

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES **Board of Supervisors, November 2006 Election** **Winning Candidates' Responses**

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**, an association of over 100 community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to addressing issues critical to the health and human services sector of San Francisco. For more information, see <http://www.sfhsn.org>. For a list of our members, see http://www.sfhsn.org/members_members.htm.

HSN sent questionnaires to candidates in all of the districts and here are the answers of the winning candidates in each district. Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 100 words.

Election Winners:

DOE has up to 28 days after the election to certify of the result.

Final Results available at: http://www.sfgov.org/site/election_index.asp?id=47578

District 2 – Michela Alioto-Pier

District 4 – Ed Jew (did not submit responses)

District 6 – Chris Daly

District 8 – Bevan Dufty (did not submit responses)

District 10 – Sophie Maxwell

Responses are listed in numerical order of Supervisorial District

(A) San Francisco Community / Quality of Life

(1.) In your opinion, what are the top three issues facing the City & County of San Francisco that you will prioritize as a Supervisor?

Alioto-Pier: Jobs & Economy-Digital, Film, Sustainable Energy, Biotech and expanding/strengthening the cruise ship industry; 2) Education 3) Universal Health Care Access- especially primary care.

Daly:

- Livable Communities (with affordable housing, renter protections, community-based planning, sustainability, and good public transportation)
- People's Budgeting (for health, homeless, senior, and children's services)
- Violence Prevention (to create real opportunities and to improve quality of life in underserved communities)

Maxwell: • Economic Development: San Francisco needs to create a middle class, not import one. I have worked to create jobs for families living in poverty, to create and keep blue collar jobs, and require developers to build more affordable housing in our city. I will make the continuation of such efforts my first priority.

- Combating Violence: It is unfortunate that voters rejected Proposition A on the June ballot to provide additional funds to combat violence. We were able to restore some of these monies through the budget process, but more needs to be done. I will especially focus on crime victim assistance, community policing, witness protection, and additional funding to ensure that parolees in the community have adequate resources to make a successful reentry into society.

- Environmental Justice: We have done much to improve environmental justice, including shutting down the Hunters Point Power Plant in District 10. San Francisco can and should be a model of a green city, and I will work to institute environmental safe green building practices.

(2.) What are the most important steps we need to take to improve the public and fiscal health of our City?

Alioto-Pier: Enforcement and Full Implementation of Prop. I 2. Regular Audits of City Departments

Daly: I believe that we are only as good as we treat the least among us. For 6 years I have advocated for protecting and strengthening our safety net. I have attempted to create a culture at the Board of Supervisors where care about the safety net is first and foremost. Engaging aggressively in the budget process is the most important thing that Supervisors can do. I also have been an advocate of generating more revenue for the City. I believe that we could afford an increase in business tax, real estate transfer tax, and, of course, parking tax.

Maxwell: (No response.)

(3.) Do you support or oppose the following November ballot measures? Please explain your position.

	Alioto-Pier	Daly	Maxwell
Prop 1C: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	See below
Prop 85: Waiting Period & Parental Notification	OPPOSE	OPPOSE	See below
Prop 86: Tax on Cigarettes	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	See below
Prop 90: Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property	OPPOSE	OPPOSE	See below
San Francisco: Paid Sick Days	SUPPORT I support giving workers sick days as long as it is done in conjunction with our small businesses, so as to not put them at risk.	SUPPORT	See below
San Francisco: Parking Tax Surcharge	OPPOSE. I oppose the parking tax.	SUPPORT	See below

Maxwell:

a. Prop 1C: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act: SUPPORT. Affordable housing, especially in San Francisco, is incredibly important. Any funding we can get to build more housing for working class people I support.

b. Prop 85: Waiting Period & Parental Notification: OPPOSE. I am opposed to any legislation that infringes on the reproductive rights of women. I was opposed to this initiative in the Special Election of 2005 and am still opposed to it now.

c. Prop 86: Tax on Cigarettes: SUPPORT. I support any attempt to curtail the use of cigarettes. By taxing them, it not only helps people quit smoking but it also creates funds to deal with the health effects of smoking.

d. Prop 90: Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property: OPPOSE. While I am very weary of eminent domain for private use, I believe this initiative goes too far to curtailing government from controlling zoning regulations and will be a serious hit on any attempt by government agencies from mandating affordable housing on new developments. It will also hamper efforts of environmental conservation across the state. Prop 90 has been sold to the voters very deceptively and I hope that voters will see the harsh realities of what this initiative could do.

e. San Francisco: Paid Sick Days: SUPPORT. I am proudly a co-signer on this initiative. We need to do whatever we can to protect working people.

f. San Francisco: Parking Tax Surcharge: I believe that we need to first enforce current laws on the books concerning parking taxes.

