* Name:Trevor McNeil
* 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)

As the father of a young, union, working family trying to stay in the most expensive city in the world, I’m particularly sensitive to issues of housing and affordability in San Francisco. I believe we need to support infill development across the City. I supported both Supervisor Tang’s HOME-SF and Senator Scott Wiener’s SB 827. To balance the impacts of new housing, I also support stronger tenant protections and giving existing residents neighborhood preference for affordable housing. I’m in a stronger position to respond to pushback from constituents about height and density because I’m able to draw from my family’s personal struggle with affordable housing. As a public school teacher and native San Franciscan, I support transit-first policies and density increases in transit corridors because I must deal with the consequences of a housing shortage every day.

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 a former member of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I am well versed in Vision Zero and its implementation, and I fully support it. In the Sunset, we’ve had heated debates regarding traffic calming measures along Noriega and Great Highway. As someone who grew up riding MUNI and bikes all over the City, but also is forced to drive to transport my three children, I am able to see all sides of this debate and bring people together to support safer streets. In the end of the day, I’m a father who pushes a stroller in the Sunset every morning, and pedestrian and cyclist safety must outweigh all concerns. The SFMTA has not done an adequate job of explaining and defending their actions. As a Supervisor, I plan to work closely with them to improve their outreach and communication. Traffic calming measures, while sometimes inconvenient and disruptive, do save lives. I am also active in the planning process for creating a safe north-south bikeway in the Sunset, and I support improving bicycle infrastructure in the district. Bicycle infrastructure will enrich and strengthen our sense of neighborhood in the Sunset and will strengthen our merchant corridors.

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)

I have a long record as an environmentalist and a public transit advocate. I will push and support for new revenue sources that will close the MUNI funding gap. The business community and voting electorate has a strong, vested interest in ensuring that our public transit system works well and efficiently, and I will work hard to pass new consensus revenue measures that bring badly-needed dollars to our system. The Sunset heavily relies on public transit, and I will work on mobilizing concerned neighbors to push for transit improvements in the district. The N-Judah is the most heavily used MUNI light rail line in the entire system. By empowering those residents to push for transit improvements, we will build a stronger community that come coalesce to improve our transit projects. I will recommit MUNI to its fossil free pledge, and ensure our future procurements eliminate diesel. As electric engines grow more powerful and sophisticated, it is wise for the City to start looking at what buses MUNI can purchase that are 100% electric.

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)

For existing housing and buildings, the City should continue to provide and promote incentives for property owners to install or retrofit energy efficient building materials. The Department of Environment can do more to partner with groups like Small Property Owners, SF Apartment Association, and HOA groups to encourage their members to buy into energy efficiency projects. Any new strategic planning on housing could update RECO algorithms to encourage modernization across a broad range of homeowners/developers. Oftentimes, the City mandates new requirements on new developments or substantial remodels and spares smaller projects. However, I think many developers and property owners are eager to help improve the City’s energy efficiency, they just need the right balance of incentive, permit streamlining, and education. Another energy efficiency opportunity I’m eager to tackle is the heat lost from garages - the Sunset has the most garages in the City. Garages are often airy, huge, and hold water heaters/furnaces - the lost energy transfer and lack of insulation from cold Sunset morning has a major accumulated energy impact.

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)

One area of CleanPowerSF expansion that is often overlooked is agency - many renters, like myself, have very little ability to control their utilities or understand their rights to ask the landlord or service provider for what they could do to become part of CleanPowerSF. Education is key and it would be a priority of mine as Supervisor to promote CleanPowerSF as a green energy option to our residents. Affordability is another area where I bring a unique perspective. There needs to be more consideration on household size when considering pricing for below market rate housing. My family currently spends 46% of our take-home salary on rent. Utilities cost almost another 3%. That is a significant impact for a family of five. We need to educate and cultivate young families into the “habit” of appreciating clean energy use, and encourage them to look forward to participating in CleanPowerSF fully. Young families are a major growth market for CleanPowerSF, and bringing in that perspective will help add more customers to CleanPowerSF. Finally, I think there are major opportunities for locally-owned energy generation. I remember then-Mayor Newsom talking about wave electricity generation and its potential. Living in one of the windiest parts of the City, I think that we can replicate the model that many cities in Asia and Latin America provide with residential small wind turbines.

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)

Water is one of our most precious resources, especially in the State of California. Instead of dumping runoff into the Bay, I would like the City itself as part of an urban watershed and recapture our excess water. As we work on the Sewer System Master Plan project, I will be a consistent advocate for ways to re-capture water and prevent its waste. The Sunset and Supervisor Tang has done a good job of replacing ugly concrete pavement with more water-efficient front yards, but there is still much more to do. The vast majority of single-family residential lots have major opportunities for water management, especially in the rear of the house. Our planning code should reflect our need to reduce rain-impermeable areas, and I would support code reforms. With the right leadership and design, the Sunset District could transform their large number of flat roofs into green, living roofs - bringing new surfaces into water management.

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)

Our plastic bag ban has been successful and a model for the world. I support, and look forward, to Supervisor Tang’s legislation banning plastic straws. I would champion ways for us to get more aggressive with combatting plastic bottles and encouraging neighborhood-oriented “refill” options, where you could bring in an old shampoo bottle and refill it at a discount. I would also be an advocate for decentralized composting models and regulation around plastic packaging, like the ban implemented in the United Kingdom. As a parent, I am constantly horrified about how much waste gets created in a single day, and there is a generation of young families who are eager to create a clear, less wasteful world.

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 have always supported fossil fuel divestment, and am involved in an effort at my undergraduate alma mater to encourage the campus to divest. Many City departments have done a good job incorporating the Climate Action Plan language into the mission statements, but we need to do a better job pushing oversight and implementation. I would explore the creation of a “climate action plan ombudsman” as a mechanism to hold departments accountable to the larger Climate Action Plan. The ombudsman could also leverage new data from the different City departments to analyze what further changes could be made.

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)

My top environmental priorities are to improve public transportation to support our growing population, encourage solar installation on single-family homes in the Sunset, and tackle the e-waste that is created by our local industry. I think that the Sunset is uniquely positioned to tackle these priorities, and each of these issues have significant room for improvement in my district. I have been endorsed by the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters in the past, and I have always been proud of that endorsement. The classic environmental narrative has always been a battle between the environment and development. I think that is a simplistic view - business can thrive and be green; and we must build more housing and it must be dense and close to transit. We must be honest with local merchants - if they are concerned about the loss of parking along transit lanes, we must continue to educate them about the terror of climate change, the inevitability of growth, and the terrible impact of traffic. As the next Supervisor of District 4, I will be a strong ally for the League of Conservation Voters. Thank you.