: retire genuinely inactive bodies, standardize terms, expand public financing, and strengthen transparency requirements.

What I'd reserve: independent commissions and oversight bodies, the citizen-initiative process at its current signature threshold, and Transit First, in the charter since 1973 and treated like a suggestion.

I opposed November 2024's Prop D because it moved commissions toward unilateral mayoral control, and I'd oppose unilateral mayoral hire-and-fire and at-will commissioner removal wherever they resurface, because efficiency is sometimes a cleaner word for less accountability.

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?

I've spent eighteen months reading the city's budget, and I built tldrsf.com to make it legible for everyone else, because public and usable are two different things.

My approach is approved revenue and collection before cuts to services, which means enforcing the commercial vacancy tax that 236 District 8 properties have never filed at all, and defending the 2020 transfer tax against rollback.

On police overtime, I give credit where it's earned: the adopted budget cuts SFPD overtime 22%. The unfinished work is the 30 recommendations from the Board's own budget analyst that still sit unadopted, and the pattern underneath them, where 12% of officers collected 32% of the overtime dollars. Overtime should not be a staffing strategy.

The money that stops burning there should go to prevention. Keeping a household housed costs about \$6,524 a year compared to \$46,081 for a year of an adult shelter bed. That is the whole argument for spending earlier.

On process, the part that matters most is timing. Bring the affected people into add-back organizing before the mayor's proposal lands, not after it is already written.

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

Almost none. Oversight is the Board's constitutional job, and the recent pattern — commission consolidation, at-will removal proposals, "streamlining" packages — has mostly been delegation dressed as efficiency. The narrow exception I'd accept: genuinely operational decisions inside a department, where the Board's role is to set the standard and audit the results rather than manage the work. Even then, delegation has to come with published reporting attached, because the Board can't oversee what an agency won't publish. The test stays the same: anything that shortens the distance between a mayor and a department while lengthening the distance between a voter and a result is a no.

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 support the Family Zoning Plan and said so before it was popular to hedge, and I'd have voted for it. Here's how I explain it to constituents: single-family-only zoning was never neutral; the historical record documents exactly who it was written against, and updating it is a correction. I'll give constituents the arithmetic too: the plan creates roughly 36,200 units of theoretical capacity against an 82,069-unit state obligation, and the city's own projection is 8,500 to 14,600 homes actually built over twenty years. Zoning is permission, and permission has never been the same thing as a building in this city. My work, then, is the follow-through: enforceable permitting timelines, a public pipeline tracker, and closing the plan's demolition loophole so new capacity never comes by erasing rent-controlled homes. Pro-housing and pro-tenant are not opposites. District 8 needs both.

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

The renter one emergency from the street; the family whose childcare subsidy is real but whose slot is fictional; seniors on the 35, 36, and 37; residents who reach city services in a language City Hall underfunds; the frontline nonprofit workers who deliver the city's care but are chronically underpaid for it. I'd give them votes, not just listening sessions: a D8 LGBTQ health roundtable that survivors convene rather than attend, frontline workers on the bodies that oversee their departments, and lived experience at the same table as credentialed expertise. I'd also bring a voice this district has long overlooked: no woman has been elected to the District 8 seat since district-wide voting resumed in 2000.

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

I supported the teachers, fully and without hedging. I was out of town that week, so I wasn't at the line.

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

Yes, and I've already endorsed it publicly. My reasoning is the through-line of my platform: San Francisco's affordability problem is a delivery problem, and this district's affordable pipeline is 74% one building. Voters have approved affordable housing again and again, including 10,000 units of city-owned mixed-income housing in 2020 that has delivered zero units since. Guaranteeing it means committing structurally instead of press-release by press-release.

The measure also exempts new multi-family housing and instead dedicates transfer-tax revenue already collected by the city on sales over \$10 million. At least 60% will go to building affordable homes and at least half of that to social housing. It funds the homes without taxing the ones we're trying to build.

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

No on all three, considering them as three individual measures rather than one package. Two of them expand individual power. The third raises the threshold for a citizen initiative from roughly two percent of registered voters to eight. I support streamlining city contracting, but I'm against doing so by consolidating power at the top and pricing regular people out of their own ballot.

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

Enforce the vacancy tax voters already passed — 236 District 8 properties never even filed.

Defend the 2020 transfer tax against the BUILD Act rollback.

Fund homelessness prevention for D8's roughly 3,570 severely rent-burdened households at \$6,524 per household instead of paying \$46,081 per shelter bed after the fact.

Deliver a second dedicated affordable site so 74% of our affordable pipeline stops depending on one building.

Close the Family Zoning Plan's demolition loophole

Rent control for long-term tenants and especially for seniors on fixed incomes, and rent stabilization to allow growth and mobility without penalty. Fund tenant right-to-counsel alongside these, so the protections hold up when tested.

Continued support to implement the Housing Guarantee Act should it pass.

Fix the childcare desert on the supply side: childcare-ready ground floors on transit corridors, by-right childcare in residential zones, and ELFA enrollment cut from twelve months to ninety days: the subsidy money exists; the slots don't.

Make opening a small business not take 61 steps, \$22,648, and 332 days, because affordability is also whether your own neighborhood will let you make a living in it.

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

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Supervisor, District 4

.....

Supervisor, District 6

.....

Supervisor, District 8

Darshini Patel, I'm asking for your #1.

.....

Supervisor, District 10

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SFUSD School Board

Brandee Marckmann

.....

City College Board of Trustees

.....

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 Mayor

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 District Attorney

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 School Board

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

November 2024 City College Board

I made no formal endorsements in 2024. I was on staff with the Harris Campaign leading GOTV for New Hampshire.

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?

Noe Valley, the Sally Brunn branch. I can walk there, it is a beautiful old building, and it has the best desks in the district to actually get work done with free wifi and easy printing. I last checked out the book *Yes We (Still) Can* by Dan Pfeiffer.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

First, I run this campaign the way I'd run my office. I take no corporate money and no institutional PAC money, and I researched and wrote every proposal on my platform myself with a kitchen cabinet of friends I can't repay and not one paid consultant. When I'm wrong, it will go in a public corrections log. You don't have to trust the promises; the receipts are the point.

Second, I'm asking you to read my answers anyway, and to hold me to them. The distance between what City Hall promises and what shows up on your block is a series of choices. Somebody made each of them, and somebody can make them differently. San Francisco can work better for all of us.

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