

**Board of Supervisors Questionnaire
Myrna Melgar for District 7**

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's housing problems are acute and its symptoms many – spanning from homelessness for our most vulnerable individuals and families, to resulting in the outmigration of families and middle income people who would like to purchase a home here and cannot afford it. San Francisco needs to build more housing at all income levels, particularly in areas like D7, which have built very little housing in decades, and it desperately needs to fund more affordable housing. The latter is absolutely necessary to meet the goals we have committed to in the housing element. The City also needs a more robust infrastructure for affordable housing development and more varied options for affordable housing financing. Additionally, we should be bolder in seeking funding from the Federal and State governments for affordable housing production. This is something that the Board of Supervisors has repeatedly called for. Finally, we must protect and expand our rent controlled housing stock and ensure we have strong tenant protections, and a right to counsel for evictions.

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

The Board of Supervisors should continue to support the goals and objectives set out by the Our City Our Home Committee, which was mandated by the voters under Proposition C in 2018, expand AND improve the quality of our shelters, institute safe parking sites in all areas of the City, centralize and simplify intake to lower the barriers to access housing shelters, permanent housing and vouchers. Additionally, SF needs better coordination across departments, especially between DPH and HSH so that folks who are served through the behavioral health unit during a crisis do not fall through the cracks, and are provided supports like mental health services and or substance abuse. This is also an area the Board of Supervisors has repeatedly called for, despite not having operational control over these departments.

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?

We are a Transit First City, and to make that a reality, we need a transit system that works for everyone, and is easier and less costly for riders than private car options. That's just not the system we have now, and we have more work to do improve the system. The better the system, the more people will use it and the more funding the system will have. I wrote the legislation to make MUNI free for kids in San Francisco, and I am very proud of that. While the system is still recovering from the pandemic and experiencing low ridership numbers, the Board of Supervisors should fund the difference in the MTA operations budget so that the system can recover and we can all plan for a better future.

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 future, it would be faster, cheaper, a better overall experience to take public transportation than to travel by autonomous vehicles or TNCs. The Board of Supervisors, acting as the County Transportation authority does have powers of tolling and taxation that we should exercise.

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 increase the number of police officers in San Francisco, consistent with Proposition E in 2020, sponsored by my predecessor Supervisor Norman Yee, and passed by 71% of voters, which tagged the number of officers to a study of need. We are currently 500 officers short of that number. The financial impact on the City's budget would be positive because we are currently staffing police stations through overtime, which is much more expensive and in the long term exploitative of the workers who make up 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 can make our streets safer, and every community deserves police protection, services, and support. The majority of crime victims in San Francisco are poor, vulnerable, and people of color. Many issues that have in the past been resolved through police involvement are actually better and more efficiently dealt with by other professionals, for example, mental health crises, behavioral health crises, drug abuse – and San Francisco has been at the forefront of building capacity for these models. For example the Street Crisis Response Team, that is in the Emergency Operations department has been very effective but still needs to expand.

7. Did you support or oppose the March 2024 Measure B, and why?
Supported; because it had the wide support of labor organizations.

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

Supported; because I think we need to make better use of modern technology. A camera or a drone cannot engage in excessive use of force. The Board of Supervisors has been very proactive in building out a regulatory framework for the use of technology, and utilizing it better is a more efficient use of our resources.

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

Opposed; because it will not work, we do not have the capacity to implement, and it will likely backfire by making retail theft worse. People need to eat at least once a day, and if you take away their resources, they will steal to feed themselves and their addiction.

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

A very large portion of San Francisco's budget comes from the State and Federal governments, for housing, health, criminal justice – all kinds of things. Federal pandemic relief and recovery funding were crucial to keeping services in San Francisco for vulnerable populations, and a change in policy at the Federal and/or State levels would be devastating.

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 voted for the Resolution by Supervisor Joel Engardio to prioritize municipal matters. When there has been legislation introduced that requires we "take a stand" on something over which the BOS has no authority, we still have to follow our charter mandated procedures, and follow the Brown act by taking all public comment. Issues that deeply split the SF community, and take resources and attention that the BOS should spend on municipal matters are better left to those representatives who have been elected to take care of THOSE matters – our Federal delegation. All the members of the Board of Supervisors have plenty of avenues to make their opinions and stances known in other ways that are not legislation, and that in my opinion, is more appropriate in these instances.

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.

N/A	<u>Mayor's Authority Relating to City Department Heads and Mayoral Staff (PDF) (THIS IS NOT MOVING FORWARD)</u>	12/4/2023	Kanishka Cheng	Petition in Circulation
No	<u>Election of Members of the Board of Supervisors (PDF)</u>	1/9/2024	Quentin Lewis Kopp Frank M. Jordan Robert Guichard	Petition in Circulation
No position yet	<u>City Commissions and Mayoral Authority (PDF)</u>	1/22/2024	Kanishka Cheng	Petition in Circulation
Yes	<u>Additional Business Tax on Transportation Network Companies and Autonomous Vehicle Businesses (PDF)</u>	4/5/2024	Christopher Arvin, Katherine Siegal, Lian Chang	Petition in Circulation
Yes	<u>Local Small Business Tax Cut Ordinance (PDF)</u>	5/6/2024	Laura Ann Thomas, Masood Samereie	

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?

It would not be possible to "reject" PAC money, since it is illegal to coordinate with a PAC. My candidacy is already opposed by some folks who will likely spend money through independent expenditures committees, and folks who have endorsed me (the labor council, SEIU, and others) will likely spend to support my candidacy,

I am not big on denouncing – but I do commit to work to legislate to minimize the impact of special interest groups in our elections, and support and mentor good candidates who will become leaders of tomorrow.

14. What makes you the most qualified candidate to be your District Supervisor?
I have been District 7 Supervisor for the past 4 years. During those years, I have Chaired the Land Use and Transportation Committee, been the Vice Chair of the Transportation Authority, been a member of the Budget Committee, and was voted by my colleagues to be a member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management Agency, where I served as the chair of the Mobile Sources Committee and a member of the Stationary Sources Committee. During this time, I have many legislative and district accomplishments – among them: Free MUNI for youth, Proposition B (Department of Building Inspection Reform), proposition G (Coauthored with Supervisor Ronen, funding for Community Schools), formation of the Department of Early Childhood, passage of the Family Housing Opportunity act, the Love Your Neighborhoods legislation and others. Additionally, I negotiated the Development Agreement for Stonestown, amended the legislation for the Balboa Reservoir project to enable it to move forward, worked with SEIU 1021 and the administration to save Laguna Honda, supported the affordable housing projects on Laguna Honda at the campus and an additional affordable housing building across the street. I have worked with advocates for vision zero and public transportation improvements throughout the district but notably on the high injury corridors of Ocean Avenue. Before becoming Supervisor, I spent decades in non profit services – (the Jamestown Community Center, and the Mission Economic Development Agency), and in government, as an Aide to Supervisor Eric Mar, and Supervisor Jose Medina, and I worked at the Mayor's Office of Housing under Mayor Gavin Newsom where I administered the BMR program and all the downpayment assistance, funding for housing support agencies, and the small sites program. I also served on the Planning Commission for 5 years, and its President for 2 years, as well as serving on the Building Inspection Commission for 5 years. I am an Urban Planner, with experience in housing development, and a mother of 3 who all grew up and went to school in this District.