

**SF BERNIECRATS**  
**Board of Supervisors Questionnaire**  
**November 5, 2024**

**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?**

To address San Francisco's housing problems effectively, the Board of Supervisors should employ a balanced approach that aligns with the city's commitment to both growth and sustainability. This would involve strategic upzoning in areas with strong transit access to increase density while minimizing traffic and environmental impact. I would advocate for policies that not only increase the housing supply but also ensure a mix of unit sizes and affordability levels to accommodate a diverse population. Additionally, streamlining the permit process is crucial to reducing the construction backlog and expediting the availability of new housing.

In terms of resources, leveraging new funding mechanisms is essential. This includes accessing state and federal grants aimed at urban development and affordable housing, which could significantly bolster local efforts without straining the city's budget. Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors should explore innovative financing models such as public-private partnerships to attract investment from the private sector and share the fiscal responsibilities. Engaging community-based organizations in these initiatives will ensure that the solutions developed are deeply rooted in the community's needs, promoting not only more housing but also a higher quality of life across San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods. These strategic actions, underpinned by a commitment to equity and inclusivity, will drive meaningful progress in solving the city's housing challenges.

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

To effectively address homelessness in San Francisco, a major priority for my tenure would be enhancing our housing policies and ensuring transparency in our spending. We are allocating substantial resources towards homelessness, but the persisting challenges indicate that our current strategies are not yielding the best results. It's essential to audit where and how funds are being spent to guarantee they contribute effectively to reducing homelessness.

A significant part of the solution lies in building more affordable housing. We need to fast-track the development of housing units that are accessible to those at risk of homelessness. This involves reevaluating and adjusting zoning laws to facilitate faster construction and exploring adaptive reuse policies that convert underutilized buildings into residential spaces.

Furthermore, San Francisco needs to enhance the efficiency of its social services by better coordinating between agencies and non-profits to ensure that resources are utilized effectively and that those in need receive comprehensive support. This includes streamlining the process for accessing various services, from shelter and food assistance to job training and placement programs. By adopting a more coordinated approach, the city can more effectively tackle the root causes of homelessness and support individuals in their transition to stable living conditions. The Board of Supervisors should prioritize policies that foster a holistic approach, ensuring that every segment of the city works together towards the common goal of reducing homelessness.

**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?**

As a strong advocate for improving city life, my stance on public transportation is clear: it should be a public good, accessible to all, not just a commodity for those who can afford it. Public transit and Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft serve different needs, but the emphasis must be on enhancing public transit to ensure it is the backbone of urban mobility. TNCs, while convenient, often contribute to congestion and can detract from public transit usage. They have a role, but our focus should be on strengthening the public system.

To make transportation more accessible, I believe in reducing, and potentially eliminating, public transit fares. Free public transit could revolutionize accessibility, increase ridership, reduce traffic congestion, and cut down on environmental pollution by encouraging more people to choose transit over personal vehicles. Studies from cities that have implemented free public transit show significant benefits in terms of accessibility and urban mobility. The Board of Supervisors can play a critical role by advocating for and securing funding to subsidize fare-free transit, exploring sustainable funding

models such as reallocating existing transportation funds, leveraging state and federal grants, or implementing targeted taxes on high-income earners or luxury services within the city.

Making public transportation free isn't just about mobility; it's about equity, environmental sustainability, and enhancing the quality of life for all city residents. The board should consider these broad impacts and work collaboratively to turn the vision of free public transit into a reality.

**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?**

In my ideal vision for San Francisco, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and autonomous vehicles should function as integral, supplementary components to a comprehensive public transportation strategy. TNCs can provide crucial last-mile services that enhance the accessibility of our robust public transit system, particularly in less serviced areas. Autonomous vehicles, on the other hand, bring a significant potential for increasing safety on our roads. Their advanced technology can reduce accidents caused by human error, making them a safer alternative to traditional, human operated vehicles.

I am committed to working collaboratively with my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor's office, and state agencies to integrate these technologies into our city's transportation plan. This includes advocating for policies that ensure TNCs and autonomous vehicles support public transit objectives and adhere to safety and efficiency standards. We will engage in strategic partnerships and continuous dialogue with state regulators to ensure that our local policies align with broader state transportation and safety regulations. Through these collaborative efforts, we can harness the benefits of TNCs and autonomous technology to create a safer, more efficient, and accessible transportation network for all San Franciscans.

**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.**

Increasing or decreasing the number of police officers on the streets of San Francisco is a nuanced issue that should be guided by a careful analysis of crime trends, community needs, and fiscal responsibility. Rather than simply increasing the police presence, I advocate for a more strategic approach that uses data to allocate police resources effectively. This strategy involves investing in community policing and crime prevention programs, which can often provide more sustainable solutions to crime and safety concerns.

The financial impact of altering the police force is significant. Adding officers increases the city budget substantially due to salaries, benefits, and training costs. Conversely, reducing the number of officers can free up resources for other critical services like mental health care, education, and homelessness programs. However, any changes must consider the potential impact on public safety and community trust. My approach would prioritize fiscal efficiency, ensuring that funds are used effectively to promote safety while also supporting the well-being of the community through enhanced social services. This balanced approach aims to create a safer, more supportive environment for all San Franciscans without undue strain on the city's finances.

