Stephen Torres D9

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?

The Board of Supervisors must address the City's housing problems through multiple approaches, as there is not one sole solution. Although the development of new housing plays a part, it is not sustainable without strict parameters of developers or without the prioritization of truly affordable housing for working and low income residents.

Furthermore we must look to emergency strategies including temporary and transitional housing solutions to meet the ever increasing homeless population.

The Board of Supervisors should address this through legislation, mayoral accountability, and collaboration with federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders.

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

As referenced above, homelessness in San Francisco is the result of many factors including a lack of affordable housing and is very much a humanitarian crisis that should be treated as such. We must meet the crisis in the same way that we have any other emergency, whether it was natural cataclysm or a pandemic. This should involve a comprehensive interdepartmental approach that provides temporary, transitional, and permanent housing as well as treatment and access to physical and mental wellness.

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 don't believe that there should be any scenario where it is public transportation vs TNCs. Although augmentative private transportation that is regulated and does not negatively impact infrastructure may have a place, it has not shown any evidence that it could supplant public transportation.

I believe that the Board may be able to address some of these issues at a municipal level through auditing and legislation that defrays individual cost without cutting services, but we must also continue to advocate at a state and federal level for the subsidization of public transportation so that it may be truly equitable and environmentally sustainable.

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 there is more time required to truly vet the safety of autonomous vehicles and along with TNCs should be strictly regulated to ensure safety, equity, and sustainability. Currently the impacts of both of these innovations have been largely negative in terms of safety, environmental impact and our workforce. We must enact what controls we can at a local level and hold the California PUC and DMV accountable to the decisions they make at a state level.

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.

Although an increase in police presence is one of the most cited requests in District 9, it is with the caveat of a more accountable and reformed department. Removing public health and social services response from the department's purview could allow for a reallocation of officer deployment to actual public safety presence and criminal investigation.

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?

In a continuation from the above response, public safety is not ensured solely through the deployment or increase of police. The police are the urgent or emergency response component and very rarely the prophylaxis. In order to be truly proactive toward a safer community we must reinvest in our community through the stabilization of small business, cultural spaces, youth programs, and access to health and social services.

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

I supported Proposition B to provide some accountability measures to funding law enforcement.

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

I opposed Proposition E because less regulation and oversight will not increase public safety nor will decreased privacy.

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

I opposed Proposition F because it is a cruel piece of legislation used by the mayor in an effort to shore up her political future at the expense of those most in need and public health workers already at capacity. Furthermore it will actually result in an increase of the homeless population.

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

Federal and state budgets can have strong impacts in a lot of ways such as direct payments given to the city through grants, etc, but also through the indirect impact of cuts or increases in spending. For example, when the state reduces funding for homeless services, San Francisco either must fill that gap or deal with the aftereffects of reduced services.

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 think it would be harmful to limit the authority of the Board of Supervisors to take resolutions or other such actions on important issues such as this one. As the elected representatives of the people of San Francisco, it is important that we make their voices heard, which have been clear on this issue and many others historically.

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-ballotmeasures). What is your position on each of them? Explain.

Like most voters, I want to be able to read the final ballot initiatives and make an informed decision before casting my vote. While I have deep concerns about some initiatives that have been proposed, they have not yet qualified for the ballot and indeed at least one has already been withdrawn by its backer. When I do endorse, it is based on my values of uplifting our communities, supporting working families and helping the most vulnerable.

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?

San Francisco elections have been flooded with dark money from corporate- and billionaire-backed PACs. I would support a pledge to reject and denounce dark money independent expenditures.

For my campaign, I would not accept funding from oil and gas companies, the Apartment Association or realtor associations.

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

As a tenant and worker in the district for most of my life here in San Francisco, I feel that I bring that very important perspective. I understand not just what makes these neighborhoods so special and vital to our future, but also the many challenges that face us after years of neglect and gentrification at the hands of city administration. This, along with my experience working with the Mayor's office, city departments and the Board of Supervisors, qualifies me for this role.