SFLCV November 2020 Election Board of Supervisors Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in San Francisco League of Conservation Voters' endorsement process. Please limit answers to the below questions to 2-3 paragraphs at most (250 words). We are accepting responses until June 24, 2020.

*Please enter your contact info here (Name, District, Campaign contact, Phone, Email, FPPC#) \**

Ben Matranga, District 7.

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*1. Affordable Housing: What are your top priorities around supporting infill development within your district and throughout the City? How will you respond to pushback from your constituents regarding height, density and affordability? What have you done to advance housing initiatives in your district, neighborhood, SF? \**

I am concerned about affordability and the future of our City for middle class families. My friends that I grew up with in San Francisco can no longer afford to raise their families here. The basic bargain used to be that if you worked hard, your children and their children could look forward to a better life based on hard work and opportunity. Today, that compact is threatened by the increasing cost of housing.

San Francisco should be building more housing, especially infill projects along transit corridors. The City should be focused on walkable neighborhoods and additional green spaces for our children to play, sidewalks that are safe and clean, and responsible residential growth with mixed uses. From my professional experience building affordable housing, I know first-hand that securing project approval means earning community support ahead of the entitlement hearing.

*2. Walkable and Bikeable Streets: What are your top priorities for better and safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists? How do you intend to advance those priorities if elected? How will you work with constituents who are opposed to bike/ped infrastructure improvements in your district (such as traffic calming, bike lanes, and bike share docking stations)? What have you done to champion these efforts up to now? \**

I served as San Francisco’s first Street Safety Director under Mayor Ed Lee to launch the Vision Zero program. We brought together 14 different City department to implement the Vision Zero plan, and I saw firsthand that many departments need coordination to ensure street safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Specifically, project delivery must be prioritized and I will hold agencies accountable to ensure they are implemented. I have a strong track record of implementing transportation projects through a data-driven approach that targets high-injury corridors. As Supervisor, I will clearly prioritize implementation and ensure Vision Zero becomes a reality.

*3. Reliable, Fossil Free Public Transit: What are your top priorities for improving local and regional transit? How would you advance your priorities if elected? What have you done to improve transit operations, access to transit, passenger experience, etc.? \**

I served as Mayor Ed Lee’s Senior Advisor on transportation and Vision Zero. During my time in City Hall, I worked to pass Proposition A in 2014 which was the 2nd largest bond in San Francisco’s history. It dedicated $500 million to long-term capital needs for both MUNI and Vision Zero safety projects. As Supervisor, I will no doubt be a champion of funding to further implement the Transportation 2030 Plan.

It is clear that MUNI and Vision Zero projects require additional funding. Working with state and federal leaders to bring in more resources would top my list. Asking developers to pay an appropriate share is also a critical part of funding MUNI. Encouraging mode shift from private automobiles to public transportation has tremendous benefits, and I know that future generations will make different vehicle ownership choices. Local government must be a leader in supporting reliable public transportation

*4. Green Energy Policy: What are your top priorities for improving energy conservation, household efficiency and renewable power, and how would you advance these efforts? What have you done to promote energy conservation in these areas? Are you, personally, a CleanPowerSF SuperGreen customer? \**

San Francisco can and should become a model for the nation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Fully moving our transportation fleet off of fossil fuels would be my top environmental transportation priority. This requires securing state and federal funding and creating the political will to make this crucial change.

Another priority would be the transition of our streetlights to LEDs which will increase efficiency and save City funds on an ongoing basis. This will require an upfront capital investment and I will work to ensure SFPUC funds this critical initiative. Another top priority would be to fund solar, especially on private homes and businesses in San Francisco. I am not a SuperGreen customer.

*5. Water Sustainability & Conservation: What are your priorities for improving the sustainability of San Francisco’s drinking and wastewater systems? If elected, what steps will you take to enhance the City's water resiliency and reduce its reliance on imported water? What have you done to promote conservation in this area? \**

Water conservation and climate change are among the biggest environmental challenges facing District 7. When the neighborhoods where I grew up are much sunnier than ever before, and when homeowners need to make significant changes to their landscaping practices due to the drought, it is important that environmental education and programs are spread throughout all our neighborhoods. Many homeowners have begun to explore native vegetation to prevent stormwater runoff and more effectively manage weather events. A District 7 budget priority will always be ensuring the water quality at Lake Merced.

*6. Zero Waste: How can the city advance its Zero Waste goals in light of the temporary (we hope) move to suspend programs such as the required fee for grocery store bags that previously incentivized customers to reuse bags and containers, or purchase foodstuffs from bulk-stocked bins? What are your thoughts around recent legislation to reduce waste and what more can we do? How will you make it happen? What have you done to promote zero waste? \**

Zero Waste is a nation leading program because of its impact on climate change and its impact on keeping our streets clean. As Supervisor, I would work with Recology to develop new ways of recycling and safely disposing of more products. I believe most people in San Francisco want to do what is best for the environment and we need to make it easier to do so.

*7. Your Environmental Vision: Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? How will protecting the environment shape your agenda given the potential for ongoing pandemic conditions? How will you continue the efforts and gains despite significant economic hardship? \**

I established and currently help lead the largest COVID-19 response effort in District 7. I share the values of the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters, and will be vigorous in defending our environment at the Board of Supervisors.