

Board of Supervisors Questionnaire (Berniecrats)

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?

My housing work has always focused on stopping evictions, protecting and expanding rent control, and creating new housing that's affordable to low-income & working class people. That is exactly what I have done while in office.

During the pandemic I wrote over a dozen laws to ban or limit evictions which prevented thousands of San Franciscans from being kicked out onto the streets. Through Prop I, which I championed, we were able to fund the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) by taxing the ultra-rich selling properties over \$10 million. I have voted for 30,000 homes, 86% of which are affordable. I also wrote the ballot measure that created San Francisco's Tenant Right to Counsel program which provides a free attorney for anyone facing eviction and has saved thousands from eviction and homelessness.

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

Housing is the primary solution to homelessness. Blaming homeless people for their situation, which seems to be popular among conservative types these days, is wrong and counter productive. The Board of Supervisors should show up for the city's vulnerable populations. City policy should focus on getting people into homes and helping them stay housed.

Since taking office, expanding the infrastructure in District 5 for assisting our unhoused neighbors and preventing displacement has been a top priority. During the pandemic I was able to raise funding to immediately shelter homeless women and families at the Oasis Hotel, which we later secured permanently as a family shelter. In addition, we championed thousands of Shelter-In-Place hotel units for unhoused people during the pandemic. Our office was also able to open the city's most successful Safe Sleeping Site at 730 Stanyan.

More recently, we have led the way in pressing the Mayor's Administration to fill vacant supportive housing units. Until our resolution, the City maintained over 1000 fully funded vacant supportive housing units. After our unanimous resolution, the Administration reduced vacancies, a longstanding problem, by 32% by implementing a street to home pilot. Along with our residential vacancy tax, we continue to lead the way on filling empty homes.

Our office engages deeply to house unhoused people and improve street conditions for all. For example, we secured funding to expand BEST Neighborhoods (Bridge and Engagement Services Team Neighborhoods) to District 5, a program that provides street-based medical and psychiatric resources. We will continue to proactively provide housing, care, and real solutions to address homelessness in San Francisco.

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've been an everyday Muni rider for 30 years. Green transportation and safe streets are top priorities for me.

I've been a champion for public transportation, a citywide cycling network, slow streets, and pedestrian safety. My office secured \$17 million to fund the Western Addition Transportation Plan and \$8 million for Tenderloin street safety, created the Panhandle protected bike lane, championed the Golden Gate Greenway, Page Slow Street, and Car-free JFK. We led the way bringing back bus lines, increasing evening service, stopping fare hikes, and winning Free Muni for Youth, reconvened the dormant Vision Zero Task Force, and eliminated parking at over 1000 bus stops so Muni riders have uninhibited access to transit.

We should not increase public transit fares. We should be working collaboratively to make Muni free, something I passed as a fully funded pilot in 2021 but the mayor vetoed.

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?

Autonomous vehicles and TNCs should be subject to regulatory control by the City and County of San Francisco. It's ridiculous that state law preempts most local regulation of them. I have major safety concerns about driverless cars. I'm also deeply concerned about the impacts on taxi drivers, bus drivers, and other workers from TNCs and driverless vehicles.

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.

San Francisco has more officers per capita than cities of a similar size, including Indianapolis, Charlotte, and Seattle. Nevertheless, our constituents regularly come to our office to express their frustration that police officers are not showing up when they are needed following frightening incidents. The city needs to do a better job of deploying the officers we already have, and then evaluate whether we need more officers. If we could have more officers walking the beat on some of the most unsafe blocks in the Tenderloin, for example, that could help deter crime on those blocks, and it's something I've advocated for. Or if we could get a quicker response from SFPD when our constituents call for help, that would be great. Unfortunately, the department has consistently ignored the Board of Supervisors' calls for a community-oriented deployment rather than adding yet another batch of officers to stand in front of a luxury retail store at Union Square is a waste of money. That's been the pattern, and is why, as Chair of the Government Audit and Oversight (GAO) Committee I have commissioned an audit of police overtime spending and deployment to get some transparency whatsoever as to how officers are deployed in our City.

