

## Connie Chan D1

### San Francisco Berniecrats Board of Supervisors Questionnaire 2024 Connie Chan, District 1 Supervisor

#### **1. What should the Board of Supervisors do to address San Francisco's housing problems? What resources should the Board of Supervisors use to address these problems?**

San Francisco's Housing Element requires over 82,000 new units of housing be built in the next 8 years, 57% of which must be affordable units. Our City fell behind its affordable housing goal in the last Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycle, meeting less than 50% of our affordable housing goal, even as we exceeded our market rate goals. I will continue to insist we prioritize building affordable housing first to meet our goals.

I support several strategies to increase the city's affordable housing stock, including land banking, small sites acquisition, and increased funding for affordable housing including the most recent Proposition A, a \$300 million affordable housing bond. We also need to preserve as much affordable housing and rent-controlled housing in the city as possible.

As Supervisor, I approved funding for a 98-unit 100% affordable senior housing project in my district. We need 100% affordable developments across the city, in each district. As we continue to grow, we do need to build housing and the only way to support middle income housing is to build housing which the middle income population can afford.

#### **2. What should the Board of Supervisors do to address issues around homelessness?**

The key to ending homelessness is preventing it from occurring in the first place. We must prevent further tragedy on our streets and pave a pathway to bringing our homeless population off the streets into Single Room-Occupancy (SRO) units and long-term supportive housing. But we must also invest in improving the conditions of shelters and SROs, and transition the current housing insecure population to workforce and permanent affordable housing. The City should invest more deeply in our small site acquisition program to preserve rent-controlled apartment buildings and prevent tenant evictions. For the long term, the City has to expand funding for first-time home buyer programs for working class families, and develop a supportive system for homeowners and renters on fixed incomes.

#### **3. What is your stance on public transportation vs TNCs? Are there ways to make transportation more accessible? Should we be increasing or decreasing fares, or even make public transportation free for all? How can the Board of Supervisors effectively address these issues?**

The goal of our public transportation system should be to be the most affordable, accessible, and efficient way to get around San Francisco. I support free Muni for all San Franciscans, so those without a car, or those who need an incentive to drive less, can access our public transit system. I have also called for SFMTA to restore its transit lines to pre-pandemic service and levels to better serve our transit riders.

Since Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) first appeared in San Francisco, they have sought to undermine public transit including locally-regulated taxis, and as a result, public transit and taxi drivers have struggled to compete. In 2022, the San Francisco Planning Department staff issued its study highlighting the impacts of TNCs on San Francisco, which concluded that the operation of TNCs significantly increases vehicle trips and congestion in the City.

As Budget Committee Chair, and a member of the County Transportation Authority Commission, I will continue to advocate funding and identify progressive tax revenue to support our public transit system.

**4. What should be the role of TNCs and autonomous vehicles in your ideal future San Francisco? How will you work with the other members of the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor's office and state agencies to accomplish this vision?**

I authored a resolution urging SFMTA prioritize and support taxis over TNCs (File No 220886). I also supported the Ride-Share Business Tax, Proposition D (2019). I have stood with labor to call for better safety standards for autonomous vehicles. We need these companies to put people over robots. At the end of the day, we're fighting for humanity and fighting for people. This is why I also authored a resolution urging the passage of SB 915 (Cortese) so local governments can push forward local policies regulating autonomous vehicles operating in our City.

**5. Should we increase or decrease the number of police on the streets of San Francisco, and why? Please describe the financial impact this would have on the city budget and on other departments.**

According to an independent study commissioned by the Police Commission issued in March 2022, San Francisco has an overall staffing crisis, short of about 500 police officers.

As Budget Chair, I have been scrutinizing every dollar the City spends, questioning every contract that comes before my committee, and demanding accountability and results. This is also why I have tasked our Budget and Legislative Analyst to conduct in-depth analyses on three key elements to the City's operation and structural spending. First, we understand the City has been hiring management positions at twice the rate of line staff, and continues to overspend on staffing overtime. The next focus is to analyze existing high cost contracts and whether they're delivering the expected results. Finally, we will be evaluating redundancy in city operations. We can better manage the budget and strategically close the deficit gap and we will be able to hire and support our firefighters, street cleaners, beat officers, nurses – people who deliver the services San Franciscans need and deserve.

**6. Do police make our streets safer and how? Explain? What alternatives to policing should the Board of Supervisors consider to make San Francisco safer?**

Our law enforcement agencies play a key role to public safety but we must have a comprehensive plan for longterm and meaningful public safety results. San Francisco Police Department must focus on deterring, investigating and solving serious and violent crime. Our Police Department also needs to continue its training in understanding implicit bias,

de-escalation, and open its recruitment to more people of color, and those with cultural and language competency. But police are not the only tool we have for advancing public safety. We need to continue to invest in and expand our Street Crisis and outreach teams for responding to mental health and wellness calls.

**7. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure B, and why?**

Yes, I supported Prop B because it was a fiscally responsible and comprehensive approach to community safety that helps address a public safety need.

**8. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure E, and why?**

I opposed Prop E because it is a throw-the-spaghetti-on-the-wall-and-see-what-sticks approach to public safety, weakened oversight and implements a car chase policy that puts the public and our officers at risk.

**9. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure F, and why?**

I opposed Prop F because this “solution” has been tried before and failed to result in better outcomes for communities or residents. It was also an unfunded mandate when the City clearly has not been able to provide treatment on demand.

**10. How do the federal and state budgets impact San Francisco?**

Our city government depends on Federal and State governments for many social services including housing and food vouchers and health care funding. We would be significantly impacted if Federal and State governments discontinued funding support, especially the most vulnerable in our City.

**11. Do you support the proposal to limit the authority of the Board of Supervisors to take action on issues such as the War on Gaza? Why? If yes, please detail the limitations you would place on the Board of Supervisors and explain your response.**

I voted in support of Supervisor Joel Engardio's non-binding resolution to prioritize municipal matters after the resolution was amended by Supervisor Shamann Walton.

**12. There are at least 4 local petitions being circulated for consideration on the November 2024 ballot (<https://www.sf.gov/reports/november-2024/potential-local-ballot-measures>). What is your position on each of them? Explain.**

I have yet to review all proposed ballots, and will wait until the filing deadline to decide.

**13. If the other candidates in your race would agree, are you willing to reject all PAC and “dark money” support for your race and to publicly denounce spending on your behalf through such entities? Are there entities from which you would reject support and/or publicly denounce spending on your behalf? Will you publicly denounce dark money expenditures against your opponents?**

It is concerning how much money is being funneled through dark money organizations like Neighbors for a Better SF. One organization has already set up an independent expenditure committee to attack me. These organizations spent hundreds of thousands trying to defeat me in 2020 and they will spend even more in 2024. Considering my opponent has not denounced the IE already in existence, I believe she anticipates relying heavily on dark money in this race.

**14. What makes you the most qualified candidate to be your District Supervisor?**

Since I first took office in 2021, I have demonstrated my ability to deliver services and policies supporting small businesses, protecting tenants and small property landlords, and providing resources and safety for working families and the most vulnerable. I hold City Hall accountable and demand equitable and efficient city services in District 1 and throughout San Francisco.

If re-elected, I will continue to push city departments to listen to the communities, call on City Hall for transparency, and advocate for common sense policies that benefit all San Franciscans.