

1. What is the worst thing about San Francisco, why? And what should be done about it?

The special interests that see the average San Franciscan – whether they be homeowners, job-creators or taxpayers - as an ATM for their personal agendas. There are plenty of these ‘special interests’ who don’t put San Francisco’s long-term interests first, yet who continue to have a powerful grip over City Hall. We must eliminate this systemic corruption, and the best way to hold them accountable is simply to have an open and transparent government that is unafraid of scrutiny because it is always striving to serve its people, not just a privileged few.

2. What proposals do you have for creating job growth — and preventing job losses — in San Francisco?

San Francisco has thousands of local small business owners and hard-working entrepreneurs, but instead of helping them provide a stable base of local jobs, San Francisco crushes them with taxes and paperwork, and harangues them with arbitrary and oppressive regulatory enforcement. As mayor, I will fight to create a healthy business climate by elimination the fees, hidden costs, and unnecessary red-tape currently crippling small business in San Francisco. I will also streamline the permitting process for all start-up businesses and construction projects. If we empower these small businesses, we’ll have a local jobs base that can rebuild our city’s middle class. And we’ll finally have the right policies and real leverage to keep large employers in San Francisco.

3. Do you believe that increased revenues are needed to balance the City Budget? If yes, what are the most equitable means to increasing revenues from:

- Residents to pay for the various services needed in San Francisco?

- Workers who commute into San Francisco via private cars, car pools, or one of the transit options available (ferry, bus, Caltrain, BART)?

- Visitors who come to San Francisco for business or pleasure travel?

No. For too long the city has been using the average taxpayer as an ATM to do its bidding.

4. Which City and County of San Francisco departments and/or services should be reduced, consolidated or eliminated and why?

a. The IT sections of all departments should be consolidated under one unit for more efficient and collaborative work.

b. SFPUC should be reduced because of its constant misuses of public monies.

c. The Ethics Commission should be eliminated because it only furthers unethical practices.

d. City Attorney’s office should be downsized because of it’s tendency to contract out a majority of its case work.

e. Mayor's Office of Workforce Development should be eliminated because it is far too political a body.

5. What strategies do you have for encouraging San Francisco city departments to become "customer focused" and to work together as a single "City Family" instead of disparate fiefdoms?

This starts with collaborative leadership and adherence to a certain work ethic that spans all departments. Once each department is committed to the vision of giving this City back to its people, we will see a real "City Family" for the first time in too long.

6. Do you support the need for taxing entities known as "Business Improvement Districts" or "Community Benefit Districts", each covering their own microcosm within San Francisco, or do they perform services that taxpayers should expect to receive from the city government anyway? If you support such districts, what do you believe are the best uses for such taxing entities?

These two entities perform services that taxpayers should expect to receive from the city government. They are best utilized as bodies dedicated to safety, oversight, and clean streets.

7. How will you mitigate traffic congestion in downtown San Francisco to improve the safety, health, and welfare of pedestrians? Do you believe "pedestrian malls" would be feasible in some parts of the city?

We need to get the right people in the right position who really want to see this city be great again. By hiring people who have real experience with traffic alignment, we will put ourselves in a much better position to succeed. In terms of pedestrian malls, I have not yet collected enough information on the matter to be able to make a logical decision about their feasibility.

8. How should the City pay for substantial future changes in San Francisco transportation infrastructure?

The MTA should be a self-sustaining entity when it comes to revenue collections and expenditures.

9. Do you believe the continuation of the Patrol Special Police, for those communities that wish to hire them, impacts public safety positively, negatively or neither?

I believe that programs like the Patrol Special Police have an extremely positive impact on the public safety of our neighborhoods. So long as these programs consist of only the most dedicated, qualified, and competent foot patrols, we will continue to instill morality, honesty, and integrity in our protective services and re-capture our streets from those who are not mindful or respectful of others' rights.

10. What are your views on the San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT)?

I believe is adequate but what concerns me is that the majority of response personnel now live outside of San Francisco. I have a plan to correct that.

11. Tens of thousands of new residential dwellings are planned to be built in the Rincon Hill/Transbay and Mission Bay neighborhoods over the next decade. What infrastructure investments need to be made now to ensure families who move into these areas do not ultimately feel forced to move to the suburbs to raise their kids or to care for their senior parents?

We must first invest in the vital services to ensure that this area is livable, including all water, gas, and electrical needs. Next, neighborhood schools should be given special attention in this particular area to promote an educated generation of young San Franciscans.