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

Alioto-Pier: Support and Expand Treasurer Cisneros Bank on San Francisco Plan. Allow for competitive bidding for city services by qualified non-profits-particularly in the area of mental health & substance abuse.

Daly: San Francisco is fortunate to have many great community-based service providers for low-income and homeless populations. I believe that these providers need to have resources that would allow them to fully address the scale of the issues of poverty. Homeless and low-income individuals, advocates, and community groups need to be in decision-making positions on City policy that affects them.

Maxwell: My major concern with Care Not Cash was its inability to help homeless and low-income families. We need to do a better job of having housing and programs that deal with families. We have several hundred public housing units that are vacant. I would like to see these units refurbished and be used for homeless families. We also need to make sure that these families are safe in public housing. With clean, safe environments and services to help out our homeless, they may have an opportunity to better themselves.

(5.) In what ways have you shown leadership in supporting the nonprofit 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.

Alioto-Pier: Support and vote for EITC, Bank on San Francisco and its expansion.

Daly: In 1991 I started to work with the national non-profit, Empty the Shelters. I was the National Coordinator from 1993-1995. In 1995 I co-founded the Mission Agenda, a small non-profit organization working on SRO hotel stabilization in the North Mission.

I have taken a leadership role at the Board of Supervisors in championing the issues of human service organizations, especially in budgeting issues.

Maxwell: For the past six years, I have worked to create jobs for families living in poverty, created jobs for community residents and at-risk youth by strengthening the First Source Hiring Program, created the CityBuild employment program for City public work projects, fought for and won jobs for neighborhood youth, protected blue collar jobs at local small businesses, and required developers to build more affordable housing in our city. I also helped pass the Inclusionary Housing Act, which mandated that new developments include 15% on-site affordable units or 20% off-site affordable units, that now must be with-in a one mile radius of the new development.

(B) The Health and Human Services Nonprofit Sector

Background: Nonprofit contractors play a vital partnership role with the City in meeting the needs of disadvantaged San Franciscans. In 2001, the San Francisco Human Services Network and the San Francisco Urban Institute conducted a survey of nonprofit health and human service contractors, which revealed that:

- Nonprofit agencies, with sites reaching every neighborhood and community, had an aggregate budget of over \$773 million in fiscal year 2000-2001, including over \$313 million in City contracts.
- Providers matched the City's contribution with over \$459 million in additional funds—leveraging every City dollar with an additional \$1.50 from other sources.
- With these funds, agencies achieve over 970,000 client contacts each year, providing services ranging from long-term case management to six-week job training programs to single-contact telephone hotline calls.
- Providers employ over 15,000 staff and enroll over 1000 “client trainees”.

NONPROFIT ROLE IN POLICY MAKING

(1.) As Supervisor, what would you do to reform the City's current budget process of cuts and add-backs to improve collaboration with affected nonprofits?

Alioto-Pier: Implement 2 year budget planning; Competitive bidding; Ensure COLA increases given to non-profit without political interference and battles; Include qualified non-profits in budget discussions

Daly: In 2 terms as Budget Chair, I have attempted to facilitate an open process where members of the public, not only had ample time to testify, but were heard by the Committee.

Due to the importance of services provided in our Health Department, I have proposed a Charter Amendment to set a baseline for services within the Department. This measure did not make it to the ballot.

Maxwell: I would fight for continued funding of nonprofits and increase funding where appropriate.

(2.) As Supervisor, through what mechanisms would you receive input from nonprofits when considering legislation that would affect agencies and the clients that they serve?

Alioto-Pier: We should install a program of yearly mini-summits within varied disciplines to get input and ideas.

Daly: Usually people call or email me or my staff. Sometimes people come in person to my office.

Maxwell: I would hold hearings that bring affected agencies to the table to gather information and input when legislation is on the table that deals with their interests. In addition to holding hearings, I would actively seek their input.

