



## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Name:** Mark Leno

**Age:** 66

**Family:** Brother to two sisters, Jamie and Janet

**Hometown:** Milwaukee, WI

**Lived in San Francisco since:** 1977

**Education:** University of Colorado Boulder, American College of Jerusalem (B.A.), Hebrew Union College

**Occupation:** Small businessperson

**Employer:** Self (Budget Signs)

**Political experience:** San Francisco Board of Supervisors from District 8, 1998-2002; California State Assemblymember, 2002-2008; California State Senator, 2008-2016

**Notable affiliations:** Former Chair of the California State Senate Budget Committee; Former Chair of the California State Assembly Public Safety Committee; former Chair of the California State Senate Public Safety Committee; former Chair of the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee; created the San Francisco Small Business Commission; former board member of the LGBT Community Center Project, Haight Ashbury Community Services, the American Jewish Congress, Mobilization Against AIDS, and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

**1. What do you see as the greatest challenges when it comes to providing residents with a livable, affordable and safe community?**

In recent years, the City has prioritized job creation — bringing thousands of new workers to San Francisco without a comprehensive and strategic plan to support our workforce growth, as well as housing and infrastructure demands. Transportation Network Corporations, such as Uber and Lyft, add over 50,000 additional cars to city streets every day, clogging our streets and wearing down our roads with an additional 170,000 daily trips. We need to assess the extent of the impact these TNCs have on our city, and seriously consider ways in which we can regulate rideshare corporations in San Francisco to reduce the impact they have on everyday mobility and our infrastructure.

Livable cities and complete streets don't happen by accident. They must be planned and implemented. Our city's economy is booming, but we have not done enough planning to meet our growing housing needs. We need to keep those in a home in their home and create more affordable, workforce, and permanent supportive housing. As Mayor my goal will be to create 5,000 units annually of affordable, workforce, and permanent supportive housing. I will also continue championing policies that keep people housed by preventing unfair evictions, providing rental assistance, and supporting the passage of Prop F to provide free legal assistance. If elected, I would take speculators abusing the Ellis Act to court to curb the epidemic of no-fault evictions.

We must also prioritize safety on our streets. With 85 car break-ins each day, City Hall has failed our neighborhoods. It's time to take this issue seriously and implement a dedicated property crime unit in every district police station, as well as a centralized property crime director to coordinate crime prevention strategies citywide.

## **2. What is the biggest opportunity for your district or city during the next four years?**

Local hiring presents an exciting opportunity for San Francisco. But with thousands of new jobs, we should be prioritizing hiring San Franciscans to fill those positions, providing incentives for companies to hire locally and ensuring we have the job placement and job training programs necessary to build a successful local workforce for the jobs of the future. If we fill a position with a local hire, that local hire won't require a new housing unit because they already live here, meaning one less potential displaced tenant, and a reduced impact on our infrastructure because that worker is already using our streets and our transit system. We will shrink the gap between income and housing costs, thereby mitigating the effects of our affordable housing crisis by helping San Franciscans earn more. Local hire allows for well-managed growth that doesn't come at the cost of the communities that exist here. As Mayor I will be committed to creating local hire incentives.

As our population grows and our economy shifts, we have the opportunity and obligation to ensure that San Franciscans benefit from that growth and economic prosperity. We must empower our neighborhoods, create healthier and sustainable communities, ensure safer streets, and create better jobs. That's why I'm running for Mayor.

**3. Describe your commitment to your district or city leading up to your bid for office.**

Throughout my 18 years of public service, I have won some of the hardest-fought battles by uniting stakeholders, advocates, community members, policymakers, and innovators to come up with effective solutions. I am the only candidate in the race who has not only served on the Board of Supervisors, but has also served 14 years in leadership roles with an accomplished legislative record in both the Assembly and the Senate where I proudly represented San Francisco.

As Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, I brought home \$500-million to expedite the construction of 3,300 affordable housing units at Mission Bay, Trans Bay, and Hunters Point Shipyard. Together, we protected over 12,000 of San Francisco's most vulnerably housed by exempting Single Room Occupancies from Ellis Act eviction, preventing homelessness of many thousands of San Franciscans. When City College faced threats to its accreditation, I secured \$120-million in stabilization funding to save it from closure so that we could live to Free City today. I've also passed landmark legislation establishing our state's \$15 minimum wage and authored the city's first affordable housing mandate that has led to the construction of thousands of units of affordable housing.

Our City faces many changes and challenges. We need a mayor who has a long track record of bringing people together to craft thoughtful solutions to our biggest challenges. I was able to do that as your State Senator, and I would be honored to do this as your Mayor.

**4. Silicon Valley and the Bay Area are at the center of global, technological advancement. How do you see technology's role in changing the lives of both longtime residents and transplants?**

Tech is one of the fastest growing sectors in San Francisco's economy — and as such, it should be considered and promoted as a new path to the middle class. While I believe that all industries and all corporations need to play by the rules and pay their fair share, I refuse to demonize the tech industry. Tech presents our city with immense opportunity, both in local hiring as I described above, as well as in providing solutions to some of our many additional challenges. Together we can innovate smart solutions that can change the conditions on our streets and in our neighborhoods. The growth that tech brings to San Francisco needn't be at the expense of those who live here already.

As Mayor, I will work with employers and educators in San Francisco and across the Bay Area to build a strong base of workers who are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow. City

College of San Francisco is one of our greatest resources to help close the alarming gap between the skills that companies need in today's economy and the skills that a large segment of San Franciscans possess. I will continue working with San Francisco City College and its Trustees, and will expand the offering of academic certifications available through the community college system. Finally, I will increase our city's investment in San Francisco's workforce training initiatives to increase resources for adult technical education, ramped-up bridge programs, and accountability to the success of those programs by facilitating better data.

Creating quality jobs for San Franciscans and quality talent for the City's businesses is essential to a thriving 21st century economy. We need to be proactive about investing in specialized, technical workforce programs, as well as coordinating with industry and education partners to train and hire a new generation of highly prepared tech professionals.