

**Ernest Jones, District 11
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?

San Francisco must build more housing of all types. I believe that there needs to be a dedicated focus on affordable and workforce housing. The Board should utilize bonds as a vehicle to create these workforce and affordable housing units.

Additionally the conversion of office space downtown San Francisco will be key to hitting our housing goals. Portions of this housing should be dedicated to workforce and affordable units as well.

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

1. Create More Shelter Beds
2. Create one system that coordinates between HSA, Public Health, and other city agencies that support people experiencing homelessness. This allows the departments to not only better serve residents through the collection of information, but it also can serve to reduce the duplicity in services.
3. Support programs that deal with mental health and provide a variety of methods to treat addiction.

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 think in a city we need all forms of transportation. This should range from affordable public transportation, taxis, and TNC options. I think each method has space in our communities. The TNC driver community has quickly become an important part of our workforce and we must continue to support them.

In terms of pricing, I support free MUNI for youth. I believe that pricing for Adults should remain at current rates while discounting Seniors, those with disabilities and low-income adults. I would want to expand the access point for people to be able to access the discounts (ie Mutual Aid Locations, Job Centers, Senior Centers).

In order to close deficits we must improve safety which in turn will improve ridership. While in a budget squeeze, it is helpful to have the money from fares go back into our city's bucket for use where necessary.

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 believe in the future TNC's should still have a role in our city. The TNC's should be operated by humans to preserve the livelihood of workers who transport our residents from A to B. At this time I still have concerns about the safety of Autonomous Vehicles based on incidents that I have witnessed with Fire Trucks, Garbage Trucks, and other safety service workers.

The future of the autonomous industry should have local oversight to insure the safety of our residents and I am willing to work with colleagues, the mayor's office, and community to craft policies that keep our workers and residents protected.

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 should absolutely have a fully staffed police force. However it should not come at the expense of our other safety departments. While we have SFPD shortages, we have a shortage of sheriffs, firefighters, nurses, and 911 operators. Each of these offices are crucial in providing safety to our communities and one should not be empowered to spend over another.

The original proposal left concern because it did not consider impacts to those other departments.

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?

There is space for police in our communities as long as there is accountability. There are simply tasks that cannot be handled by community groups or intervention specialists and because of that I do believe that police make our streets safer.

I believe true safety requires a holistic approach of community policing, neighborhood/community activation, education and mental health treatment. As an alternative to police, investments in intervention programs must continue along with the implementation of trained and professionally courteous ambassadors.

We must also focus on bridging the gap between neighbors so that they are ready to help each other in times of need. We must do a better job of community building across socioeconomic and identity lines.

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

Yes. I support a fully staffed police force but it should not be at the expense of other safety positions like the 911 operators who receive the initial call.

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

No. I support smart policing strategies including the use of technology to solve crime. I'm supportive of officers having more tools to hold criminals accountable. However, it should not come at the expense of accountability and reporting of use of force.

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

No. F does not increase the number of treatment beds or resources available for people struggling with addiction. There is a well documented shortage of treatment beds statewide.

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

Federal and State budgets have a profound impact on San Francisco. Portions of the money used for affordable housing development are funded through state allocations. Additionally with the addition of Proposition 1, some of the allocations for mental health services and shelter beds will be impacted by the state. Federal dollars in recent years have helped with the acquisition of properties for supportive housing and expansion of services. As we go into a budget season

that is projected to be extremely contentious, allocations at the federal and state level will be even more impactful.

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'm in support of a ceasefire as the loss of any life is a tragedy. I believe each elected official should have the autonomy to take stances on foreign policy as they feel. However, I think it is important to recognize that we are called to lead local policy and governance. I believe the proposal refocuses the Board on San Francisco's issues and I do support a renewed focus on our city. I believe that the limitations for the Board should be to advocate for resolutions/policies that explicitly affect our city but this should not limit individual offices from participating in advocacy personally in public.

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.

Mayors Authority - N/a Withdrawn

At Large Elections - No. I have reservations around this policy because I think it eliminates community voice. While the Supervisor must live in a specific neighborhood- neighbors lose the power of selecting THEIR representative. In addition, the costs to run elections will be increased putting grassroots candidates at a disadvantage.

Commissions: n/a withdrawn

Additional Tax on TNC Companies and Autonomous Vehicles - Yes- this measure will provide much needed funds for SFMTA to assist with improvements to service and will help to preserve the fare rates. The gross receipts tax will help to ensure that TNC's are doing their part to support public transportation.

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?

If all other candidates would agree, I would be willing to agree as well. I do not have intentions on accepting Dark Money and will continue to run a grassroots community driven campaign.

As it stands I plan to seek labor endorsements that may come with a contribution and I do not intend to use any dark money as I value transparency.

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

Aside from my familiarity with the District due to being raised here - I point to my time spent working and collaborating with community groups here in

District 11. I have participated in and worked with groups who have fought for affordable housing, created safe spaces for Seniors and provided essential mutual aid services during the pandemic. In addition, I have worked as a legislative aide in this District. I believe that the experience of working on legislation inside of City Hall combined with my lived experience in the District have prepared me to be ready on Day 1.