



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Amy Farah Weiss

Age: 41

Family: Partner of over 4 years, co-parent to a 9 year old step-son.

Hometown: San Jose

Lived in San Francisco since: 2007

Education: M.A Organizational Development (SF State 2010), B.A. Sociology (UC Santa Cruz 1999), A.A. Sociology (DeAnza Community College 1997)

Occupation: Nonprofit Executive Director

Employer: Saint Francis Homelessness Challenge

Political experience: Community organizer and activist in SF since 2011

Notable affiliations: Founder of Safe Organized Spaces Working Group (2017-present), SF Berniecrats (#2 endorsement), Founding Member of San Francisco Progressive Alliance, Founder of Neighbors Developing Divisadero (2011-2015).

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

As Mayor I will focus on: 1) Transitioning the 3,000 – 3,500 unsheltered residents current living in crisis conditions on our sidewalks and streets into Safe Organized Spaces on a pathway to healing and housing; 2) Preventing tenant displacement by funding legal support for tenants facing eviction; 3) Activating empty residential and commercial units with a vacancy tax and new program to support tenant screening and placement; 4) Investing \$34 million into unarmed programming that strategically targets the 100 blocks/neighborhoods with the highest incidents of public safety issues; 5) Developing new financing mechanisms and public/private partnership with pension funds and developers to further streamline projects with 50% or more affordable housing; 6) Support the financing and construction of Additional Dwelling Units for property owners who agree to rent to our workforce and families at no more than 30% net income; 7) Initiating a task force to locally regulate Uber and Lyft to the extent possible, create reparations for taxi drivers, and develop a new locally-regulated transit platform that is pro-driver, pro-passenger, and pro-environment; and 8) Developing pipelines to prosperity for SFUSD, CCSF, and SF State students and graduates to participate in San Francisco's workforce.

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

Within their first year of office, whoever becomes Mayor must be able to show a significant reduction in the number of people living on our streets and sidewalks in crisis conditions without access to a toilet, secure sleep, storage, garbage removal, and a safe organized space to belong in community with reasonable agreements and responsibilities. The City of San Francisco currently spends \$30 million a year for DPW workers and SFPD officers to shuffle homeless residents from block to block on our sidewalks and streets with terrible outcomes. San Francisco's next Mayor has the opportunity to redistribute that same pool of money more effectively in order to stabilize and heal our public health and safety crises at the root and become a regional and national leader in ending street homelessness and our shelter shortage crisis. As the Founder and Director of SaintFrancisChallenge.org, I have developed a scalable model that can transition San Francisco's 3,000 – 3,500 unsheltered residents into community-integrated Safe Organized Spaces that are administered by nonprofit organizations and provide triage stabilization and support on their pathway to healing and housing for the same amount currently be spent on "sweeps to nowhere".

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

In 2011, I joined neighborhood activists to prevent local businesses from being displaced by a Chase Bank and learned how to shape City Hall's guiding policies for development as an advocate for social and economic equity. I founded Neighbors Developing Divisadero as a nonprofit, public-benefit corporation to develop a "strategic yes" to inclusive, enriching, and sustainable development and frequently gave public comment at City Hall to support affordable housing development, higher inclusionary rates in market-rate development, and common sense regulations for Airbnb. My solutions-focused 2015 Mayoral campaign inspired over 79,500 San Franciscans to choose me as their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice candidate. After the election I founded SaintFrancisChallenge.org to develop and pilot community-integrated solutions to San Francisco's encampment and shelter/affordable housing-shortage crisis, and also served as a Board Member and then Operations Manager at the San Francisco Community Land Trust. In 2017, I formed the SOS (Safe Organized Spaces) working group as a diverse coalition of organizations and community leaders—including Mission Housing Development Corporation, Lava Mae, Downtown Streets Team, Asian Neighborhood Design, Community Clinic Consortium, condo owners, and current/former encampment residents—who want City Hall to strategically heal our encampment/shelter shortage/public safety crisis at the root causes.

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?

I grew up in Silicon Valley in the 80s and 90s, playing SimCity on a first generation Macintosh computer. In my lifetime, the Internet and online media platforms have truly transformed our ability to create transparency and enhance participation in local government in service to a healthy and balanced economy, transit-system, and infrastructure of housing and transit. Under the Lee administration, City Hall unfortunately looked the other way while tech platforms systematically ignored and dismantled regulations meant to protect our workers, housing stock, and roads. We need a leader who understands this comprehensive systems-thinking approach and is able to work with industry in support of a triple bottom line of people, planet, and sustainable profit.

San Francisco leadership failed to apply lessons from the first tech boom displacement of the late 1990s and made similar mistakes with short-sighted economic and land use development policy decisions after the 2008 global financial collapse which resulted in the evictions and displacement of hundreds of thousands of low-to-mid income residents. Now some of these same leaders are promoting a 6:1 jobs to housing imbalance with the Central SoMa plan which will lead to Tech Boom Displacement 3.0 if we do not ensure an adequate housing balance for our existing workforce and families and strategically link future jobs to our SFUSD, CCSF, and SF State students.