Our investments should be tied to results. Right now, SFPD wastes an extraordinary amount of money. We even spend millions a year on a mounted horse unit which serves no law enforcement function. Increasingly it seems like few at City Hall have the political courage to engage in oversight of SFPD.

It's worth noting that calls for police service have decreased in San Francisco. We spend the most per capita on policing of any major City in California. We have made some positive strides in triaging calls and sending non-police responses to mental health crises, drug overdoses, and other situations that need health interventions instead of policing. We should continue investing in those alternatives.

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?

Visible police presence can sometimes provide a deterrent effect for certain types of crimes, especially in the most disinvested parts of our City. While I have advocated for more equitable deployment of resources rather than focusing massive amounts of spending on protecting the wealthy and big business interests, I have simultaneously advocated to reduce SFPD's disparate stops, searches, and use of force against Black and brown people in our city.

However, police presence is never going to solve the root causes of crime, which is why I have consistently advocated for investments into other interventions that will help us make a long-term impact on our neighborhoods' safety. In addition to fighting to ensure people in our City have food, housing, and opportunities for success, I've brought every community ambassador to every one of our District 5 neighborhoods, advocated for street violence intervention teams, pioneered the first ever victim assistance to small businesses that are

vandalized, and championed new funding for people traumatized by gun violence. I also secured over \$30 million for street safety, open space and community wellness.

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

Opposed. It would have made no impact, except to commit future general tax revenue to SFPD.

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

Opposed because it is a terrible policy, especially in allowing dangerous high speed chases in our city and reducing hard-fought transparency into the Department's use of force and surveillance.

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

Opposed because it's cruel and counterproductive. The measure will solve nothing and will make people more desperate.

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

During COVID, we saw what a difference real federal funding can make. I urge the Federal government to fund housing and other critical needs of our Cities.

State budget cuts have been unfairly targeting those with the least, such as the cuts to food programs. We must demand that the state not target the most vulnerable.

Together, state and federal disinvestment has really hurt our city. I'm proud to have led efforts to tax the rich to fund basic needs in San Francisco, but to really scale up, we need federal and state investment. I'm excited to try to get some of the available federal money for our green banking efforts.

One exception has been the recent wins on federal transportation money. I'm proud of the federal money we've won for transportation safety in the Western Addition and Tenderloin in particular.

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.

The resolution to focus on undefined "municipal affairs" was performative click-bait and has no impact. The board remains free to take action on items, like the war on Gaza, that impact our constituents.

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 oppose the attack on district elections, and the attempts to increase the power of the mayor in our already strong mayor system. I support the tax on TNCs and driverless cars to fund Muni.

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?

My campaign already rejects PAC and “dark money”. We are a grassroots, small-donor, people-powered campaign. Meanwhile, my opponents are already helped by hundreds of thousands of dollars of dark money PACs that attack me daily.

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

As District 5 Supervisor through my past term, and in my previous decades of work as a tenants rights attorney and affordable housing advocate, I’ve focused my work on improving conditions for low-income and working class people. I have a clear record of delivering results for my constituents and people across the city.

I took office three months before the City shut down due to the global pandemic. I’ve passed legislation banning evictions due to COVID-19, championed acquisitions of housing for homeless families, championed SF’s groundbreaking right to counsel law for tenants, wrote Prop. I to tax the rich to fund social housing and rent relief, led efforts to create a vacancy tax, and so much more, often in partnership and with the help of the Berniecrats.

This city has become increasingly unaffordable, less diverse, and is at risk of losing so much of what makes it special. Neighbors are fed up with seeing the people we know and love forced out of this city so that real estate speculators and billionaires can make more money. I am running for

re-election to continue fighting for vulnerable people, and continue my work standing up to mega landlords and other powerful corporate interests for the betterment of this city that I love.