



A California Non-Profit Political Action Committee

**PDA-CA CANDIDATE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE for the SAN FRANCISCO**

**SUPERVISORIAL RACE**

**DUE 5/13. Endorsement Mtg: 5/23**

**NAME OF CANDIDATE: Dean Preston**

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Date of the Election: November 5, 2019

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PDA-CA is non-profit political action committee newly formed by grassroots progressives in California. The primary objective of PDA-CA is to identify highly progressive Democratic Candidates within the state for statewide offices including, but not limited to, Governor, for State Assembly and Senate Offices, and for offices at the county and municipal levels. Candidates may be invited to apply for the Endorsement of PDA-CA. If that occurs, the candidate may enjoy grassroots help from the activists within PDA-CA to include walking precincts, phone banking and other activities, to assist that candidate to win election to the office sought.

We ask that the candidate observe the format of this questionnaire, and have it back to the requestor in PDF by the time designated in the cover letter, in order to be eligible for endorsement.

NOTICE: YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE PDA-CA WEBSITE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AND USE.

## HOUSING

### **What steps would you take to make housing more affordable, while also creating more units and not displacing existing vulnerable communities?**

One of the leading causes of the displacement, especially with communities of color, is predatory real estate speculation. There is direct displacement from evictions, foreclosures, etc., and less direct (but equally devastating) displacement from the fact that communities of color earning far less than white counterparts simply cannot compete in a market based housing system against incoming, mostly white, tech workers and millionaires. The results have been devastating with huge numbers of working class POC being driven out whether by eviction or exorbitant prices, or both.

This is no accident. Housing speculation preys upon low-income, POC, and marginalized communities. Being housing insecure, homeless, or displaced is an issue that disproportionately impacts women, people of color, seniors, people who do not speak English as a primary language and people who are undocumented.

District 5 includes the Fillmore and Western Addition which have experienced large scale displacement of the African American community. At the same time, the district remains home to many African-American residents in part because of various forms of social housing (public owned, subsidized, and/or co-operative housing complexes) and rent control housing, that have survived the gentrification of our city. Collective ownership and/or control can allow the working class to remain secure on an intergenerational scale. As supervisor I would like to create not just a much higher rate of affordable units built in San Francisco, but also pursue the expansion of social housing in our city, support community land trusts, and impose a stiff tax on speculators that buy up housing and keep it empty. I will also always focus on preservation. Prop F, which I wrote and which passed in June, gives every tenant a right to an attorney if they face eviction and will do more to stop unfair evictions of low-income people than anything else the city has done in decades.

We also need to stand up to false solutions being offered by the same real estate industry that is driving the crisis. For example, Senator Wiener is peddling SB 50, a developer giveaway that will cause massive upzoning, gentrification and displacement in San Francisco, with SF's African America and Latinx communities bearing the disproportionate burden. SB 50 does not even require increased affordability, transit investments, or other community benefits in exchange for the profit windfall. I fundamentally disagree with the premise that the way to solve our unaffordability crisis is to hand the keys to those who profit from more unaffordability. We must invest in housing that is truly affordable to low-income and working class people.

### **Do you support the construction of public and/or non-profit housing?**

Yes I support the construction of public and non-profit housing, and I am particularly interested in pushing for social housing as a way to reimagine public housing from something that has let residents down to something that pushes the concept that housing is a human right.

## HOMELESSNESS

### **What is your position on conservatorship?**

Conservatorship plays an important role as a last resort for those that need it, but I am against the conservatorship bill that was recently proposed. We need to have more mental health services available during this crushing homelessness crisis. We need to create universal, compassionate mental health services for all San Franciscans-- it is near impossible to get off the street if you're unable to get the basic services you need. I support turning the jail into a mental health center that's run by the Department of Health and not the Police or Sheriff's Department

### **What is your position on navigation centers and homeless shelters in your district?**

I support having Navigation Centers in every district. District 5 has been in desperate need of one for years and neither the former nor current supervisor have fought to create one-- even though they have claimed to be for them. Other Supervisors have found a site and opened Nav Centers in 6 months-- we can do that in D5. Moreover, I want to dramatically shift our approach to homelessness by ensuring innovative implementation of the \$400 million in new annual homelessness funding from the passage of Proposition C.

## TRANSIT

### **How will you get more people to use public transit and reduce the number of cars in?**

The only solution is to make MUNI, biking and walking more appealing than taking ride shares, and to stand up to companies like Uber, Lyft and Chariot that seek to privatize mass transit. I'm an everyday MUNI rider, and I've never ordered a Lyft or UBER. For bikes, I support protected bike lanes/streets and intersections, and safe and secure bike parking. For MUNI, we need to dramatically rethink what's possible for public transportation. People are frustrated with delays, crowding, and that a ticket to ride goes up while the issues stay the same. There is no reason that SF can't be a world class transit city. We must work toward free or low-cost MUNI and take on congestion which is an environmental, convenience, and safety issue. I also support the UBER tax and think that we need a tax on the richest corporations profits -- basically, like Prop C -- to transform our transit system. Finally, we cannot forget that none of this works without paying a fair wage to MUNI operators and staff -- they are the heart and soul of the system and should be able to afford to live in the city where they work.

### **What would you do to improve transit and pedestrian safety?**

District 5 has been plagued by pedestrian accidents lately. It's tragic. The city should be responding IMMEDIATELY to intersections where this happens to assess how to make them safer. Better timed lights, bulb curbs, signs, etc. Likewise, bicyclists too are often hit by cars. Protected bike lanes, protected intersections, and/or dedicated streets are essential as they separate bikes from cars to the greatest extent possible. We must prioritize public transportation, biking and walking -- all modes of transportation that build community, spare the environment, and define our city.

## EDUCATION

### **Charter schools are controversial in many areas—what is your position with regards to them?**

I'm against charter schools. My two daughters both attend public school in our district. Charter schools take resources away from the public schools, harming public schools and their students. While some charter schools (for profit) are worse than others (nonprofit), all charter schools take resources away from our public schools. I have consistently stood with UESF and public education advocates against the privatization of public schools. This is an essential fight, with the charter school industry targeting school districts around the state and across the country.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **What steps will you take to reduce the carbon footprint for your district and SF as a whole?**

As part of a Green New Deal for San Francisco, we should municipalize PG&E, invest in public transportation, and make SF 100% energy independence from fossil fuels. As noted above, we must prioritize public transportation, biking and walking -- all modes of transportation that build community, spare the environment, and define our city.

## EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

### **What percentage of your donations are under \$100? What percentage of your donations are from SF residents?**

58% are \$100 or under. 68% are donations from SF. 79% are Bay Area.

### **Do you support the creation of a Public Bank?**

YES! Creating a Public Bank for San Francisco is part of our platform: Divesting our city's 10 billion annual general fund from Citibank, Bank of America and creating a public bank to offer low or zero interest loans to San Franciscans, democratizing our city economy.

## POLICE & SAFETY

### **What is your position on police brutality?**

I'm of course against police brutality. I began my legal career over twenty years ago representing victims of police misconduct.

I'm against adding to police weaponry and I was one of the major donors to help defeat Prop. H, the measure to authorize taser use by the police. We must no longer allow police officers to summarily decide life or death with virtual impunity. The evidence of racist application of force, including deadly force, is overwhelming and unconscionable. We should be looking at ways to reduce the harm to our communities, and disarming officers is one way to get there.

**How do you propose to involve the community in improving safety?**

I would like to see an unarmed community response force outside SFPD or any law enforcement to respond to situations that simply do not require armed officers. We need a community response team that focuses on harm reduction and solving conflict without violence.