**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?**

Yes, police can make our streets safer by providing a visible presence that can deter crime and by responding quickly to incidents when they occur. Effective policing involves not only patrolling but also engaging with the community to build trust and cooperation, which are vital for long-term safety improvements. Police are crucial in addressing immediate threats and maintaining public order.

However, relying solely on policing is not sufficient for long-term safety. The Board of Supervisors should consider a range of alternatives to traditional policing to enhance community safety comprehensively. These alternatives include:

**Public Works Investments:** Enhancing street lighting, maintaining roads, and ensuring sidewalks are clean and unobstructed can significantly reduce crime. Well-lit and well-maintained areas are less attractive to criminal activities and increase the community's overall sense of safety.

**Community Greening:** Investing in green spaces not only beautifies neighborhoods but also promotes safer environments. Parks, community gardens, and green belts are shown to reduce stress, encourage community cohesion, and deter criminal activities.

**Housing Stability:** Ensuring people have access to affordable housing can lead to more stable communities and lower crime rates.

**Economic and Youth Engagement Programs:** Initiatives that provide job opportunities and engage youth in productive activities can decrease crime rates by reducing economic disparities and offering alternatives to criminal activities.

**Restorative Justice Programs:** These focus on mediating conflicts and resolving disputes through community and victim involvement, promoting reconciliation and reducing repeat offenses.

By adopting a holistic approach that includes robust public works, stable housing, and social services, we can create a more integrated strategy for public safety that enhances the quality of life for all San Francisco residents. This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate safety concerns but also builds the foundation for long-term community well-being.

*For questions 7-9, please see my full, [published voter guide](#)*

7. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure B, and why?  
I took a “No position” stance on Prop B.
8. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure E, and why?  
I was a “Soft Yes” on Prop E.
9. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure F, and why?  
I was a “Hard No” on Prop F. [See my full piece on my opposition here.](#)

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

The federal and state budgets significantly influence San Francisco by determining the funding available for critical public services such as healthcare, education, and public safety. These budgets also impact the scope of infrastructure projects, directly affecting the city's ability to maintain and upgrade essential services like transportation and utilities. Additionally, variations in these budgets influence social welfare programs, potentially altering the level of support for housing, food security, and unemployment

benefits. Regulatory and economic policies derived from these budgets further shape local economic conditions, affecting job markets and overall economic health in San Francisco. Understanding and adapting to these financial flows is crucial for the city's strategic planning and service provision.

**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 limiting the authority of the Board of Supervisors to take action on international issues such as the War on Gaza. The unique diversity of San Francisco means that international events can significantly impact many of our residents, making it essential for local leaders to have the ability to express and act on these concerns, aligning with our community values and the direct interests of our constituents.

If the BOS were to be limited in this capacity, it would hinder our ability to represent the voices of our diverse population effectively. San Francisco has a long history of activism and leadership on global human rights and peace initiatives, and restricting this ability could dilute the role that our city plays on the broader stage. It is crucial that we maintain the capacity to address such issues when they directly impact the residents we serve. Thus, rather than imposing limitations, we should ensure that any actions taken are thoughtful, well-considered, and reflect the collective values and best interests of our community.

**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.**

- Mayor's Authority Relating to City Department Heads and Mayoral Staff - **No position**
- Election of Members of the Board of Supervisors- **Oppose**
- City Commissions and Mayoral Authority - **No position**
- Additional Business Tax on Transportation Network Companies and Autonomous Vehicle Businesses- **Strongly Support**

**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, I am willing to reject all PAC and "dark money" support for my campaign and to publicly denounce spending on my behalf through such entities. I believe in transparent and accountable campaigning, and as such, I commit to maintaining the integrity of my campaign by relying solely on contributions that are fully disclosed and comply with campaign finance laws. I would also reject support from any entities whose values do not align with my platform or the interests of our community.

Furthermore, I would publicly denounce dark money expenditures against my opponents. It is vital for the electoral process to remain fair and for voters to have clear, transparent information about who is funding campaign efforts. I stand for clean elections where the focus is on the issues and the needs of the community, not obscured by undisclosed financial influences. I urge my fellow candidates to make similar commitments to foster a more honest and open electoral environment.

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

I am uniquely positioned as the best candidate for District 1 Supervisor due to my comprehensive background in medicine and my commitment to community engagement. As a physician assistant and a public school parent, I bring a vital health-centric perspective to city governance that no other candidate offers. My expertise in healthcare allows me to deeply understand public health necessities and advocate for evidence-based policies that address both critical and everyday health and safety issues across our community.

Additionally, my hands-on involvement in our community—leading safety initiatives and beautification projects—demonstrates my deep commitment to our district. During the pandemic, I was on the front lines, running Covid-19 vaccine clinics for the city. I personally organized the first city-sponsored Covid vaccine clinic right here in our district, directly tackling critical public health needs. My approach to leadership is built on practical, actionable strategies that are genuinely rooted in our community’s needs. I am driven by a passion for public service and a dedication to making our district a safer, more inclusive place for everyone. Electing me means choosing a leader who not only grasps our challenges but also actively works towards meaningful, sustainable solutions.

*Note: Generative AI was used in wording responses for clarity and brevity. All content and statements are uniquely my own.*