* Name:Adam Kim
* District: 4

Q2

Affordable Housing: How will you support infill development throughout the City along with affordability measures to keep residents in SF? How will you respond to pushback from your constituents regarding height and/or density? How will you support more compact walkable mixed-use neighborhoods as the City addresses its housing needs? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I would like to support financial incentives to maximize the amount of new below market rate housing, while simultaneously increasing taxes on new developments of lower density and luxury housing. Pushback on height and density is inevitable, but I believe those concerns are often tied to side issues, such as traffic/parking congestion, reduction of public or community space, and environmental impacts. Resolving those issues is key to providing for our most marginalized residents. I will also put more resources toward publicly owned and non-profit developed community centers, along with similar incentives for locally owned small businesses, decreasing reliance of residents of mixed-use neighborhoods on cars and other powered transportation.

Q3

Walkable and Bikeable Streets: How will you support safer streets? How will you help implement Vision Zero? How will you support walkable and bikeable streets in the City? Please include your thoughts about existing initiatives other than Vision Zero and what your response would be to opposition to better bike infrastructure in your neighborhood (such as traffic calming, bike lanes, bike and bike share docking stations?) (please limit your response to 250 words)

As referred to in the previous question, mixed-use neighborhoods are a big component of walkable and bikeable streets; the more residents can conduct their business and shopping for basic needs near home, the less vehicles on the streets. The surest way to bring traffic deaths down to zero is to minimize instances where vehicles must share road space with foot and bike traffic, instead providing more dedicated roadways and lanes to specific purposes and clearly visible signaling and markings for where crossings do happen. A common complaint of residents is that San Francisco doesn’t care about its motorists, and it’s important to remember that many of our least well-off residents rely on driving to commute, oftentimes because of displacement and unreliable or infrequent public transportation. So as we do implement traffic calming measures, we must make sure that our objective is not to inconvenience drivers as much as it is to protect foot and bike traffic.

Q4

Reliable, Fossil Free Public Transit: How will you close the MUNI funding gap identified in the Mayor’s Transportation 2030 Task Force? How will you help fund vital new BART cars and station improvements? How will you address opposition to transit lanes in your neighborhood? Will you recommit MUNI to its fossil free pledge and ensure our future procurements eliminate diesel from San Francisco's public transportation fleet? (please limit your response to 250 words)

The Transportation Sustainability Fee on new development is a decent start to fill the funding gap, but it’s clear we require further funding if we are to modernize and future-proof our public transit infrastructure. I propose tighter regulations and operation fees on TNC or “rideshare” companies and company shuttles for the added congestion that they contribute while simultaneously diverting funds and ridership from MUNI and BART. Opposition to transit lanes is generally a due to a perceived attack on motorists, so replacement of general traffic lanes with transit-only lanes should attempt to guarantee smoother throughput of car traffic as well. More importantly, though, any added transit to our system should be electrically powered. We have no excuse to rely on gas or diesel with the technological advances available today, and I fully support a divestment of all public transit from fossil fuels and further greenhouse gas emissions.

Q5

Energy Efficiency: What should the City do to encourage energy conservation by residents, businesses, and the City itself? Please include your thoughts on how the City can work, or continue to work, with homeowners and landlords to improve overall housing efficiency with efforts to upgrade windows, insulation, thermostats, fuse boxes, refrigerators, etc. (please limit your response to 250 words)

With how much older architecture exists in San Francisco, it’s difficult to encourage any kind of retrofitting of housing, particularly when many homeowners have lived in their houses for decades and can only barely afford to live in the city by the grace of their property ownership. Therefore, it’s vital to make energy efficient furnishing mandatory in new developments and on corporate-owned residential units. For homeowners and locally-owned small scale landlords, the city must incentivize these upgrades heavily if there is to be a meaningful effect.

Q6

Renewable Energy: What specific changes would you make to CleanPowerSF to expand residents’ awareness of the program, affordability, and environmental impact? (please limit your response to 250 words)

CleanPowerSF is a great program, but it’s true that it’s not widely known. The simplest approach is to step up the pace of automatic enrollment. To expand awareness, the program should engage more visibly with PG&E customers, for instance, by including informational pamphlets with paper statements, or for online statements, displaying CleanPowerSF information clearly in billing emails and online account management pages.

Q7

Water Sustainability & Conservation: How will you ensure the City sustainably manages its water supply, wastewater, and stormwater runoff? How will you enhance the City's water resiliency and reduce its reliance on imported water through efficiency programs, recycling, distributed and green infrastructure, regional coordination, and/or stormwater management? (please limit your response to 250 words)

It’s clear to me that water conservation in San Francisco is not enforced as strictly as other cities, even when we are geographically far more prone to long-term drought than them. We should enact more restrictions on outdoor water use, such as by permitting usage to only certain days of the week for different areas, and only certain hours of the day. We must also reduce commercial water usage, particularly where such usage is clearly only aesthetic, such as golf courses and fountains. We should also explore infrastructure changes to utilize greywater and seawater usage where potability isn’t a concern, and install better runoff capture systems to restore our aquifers.

Q8

Zero Waste: What specific actions would you take to ensure the City meets its Zero Waste by 2020 goal? Have San Francisco’s recent steps to meet its goal, including banning styrofoam containers, some bottled water sales, and plastic bags (and potentially soon plastic straws) been successful? What’s next? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I propose partnering with Recology to increase consumer awareness of proper recycling and composting as well as public blue and green receptacles. While the bans have seen some success, they do have some regressive effects upon the lower income communities and businesses. We would be better off by coming up with recyclable and compostable alternative solutions and subsidizing them, rather than negative ban campaigns.

Q9

Combating Climate Change: How would you update and implement San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan? How would you push City departments to meet their Climate Action Plan goals? Would you support divesting from fossil fuel investments? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I believe divesting from fossil fuel investments is absolutely fundamental to combating climate change as a municipal government. We can’t expect residents and businesses to act and invest along ecologically beneficial lines if the government that regulates them can’t even set the proper example. And as mentioned in a previous question, phasing out fossil-fuel dependent transportation must be a priority, including for all MUNI vehicles, but also by incentivizing taxi companies, shipping and freight companies, and even private owners to go electric.

Q10

Your Environmental Priorities: Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? What will your top environmental priorities be in office? If you are an officeholder, please highlight the environmental achievements you are proudest of. (please limit your response to 250 words)

The League of Conservation Voters speaks on behalf of the environment with expertise and a knowledge base that should be useful to anyone who wishes to advocate for environmental policies. So while I would greatly appreciate the SFLCV’s endorsement, I would not require it to partner with the League as an elected official to write and sponsor new legislation. My top environmental priorities as a municipal officeholder will be the ones that we affect the most as a city, and that affect us the most: water conservation, fossil fuel divestment, and renewable energy. Of course, other issues will also require an eye on environmental impact. As San Francisco will need additional development of affordable housing and public transit infrastructure, it will be necessary to constantly assess the most ecologically sound methods to expand, and I would also like to involve the League to help me with that process as well. I hope that my willingness to partner with the League of Conservation Voters and other advocacy and community groups will be an encouraging factor in the League’s endorsement considerations.