12. How could the City and County of San Francisco better retain families in San Francisco?

Currently in San Francisco, there is a severe lack of housing and employment opportunities for middle-income families. If elected, I will reintroduce my HOPE proposal of 2002 which will increase home-ownership for lower- and middle-class families who are currently under-served. HOPE allows landlords to voluntarily sell apartments as deeded units to the tenants who wish to buy them. As a result, those populations will be able to acquire a piece of the rock—home ownership—at a much more affordable price that will allow for long term residency. Otherwise, renters will continue to be forced out because they don't have a real stake in the property they live in. By creating a system which provides under-served families with the utilities for home-ownership, we reduce that economic strains of expensive rent and provide a path to long term residency in San Francisco.

Also, my job creation plan, detailed above, will put people back to work in this City. Once we provide a clear path to home-ownership and employment in San Francisco, our families will again be proud to call themselves San Franciscans.

13. How does the City provide new recreational and open space needed by the additional residents moving into Supervisorial Districts 3 and 6 over the next 20 years as higher density residences are built?

We have to plan ahead and make sure it is attainable under the current Rec and Park budget.

14. There are more “Place of Entertainment” permits in the South of Market District than any other area of San Francisco. How will you manage the conflicts of residents who work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the nightclubs that want to operate between 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.?

I am complete supporter of a safe and enjoyable nightlife, but will fight to ensure the safety and comfort of our residents. This means enforcement and adherence to noise and loitering disturbances in residential neighborhoods as well as policy that encourages safe and enjoyable nightlife.

15. Many believe San Francisco city government today operates under a corrupt “pay-to-play” system where a cartel of businesses, lobbyists, associations, and non-profits support particular politicians in exchange for favors that may not be in the best interests of most San Franciscans or the long-term fiscal health of the City. Do you believe this is true and, if so, what structural changes to city government would you recommend to remedy the situation?

Unfortunately, San Francisco city government has indeed falling victim to “pay-to-play” politics, where the number one concern is not that of the people, but rather maintaining the machine’s current stranglehold over city government. It doesn’t need to be this way. As previously mentioned, the remedy to this dilemma starts with honest and open government. If elected, I will do everything in my power to root out this systemic corruption and give this city back to its people. I will recruit and build a farm team of young San Franciscans whose hearts, desires, and talents are matched with their ability to serve the people. I’ll also create an Office of Investigations, modeled after the 40 year-old office in New York, that will be dedicated to ferreting out fraud, waste, and abuse in city spending. Finally, I will re-constitute the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer as intended by the 1932 Charter with authority and oversight of all administrative function.

16. How would you improve east-west connectivity of MUNI service in South of Market?

First we must start with a central subway that actually makes connections to other transportation lines. The fact that our city government wants to throw billions at a project that completely ignores the existence of old lines is yet another testament to the fact that our current leadership is more concerned with appeasing political allies than actually serving the people of San Francisco.

17. How should the City and County of San Francisco change rules or incentives to support the creation and success of small businesses? What can OEWD do to work with new communities or those lacking neighborhood services and small businesses to attract those businesses to those newly developed areas of SF?

As mentioned previously, I have a proven jobs plan that will reinvigorate small business in San Francisco. We will eliminate all unnecessary red-tape and hidden fees and streamline the permitting process to promote the healthy business climate San Francisco desperately needs. OEWD is to politically corrupt and inept a department to adequately support small business.

18. What steps would you take to address the current epidemic of homelessness and panhandling on city streets, especially in the downtown area? Specifically, how would you treat mentally ill street people? How would you fund your plan? What is the best way to work with various advocacy groups who might stand in the way of your plan?

My first step would undoubtedly be the elimination of Care not Cash. Care not Cash has been one of the biggest administrative and policy failures in recent memory. Long before the failures of "CNC" were exposed, it was clear to me that the bill was more concerned with sending Gavin Newsom to the mayor’s office than actually providing vital services to the homeless. The bill was successful on this front, yet is wholly inadequate in addressing the root causes of homelessness and has failed to make our streets cleaner and safer. Every night over 100 shelter beds go unused because Care Not Cash unethically prioritizes its recipients, leaving hundreds of seniors, veterans, and disabled without a place to sleep. Even more disturbing is the fact that

Care Not Cash costs the city 10 times what it did 10 years ago to provide the same services. A bulk of this money never even reaches the hands of the homeless, funding instead the overpaid homeless industry providers. If elected, I will re-prioritize our expenditures for homeless and social services so that those truly in need of our help are the principal benefactors. We need to require real accountability and hard results from the non-profit homeless industry providers, not line their pockets with tax payer money that never truly benefits the homeless under Care not Cash.

19. What steps would you take to curb gang violence in the city?

I would demand realistic law enforcement from the SF Police Department and eliminate the practice of gang injunctions.

20. What is your main motivation to be Mayor of San Francisco for the next 4 years? How will you gauge your success?

My goal and vision is to return this city to its rightful destiny as one of the great cities in the world. I would want to be judged in my success of accomplishing that.