



## Ballot Forum Questionnaire

*300 words max for each question with an asterisk (\*)  
To ensure participation in our forum, please return completed copy by  
Wednesday, 12/06*

**Michael Nguyen**  
**mnguyen4sf.org**

1. Are you registered as a Democrat? Yes
2. Are you a member of the Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club? No
3. Are you a member of the Noe Valley Democratic Club? No
4. Why should the Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club support your candidacy?

As the only son of Vietnamese refugees, I know the struggle of everyday immigrant working families to survive here in SF. As a lifelong renter, I couldn't live here without rent control, even as an attorney.

I have been a catalyst for change in the LGBTQI+ community by initiating the widely celebrated QTAPI Week, dedicated to showcasing and honoring the contributions of Queer and Transgender Asians and Pacific Islanders. I leveraged my role within the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee to champion innovative programs like the Drag Laureate initiative and led the vetting process for the Mayor's selection this year.

I also serve as an executive board member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club where I founded the AAPI Caucus. I previously served as Chair of the GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) from 2017-2021 and termed off that board after serving for 6 years. I also served on the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), the nation's oldest LGBTQ bar association. I founded the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus

at Lavender Law, the national LGBTQ+ bar association annual conference. I currently serve as President of the Proud Ultimate board, a nonprofit dedicated to creating space for LGBTQ+ Ultimate players in SF and around the nation. I believe that access to parks and recreation should not be limited to the ultra-wealthy.

I have mobilized the Queer and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islander (QTAPI) communities through the art of Drag as Miss GAPA (GLBTQ+ Asian Pacific Alliance) since 2016. Speaking out against Anti-Asian violence, I led direct actions and formed new coalitions to create the first-in the nation QTAPI Week in SF in 2021 that expanded statewide in 2022. As an LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee Member for the SF Human Rights Commission, I spearheaded the creation of the Drag Laureate program, the first of its kind. As founder of the AAPI Caucus at the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, I bring decades of experience in nonprofit board governance and advocacy, always through an intersectional lens.

As a co-founder of the Bay Area QTAPI Coalition, I organized and led an LGBTQ+ March for Asian Lives in response to the murders of Asian massage parlor workers in Atlanta in 2021. I firmly believe that racial injustice stems from a lack of education, a lack of visible representation, and a dehumanization of people based on race. I have worked tirelessly to promote a positive Queer and Transgender Asian and Pacific islander identity, working in coalition with dozens of organizations to initiate innovative and substantive programming to help stop Asian hate.

I served as co-chair of the LGBTQ+ committee and the Wellness committee of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, one of the nation's oldest and largest bar associations for Asian Americans. I lobbied Congress as part of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Lobby Day in May 2023, specifically advocating for Mental Health funding for AAPIs in the wake of the continued violence in our communities. I also serve as Vice President for the National Conference of Vietnamese American Attorneys, working to build our collective power as Vietnamese American attorneys in the US.

I currently serve as Vice President of Livable City, a nonprofit that activates communities for a just, open, connected, and joyous San Francisco. My knowledge of open streets activations helped me secure funding for a QTAPI Block Party in 2023, funded through an OEWD grant, that has been funded for 2024-2025. Livable City works year-round to address racial injustice and economic inequity through its open streets program, Sunday Streets, and through projects that build power in BIPOC communities and neighborhoods in San Francisco that have historically lacked investment, care, and service.

As a member of the Livable City board of directors, I have ensured that Sunday Streets, San Francisco's open streets program, continues to provide miles of car-free open space on City streets across several high-need neighborhoods. Sunday Streets serves over

100,000 people yearly with free activities, resources and recreation and is produced in partnership with City agencies and neighborhood and nonprofit partners. We advocate for policy changes, programs, and projects which make San Francisco more sustainable, livable, and equitable. Over the past decade, Livable City has become one of the City's most effective advocates. We champion complete streets, a citywide greenway network, parking reform, improved transit, more affordable housing (including legalizing accessory dwelling units), keeping arts and artists in San Francisco, and keeping neighborhood commercial districts vital, diverse, and walkable.

San Franciscans are leading the way to reduce our dependence on cars. I'm proud to have worked with a nonprofit that serves as the People's Planner.

5. Did you support the Board of Education Recall? Why/Why Not?\*

No, I did not support the Board of Education Recall because I believe that recalls should be reserved for only extreme incompetence or corruption. The actions of the Board of Education did not rise to that level, in my opinion.

6. Did you support the District Attorney Recall? Why/Why Not?\*

No, I did not support the District Attorney Recall because I believe that Chesa Boudin did not deserve to be recalled. He was not incompetent or corrupt. I believe he was unfairly targeted for his progressive stances towards criminal justice reform.

#### For AD 17 Candidates

7. What are your 3 core policy issues you care about which affect the eastern half of the city the most?\*

My 3 core policy issues are (1) affordable housing and homelessness, (2) government accountability and oversight, and (3) economic equality by advocating for data-driven policies, the rapid expansion of affordable housing, protection and expansion of tenant rights; development of community-driven solutions; free and fair elections; judicial independence; redistricting reform; and an economy that works for everyone, supporting small businesses and neighborhood-centered development.

If elected, I pledge to endorse candidates and support ballot measures and policies that reflect these priorities; fight back against the conservative, reactionary, billionaire-backed forces seeking to take control of our Democratic institutions both here and across the country; and make the San Francisco Democratic Party a party that fights for working people, organized labor, and renters in San Francisco, not billionaires, the real estate lobby, and corporations.

8. If elected, how do you see yourself as being able to influence these problems?\*

San Francisco is no stranger to the crisis of homelessness on our streets. The severe lack of affordable housing for working people and the middle class has resulted in the affordability and homelessness crises that we see today. Our city's lack of solutions for both the housing affordability and homelessness crises are inseparable.

By prioritizing housing and shelter for all, with strong accountability measures to ensure government/nonprofit efforts stay aligned on ending homelessness, we can expand permanent supportive housing for homeless and housing insecure San Franciscans, ensuring all homeless shelters provide accommodations and safety for all, end the city's practice of forced encampment sweeps when the City has no alternatives, implement policies to protect people from becoming homeless, and remove policies that make it easier for landlords to forcibly evict renters. If elected, I pledge to endorse candidates and support ballot measures and policies that reflect these priorities.

Prioritizing inclusion and representation will help the local Democratic Party in San Francisco become more approachable, relevant, and engaged in a very politically divisive political climate, as evidenced by the recent recalls and redistricting process. We must have community voices and perspectives at the table. I seek to represent the diverse communities and groups I am a part of, including Democratic Clubs and community-based organizations.

Our local Democratic Party should be a space where everyone, including LGBTQ+, queer, trans, people with disabilities, seniors, and young people, feel valued, included, seen, and heard. To ensure that Party initiatives are inclusive and reflect the needs of the community, I will prioritize increased democratic engagement through community town halls, outreach events, and partnering with community-based organizations on voter education and registration activities. Grassroots movements, advocacy groups, labor unions, and local community organizations will have influence beyond our city, including at the state and national levels.

For AD 19 Candidates

9. What are your 3 core policy issues you care about which affect the western half of the city the most?\*
10. If elected, how do you see yourself as being able to influence these problems?\*