

Board of Supervisors Questionnaire

Julian Bermudez District 9 Candidate

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?

The Board of Supervisors should pass legislation establishing rent control, landlord licensing, vacancy taxes, tenant insurance plans, changing property tax to a land use tax, tax breaks for property owners who house the elderly and disabled, rent subsidies for the elderly, disabled, and parents with young children, city-sponsored rent appraisals, and tax breaks for visible or improved building upkeep. No reallocation of resources is necessary; just added accountability in our housing market will create honest and reasonable prices for rental units. This will pave the way for potential homeowners to save up for a home.

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

The Board of Supervisors needs to stop addressing homelessness as a singular issue. We should start tackling it in sections. A plan for veterans, the disabled, the elderly, and youth. All with separate goals and policies to help our fellow San Franciscans out of their current situation.

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 making public transportation free? How can the Board of Supervisors effectively address these issues?

Public transportation in San Francisco is exceptional and underutilized. Yet, there is still room for improvement. For example, creating new municipal lines and dissolving lines that are rarely used. I believe we should lower fares and slowly work to make public transportation free later on. The Board of Supervisors can address this by openly using these services aside from expensive cars and private ride services. Maybe adding charging USB ports can help residents use the bus more often.

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 that the city should create an "Uber/Lyft" type of car-sharing service to compete with private companies. Competition breeds innovation and change. For autonomous vehicles, I believe we need to set a high standard of safety and efficiency. For example, only allowing mid-size SUVs to be used, having an override code for First Responders to use in case of emergencies, and restricting road access. I believe that the city and state are struggling to find ways to ensure safety and need a new set of eyes on the problem.

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.

Neither. I believe the police have an efficiency or recruiting problem. Being an Army infantry veteran, I know a thing or two about enforcement and policing. I want to bring new benefits to our police force, like free college, rent subsidies, and debt relief. I also want to raise the standards of our police officers. For example, through quarterly physical training tests, salary brackets (military pay grades), needing an AA to join and a BA or BS to reach Sargent and mandatory mental health checkups. There's no impact on the city budget, but it's a great use of the new funds allotted to the police department.

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 do make our streets safer, but they are also catalysts for commotion. For example, this past July 4th, police in riot gear were called to push residents away from celebrating with fireworks instead of calling in the fire department. The Board of Supervisors should prioritize prevention and safety instead of enforcement and punishment.

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

I was opposed to Prop. B. We do not need a "police tax" to run our departments. It is something that should already be paid for with our current taxes. We have a huge budget for our police department; it's about using the funds efficiently and not

“tossing more money” at our problems.

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

I was opposed to Prop. E. In the army, I used drones and facial recognition technology, and I know the potential errors and mistakes it can run into. I also believe that there's no need for more car chases in such a small city, where statistically pedestrians are more likely to be casualties. Lastly, it is giving too much leeway in reporting use-of-force.

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

I was opposed to Prop. F. This bill is to ensure that recipients of city funds who are under 65 and single are not using drugs. Now the city will use money to ensure struggling people are doing the right thing. This accountability isn't seen elsewhere, especially when the city gives money to non-profits who find ways to embezzle or "lose" the money. I want to have accountability and transparency for any person or organization that receives city funds.

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

The tax rates in San Francisco and the Bay Area are too high. The Bay Area should not “flip the bill” on most state-funded projects, from which they will receive no benefit. Same at the federal level as well; taxes from California should only be used for the benefit of California or our close neighbors.

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.

No, I do not support it. City Hall is more than a place to make and pass laws. It is a place where all of San Francisco's residents can come and voice their opinions. To bring awareness to the issues not only in the city but around the world. We are not a small town somewhere in the U.S.A., but one of the most important cities in the world, and other cities are known to follow our examples. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. To protect "me and mines", you must ensure the freedom of "them and theirs."

FREE PALESTINE, FREE GAZA, END GENOCIDE

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 do not support any of them. The mayor should not have more power, and we should not allow the mayor's office to supervise every aspect of city hall. City-wide elections will not allow equal representation on the Board of Supervisors; a candidate from District 9 would spend all their time in areas where people vote aside from the area they represent. I do believe we need to lower the number of commissions we have in San Francisco, but this proposal has a lot of hidden features that give the mayor more power in city hall over the board of supervisors. I do agree that we should be taxing ride-sharing companies more.

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?

Yes, Yes, Yes. I will not receive any money from the "Dark money" PAC.

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

I am the most qualified candidate to be District 9 Supervisor because of my leadership skills and my drive to make my communities and city a better place. I am a Latino Catholic Army infantry veteran, yet I am one of the left-leaning candidates on the ballot. Because of who I am and what I stand for, I am a candidate who can check everyone's boxes. Whether Republicans, Democrats, liberals, or conservatives, I have something about me that everyone can like. I am not a part of the "civil war" that the Democratic Party is holding in San Francisco, leaving us residents in limbo or causing division throughout the city.

I do not believe we need advocates, activists, or social workers on the Board of Supervisors when the main problems in our city have to do with businesses and the local economy. We need someone with experience in the small business economy. I am tired of seeing the economic injustice our small businesses go through. That's what I bring to the table—a new set of eyes from one of the hardest-working areas in the city. My elegance is the people, city, and county of San Francisco, not a political group, ideology, organization, or using the seat as a springboard for higher politics.

