

Chyanne Chen_D11

Board of Supervisors Questionnaire

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?

We need a comprehensive strategy to address San Francisco's housing problems. On one hand, as the Board of Supervisors, we need to facilitate the building of new housing units for San Franciscans at all income levels. I support maximizing the percentage of Below Market Rate housing units in large developments, 100% affordable housing on public land, and streamlining the development of accessory dwelling units. At the same time, we must use our legislative power to support tenants to stay in place, maintain tenant protections, and close the loopholes that have allowed speculative landlords to displace vulnerable residents. We also need to support first time homebuyers in securing down payment assistance.

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

Housing is a basic human right and everyone deserves safe and affordable housing. The most sensible and straightforward solution to homelessness is providing supportive housing with on-site case managers and health care professionals. The Board of Supervisors has the ability to mobilize resources to identify appropriate sites to fund and implement this housing. We need to especially prioritize families with children and seniors who are homeless, or living in unstable housing such as SRO hotels or doubled-up.

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?

I support efficient, reliable, stable and affordable public transportation for the health of the city, investing in infrastructure for our residents and small businesses, vision zero goals for pedestrian and bike safety, and lowering gas emissions for our planet. From an equity standpoint, public transportation ensures equal access to all parts of our city, regardless of where someone lives and whether they can afford a car. Our goal should be to fully support and fund effective public transportation to ensure its long term stability in the city and in the region. TNC's add to emissions, city traffic and congestion, and do not provide their drivers with sufficient worker protections. TNC's by and large exclude many working families and immigrant communities because of cost and how they can be accessed through specific platforms.

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?

The Board of Supervisors's responsibility to San Franciscans is ensuring the safety of our streets and holding public and private institutions accountable. Data shows that 50% of recent increases in congestion are caused by TNC's. The vision would be to improve public transportation to be efficient and reliable, so that TNC's would only serve very specific needs. As Supervisor I would ensure that public transportation is well-funded, monitor and hold accountable existing TNC's to improve and subsidize public transport. I will work with state legislators to raise regulatory standards on TNCs to ensure drivers have the same protections as other workers in California, and ensure that autonomous vehicles can only operate when they have been proven to be able to do so safely.

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.

We need to have more effective policing in San Francisco. As a Supervisor, I will call for more transparency and accountability from the Police Department in how officers spend their time, and ask them to focus on preventing and solving the most serious crimes. To keep all of us safe, we need to increase and train mental health and social service response workers to address many issues police

are now expected to address without proper training and support. As a Supervisor, I would ensure that the city also prioritizes funding programs that prevent crime in the long term such as youth programs, mental health services, workforce development, as well as programs that bring restorative justice practices to our community along with cross-racial exchanges and understanding. Unfortunately, these programs are threatened to be cut amidst our budget deficit.

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?

Police can make our streets safer if they can focus their time and energy on solving serious, organized crime, such as organized retail theft impacting SF and the Bay Area in general. Safety is not only the absence of danger, but the presence of healthy, connected and resourced communities. There are so many needs that can't fall on the shoulders of the police, such as case management of people experiencing homelessness, treating symptoms of substance abuse, and responding to mental health crises. We need to sharpen our focus for what we want the police to do, and develop and fund systems of support for staffing who can play other roles.

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

I supported Proposition B in the March 2024 Election after it was amended from its original version with the support of labor unions to ensure it would be fiscally responsible and not create negative financial impacts or take resources from other critical programs. We need to fill all vacant front line positions that contribute to community safety, not just police but also emergency personnel, 911 dispatchers, EMTs, etc.

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

I opposed Proposition E in the March 2024 election. I had serious concerns that elements of Prop E would not make us safer and reduce accountability. In particular, I worry that weakening the car chase policy could lead to more accidents, and more fatal accidents. Forty-one percent of car chases initiated by

SFPD between 2018 and 2021 resulted in collisions and a number of those caused injuries to innocent bystanders. The SFPD has also stated that we did not need to change our car chase policy. While I'm open to measures to reduce paperwork, all in all, the possibility of serious accidents and injuries in the name of changing a policy SFPD said was working moved me to vote No on E.

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

I opposed Proposition F in the March 2024 election. Currently, the city does not provide enough resources to fully support people who suffer from substance abuse and are seeking treatment. Removing critical resources from folks in crisis is counterintuitive to long term safety for all of us and bad policy, as many public health professionals have pointed out.

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

The winding down of federal COVID relief funding and the state budget deficit are both contributing to San Francisco's budget deficit this year. That said, San Francisco should be leveraging federal and state resources to invest in our communities. I support cities and the state being able to raise revenue through progressive tax measures to ensure we resource communities that need it the most.

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 do not support that proposal. San Francisco is home to many people and cultures. We have always led the nation in how we center and celebrate each other's differences and shared dignity and humanity. As elected officials, the Board of Supervisors have a responsibility to listen to our community, connect international affairs to San Franciscan's lived realities and take a stance to center our shared humanity. I will oppose any effort to stifle the voice of San Franciscans.

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.

While I still need more time to talk to community members and do more research on each of these measures, I am a strong proponent of district elections, which has given voice to working class communities of color and oppose efforts to undermine them. I support the idea of taxing TNCs and autonomous vehicles as a way to better fund our public transit system. I believe the Mayor of San Francisco already has a lot of power and we need to ensure there is transparency in our government. The measure on Mayor's Authority Relating to City Department Heads and Mayoral Staff is going to be retracted.

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?

I will reject money from the Police Officer Association, real estate corporations, the tobacco industry, and marijuana industry and denounce their spending on my behalf.

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

I'm an immigrant, a community organizer and a parent. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of the challenges facing District 11 residents. I've had to navigate language barriers, the public-education system and caregiving for my elderly parents. I have struggled with reliable transit and affordable childcare.

For over twenty years, I have been deeply committed to our community, advocating for cross racial solidarity, and immigrant and workers' rights, a passion born from my own journey as an immigrant from a small village in China striving for a better life in San Francisco.

Through my work as a labor union organizer at United Healthcare Workers, I learned that by bringing people together, we can empower them to stand up and win what they deserve. As a community organizer with the Chinese Progressive Association, through facilitating workshops with Chinese immigrants and bringing together people from different communities, I learned that education and building mutual understanding is what will bring cross racial solidarity, healing and true safety for our communities.

My work with broad coalitions has centered around everyday San Franciscans gaining access to resources and a seat at the table. My life experience from my background and decades of collaborating with different stakeholders, as well as values aligned with working families in San Francisco makes me the most qualified candidate in this race.