

# *SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK*

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## **CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE Board of Supervisors, November 2010 Election**

The following questionnaire focuses on issues related to health, human services and community-based nonprofit organizations. The sponsor of this questionnaire is the San Francisco Human Services Network (HSN). Please see the appendix for more information about HSN and the San Francisco health and human service nonprofit sector.

**Please limit responses to each question to 100 words. To ensure fairness, HSN will truncate any answers longer than 100 words.** We encourage candidates to respond immediately, and will post responses on our website as they are received. Please return your responses **as a Word file and via email only** to [narinl@sfnhsn.org](mailto:narinl@sfnhsn.org). Responses must be in Word format so that we can compile responses into a single document.

If you have any questions, please call Debbi Lerman at 668-0444 x-2.

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### **(A) Contact Information**

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### **(B) San Francisco Community**

(1) What will be your top three priorities as a Supervisor? The three Priorities are health care, social programs, and excessive spending.

(2) What are the most important steps we need to take to improve the public health of our City? As a member of Healthy San Francisco, I can mention we need to address areas of services within the program. There are parts of Healthy San Francisco where as you have to wait 6 months for an appointment because there is not provider available. We have started to build something good for San Franciscans and we should continue to build upon and provide better services to assist our residents and improve the health of our city.

(3) What are the most important steps we need to take to improve the fiscal health of our City? The fiscal health of San Francisco is in jeopardy. Excessive spending on things that can wait should be

placed on hold. We need to look at salaries and pensions closely. I would support concerns that would assist our community in social programs such as health, food, clothing and housing.

(4) Do you support or oppose the following November ballot measures? **(Optional: You may add an explanation of your position, limited to 100 words per ballot measure.)**

- a. Prop E: Election Day Voter Registration  
 Support  Oppose
- b. Prop I: Saturday Voting  
 Support  Oppose
- c. Prop J: Setting Hotel Tax Clarification and Temporary Increase  
 Support  Oppose
- d. Prop K: Hotel Tax Clarification and Temporary Definitions  
 Support  Oppose
- e. Prop L: Sitting or Lying on Sidewalks  
 Support  Oppose
- f. Prop M: Community Policing and Foot Patrols  
 Support  Oppose
- g. Prop N: Real Property Transfer Tax  
 Support  Oppose
- h. Prop 22: Prohibits the State from Taking Local Funds  
 Support  Oppose
- i. Prop 24: Repeals Business Tax Breaks  
 Support  Oppose
- j. Prop 25: Pass the State Budget by a Majority Vote  
 Support  Oppose
- k. Prop 26: Requires Two-Thirds Vote for State to Increase Fees  
 Support  Oppose

### **(C) The Health and Human Services Nonprofit Sector**

(1) In what ways have you shown leadership in supporting the nonprofit health and human services sector and low income, disadvantaged populations? Please identify any nonprofits where you worked, served on the Board of Directors, or played an active role. I worked as a public school teacher in the bay view hunters point and as well Potrero Hill. Many of the students I worked with were in need of health and human services and would assist students in getting to the right agency. I also worked with the YMCA in Excelsior giving classes to youth in computer applications.

(2) Do you have any specific recommendations to improve the programs or services provided or funded by the City & County of San Francisco for low-income and homeless populations?

Yes with healthy San Francisco, we need to obtain more medical assistance for mental health and other specialty areas.

We need to work on obtain more food to provide for our community to sustain the level of meals that are served and raise the bar to give more healthy choices instead of sodium based meals which can lead to health problems later down the road.

(3) The San Francisco Housing Element has identified the need for some 13,000 very low to moderate income homes, including: 3200 units of affordable accessible housing, 1500 units of affordable senior housing, and 5600 units of affordable multi-bedroom family housing. Given the declining level of federal and state financing for affordable housing development, how would you finance this level of affordable housing? People need a place to live; I will support funding to support affordable housing. As a supervisor I will work hard with the community to find alternative funding for these programs and watch and vote accordingly to excessive spending that is introduced by the other city supervisors for items other than social services. We need to address the concerns of our community and provide housing for those seniors and disabled individuals who need it.

(4) As Supervisor, through what mechanisms would you seek input from nonprofits when considering legislation that would affect agencies and the clients that they serve? I would like to hear from all nonprofits that would be affected by a piece of legislation. I would not single out one nonprofit over the other. Everyone has a voice including the nonprofits. I would love to hear from agencies on how to better assist them and considerations for pending and creating legislation.

(5) Do you feel that nonprofits receive adequate funding to meet the needs of the city and its vulnerable populations, and to ensure the health and sustainability of their organizations? If not, how would you address the need for more funding? I do not feel as though nonprofits receive adequate funding to meet the needs of the city. As a community we need to find other ways to find additional funding for our non profits. I believe there is excessive spending occurring at City Hall where we could cut back and provide more funding for the community nonprofits. As I stated in many forums and comments on questionnaires when it comes to serving the community through social programs I am in. I will need community support and assistance on finding ways to discover more funding.

(6) As Supervisor, what would you do to reform the City's current budget process of cuts and add-backs? Top considerations should be made for social service programs. We need to maintain health and human services for our community and SF residents. At the moment depending on what is being cut and what is being added back would be dependent on reform.

(7) How would you incorporate decision-making about nonprofit cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) and cost-of-doing-business (CODB) increases into the budget process? (See the appendix for more information.) Do you support annual CODB increases for nonprofit contractors? Should those increase reflect actual increases in the cost of operations? I have a difficult time seeing that these increases should reflect the cost of operations. I appreciate the efforts of our non profits in the city and can understand the demand for services are on the rise. I would like to see the actual increases be in sync with cost of operations, but realistically I do not see that occurring.

(8) Should employees working on nonprofit city contracts earn wage rates that are comparable to civil service employees in similar job classifications? If so, what specific steps would you take to advance wage parity? I would agree that nonprofit city contracts earn wage rates should be comparable to civil service jobs, however we are in an economic recession. Individuals need resources and those who serve in the non profit sector clearly understand this. In tough economic times it will be difficult to obtain this goal but would entertain the assistance of those in the non profit sector helping me find a way to obtain wage parity.

(9) Many nonprofits urge San Francisco to undertake a longterm planning process that would guide the implementation of health and human services over the next 5 to 10 years, analyze and prioritize community needs and resources, ensure the sustainability of our system of care, and develop a plan that transcends the cyclical nature of the political process and individual department policies. What recommendations would you make to guide this planning process? A span of 5 – 10 years out is a long time. I hope this planning process gets revisited yearly. The current economic times are volatile and we don't really know the direction we are heading in this city other than additional spending and increased taxes and fee permits to obtain this excessive spending. The basic needs of individuals should be reached; clothing, food, housing, and I will add health care to this list of basic needs. At this time I feel our health and human services should come first.