NONPROFIT COSTS OF DOING BUSINESS

Background: Over time, flat funding of nonprofit contracts represents an "invisible" budget cut. In recent years, the City has provided occasional small increases for salary cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs). In 2005 and 2006, the Mayor and Board provided a cost-of-doing-business (CODB) increase on the full amount of general fund contracts. However, these increases of 2% and 3% do not fully cover unavoidable operating cost increases and staff raises, threatening nonprofits with the slow degradation of their ability to provide services. In addition, the growing disparity in wage rates between City-funded nonprofit and City human service employees leads to difficulty in recruiting and retaining nonprofit staff. HSN members seek parity with City employees performing similar work — if not in actual pay levels, at least in the percentage of their COLA, as well as adequate reimbursement for rising overhead costs.

(1) Under San Francisco's annual budget process, the City generally addresses the question and rate of nonprofit COLAs and CODB increases after funding other departmental requests, often with funds identified by the Budget Analyst as cost savings. This process has led to nonprofit COLAs significantly below salary increases for City employees, and CODBs below actual cost increases. How would you incorporate decision-making about nonprofit costs into the budget process?

Alioto-Pier: In addition to what I stated in other questions, we must assure that success measures and successful outcomes is the basis for compensation increases.

Daly: The Charter would have to be changed to have a process different than the one currently employed. I would be supportive of such a Charter change, but in the meantime, have attempted to use my position as a member of the Board to increase the non-profit COLA's.

Maxwell: The City funded nonprofit organizations do an unbelievable job helping out the citizens of San Francisco. They should be paid accordingly. I will make sure that non-profit costs are incorporated into the budget process.

(2.) Do you support the following:

	Alioto-Pier	Daly	Maxwell
(a) Annual CODB increases for nonprofit contractors?	Yes based on CPI	Yes	Yes
(b) Annual CODB increases that reflect actual increases in the cost of operations?	No	Yes	Yes
(c) Contractor COLAs tied to the amount of the civil service COLA?	No	Yes	Yes
(d) Increases on general fund contracts only or on all nonprofit grants and contracts?	Most non-profits in San Francisco do excellent work and funding should be increased accordingly.	All	Yes

(3.) Should it be City policy that employees of contracting nonprofit agencies 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?

Alioto-Pier: Once we achieve true civil service reform - reforming comp time, end interdepartmental bumping. Competitive bidding-yes

Daly: Yes. I will support HSN proposals to close this gap including funding COLA's, and I will continue to work for more revenue for San Francisco to help fund these proposals.

Maxwell: Yes, I would fight for more funding of nonprofit agencies in the budget process.

(C) San Francisco Budget

(1.) What kinds of measures would you support to increase City revenues, including creating or increasing each of the following:

	Alioto-Pier	Daly	Maxwell
(a) Payroll tax	No	YES	YES
(b) Gross receipts tax	Yes-Favor a blended payroll and gross receipts tax	YES, I was supportive of 2004's Prop K.	YES
(c) City income tax	No	YES	YES, if it is progressive
(d) Sales tax	No	Under some circumstances.	YES
(e) Real estate transfer tax	No	YES, I was supportive of 2002's Prop L.	YES
(f) Other revenue sources	(No response provided)	YES, I am the author of the parking surcharge and would be very interested in a value-added tax system.	I would love to see Prop 13 repealed to allow more city revenue. At the very least, it needs to be revised.

(D) Housing and Services

(1.) 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?

Alioto-Pier: Mandate that developers pay a set fee per square foot of residential development into a citywide fund to do this.

Daly: I have forwarded policies to protect existing rental housing stock while pushing for more affordable housing construction. At Trinity Plaza we won a guarantee to replace all 360 rent controlled units in the new 1900 unit development. I negotiated an agreement for development in Rincon Hill that will deliver at least \$70 million for new affordable housing. I have pushed the envelope on affordability on the 10,000 new housing units that I have approved. I authored a significant expansion of the City's inclusionary affordable housing law. This year I authored a record \$28 million for affordable housing in the budget.

Maxwell: I am in support of Prop 1C and the proposed bond measure for next November dealing with funding for Public Housing. I also believe in finding funds through private-public partnerships. The city must make developers responsible for building affordable housing. We shouldn't be bending over backwards for developers; it should be the other way around.