



A California Non-Profit Political Action Committee

**PDA-CA CANDIDATE**

**QUESTIONNAIRE for the SAN FRANCISCO**

**SUPERVISORIAL RACE**

NAME OF CANDIDATE Vallie Brown

CAMPAIGN ADDRESS: 505 Divisadero

San Francisco, CA

E-mail Address: [hello@votevallie.com](mailto:hello@votevallie.com)

Date of the Election: November 5, 2019

Campaign Manager: Angela Tabora

Phone: 323-535-6695 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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?**

I think we have to be activists for housing. We face a housing shortage and a market that is displacing families and risks turning San Francisco in a city only for the uber-wealthy.

First, we have to have strong renter protections. I was proud to fund Prop F after it was passed by voters last year, ensuring that every San Franciscan has a right to counsel in eviction cases.

We also need to build and preserve affordable housing. There's a number of ways we can do this:

Since being appointed Supervisor, I worked HOUSING

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

I think we have to be activists for housing. We face a housing shortage and a market that is displacing families and risks turning San Francisco in a city only for the uber-wealthy.

First, we have to have strong renter protections. I was proud to fund Prop F after it was passed by voters last year, ensuring that every San Franciscan has a right to counsel in eviction cases.

We also need to build and preserve affordable housing. There's a number of ways we can do this:

- Since being appointed Supervisor, I worked to expand funding for the Small Sites Acquisition program by \$40 million. By buying at-risk property, we are preventing Ellis Act evictions and permanently preserving affordable, rent-controlled housing.
- Strengthening inclusionary zoning policies to ensure that new construction results in affordable housing units.
- Actively look at City land to build affordable housing.

San Francisco has to protect its working- *and* middle-class citizens. With a steady stream of affordable housing, strong renter protections, and increased density in our transit-rich neighborhoods we can build our housing supply, minimize displacement, and prevent San Francisco from becoming a city for only the uber-wealthy.

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

Absolutely. We've already identified five sites in D5 for the construction of 100% affordable housing, including the former McDonald's location on Stanyan. These projects desperately need funding to be completed, it's why we need a big affordable housing bond like the \$500 million bond proposed by Mayor Breed.

New construction of public housing goes hand-in-hand with the Small Sites program, which purchases at-risk rent-controlled buildings, creating permanent 100% affordable housing and preventing evictions and displacement.

HOMELESSNESS

**What is your position on conservatorship?**

With an appropriately high bar, conservatorship is a necessary step to save those suffering from mental health illnesses and drug addiction. There are some who cannot seek voluntary treatment, while the number is small, they can't be left behind. We see their heartbreaking cases on our streets and should be doing all we can to help out of the endless cycle of addiction.

I'm working with my colleague Supervisor Mandelman on a bill that authorizes the creation of a San Francisco conservatorship program in accordance with SB1045 and a housing conservatorship working group.

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

I've proposed a number of programs to address homelessness in District 5:

- First, yes, we strongly need a Navigation Center in District 5. I'm actively looking for a location near Haight-Ashbury where many of our unhoused youth are already. Ideally, we can find a way to make this Navigation Center a permanent structure focused on youth homelessness.

- We're also working on creating more local solutions like smaller neighborhood shelters and daytime resting places at Churches and other places of worship. Six days out of the week, these are often underutilized structures. The city could provide services to homeless persons at these locations during the day and offer homeless people a place to rest.
- The most important part would be housing, of course, and making sure that new construction includes affordable and supportive housing that can help get our homeless population off the street.

## TRANSIT

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

We need to start by making Muni more reliable. I'm intimately familiar with my constituents' frustration towards Muni — I've been stranded on the N Judah countless times myself.

I initiated a report as Supervisor that found that our Muni operators are not paid a living wage and are consequently leaving for higher paying jobs in other transit districts. This is not only hurting our Muni operators but affecting the ability of Muni to function for everyone, as it has to rely on an increasingly small pool of operators to work overtime — something they won't always be willing to do, as we saw just a few weeks ago.

Beyond making Muni more reliable, so much of encouraging people to leave their cars behind is about ensuring that there are safe and efficient alternatives. We still have work to do to make our streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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

San Francisco is not on target to meet our Vision Zero goals. We need to treat that fact like the tragedy it is, and not as a statistic. More must be done to improve the safety of our streets for bicyclists and pedestrians: protected bikes lanes, increased enforcement by SFPD and Muni, and looking closely at banning right turns at many busy and dangerous intersections.

I'm also troubled by the issues seen on our new Muni train cars, including the car couplers and malfunctioning doors. These safety issues need to be addressed promptly by SFMTA and the manufacturer.

## EDUCATION

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

I think we need to look at charter schools on a case-by-case basis. A good charter school can do so much to serve a community's specific needs and provide new opportunities to kids. I can say first hand that there are some great arts focused charters in my district that are expanding the idea of what's possible for our students.

All this being said, as with anything, accountability is key.

## ENVIRONMENT

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

I've long been an advocate for the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. I worked for a decade to create our clean energy provider, CleanPowerSF. I worked on the legislation for the first plastic bag ban in California, and I'm now working on a new version of the bill to raise the bag fee and ban plastic vegetable bags from grocery stores.

As Supervisor, I co-sponsored the Mayor's legislation to require all commercial properties larger than 500,000 sq. ft. to use 100% renewable energy by 2030. I also introduced legislation in February to require all multi-family residential property over 50,000 sq. ft. to report energy use back to the City, because you can't manage what you aren't measuring.

## EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

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

20% of my contributions are under \$100. 78% of my donations are from San Francisco residents, and less than 2% of my donations are from out of state.

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

Yes. I'm proud to support Assemblymember Chiu's AB857 to clear the path for San Francisco to charter a public bank. San Franciscans need a fair lender that serves the people, not profits. The 17% of African American and 14% of Latinx households that are unbanked would greatly benefit from a free City checking account and access to fair lenders.

In the meantime, the Board of Supervisors just unanimously passed my legislation to make sure our unbanked citizens can still shop in San Francisco by banning brick and mortar stores from not accepting cash.

## POLICE & SAFETY

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

San Francisco has taken a strong stance against police brutality, both by the public and by those in charge of our criminal justice system. The SFPD should be well trained in de-escalation techniques above all else.

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

In most cases, I believe the SFPD should be out on beat patrol by foot and on bicycle, rather than in a squad car. Our communities need face-to-face interaction with officers to build trust, that's why beat patrols to address were my first legislative push at City Hall.

- d to expand funding for the Small Sites Acquisition program by \$40 million. By buying at-risk property, we are preventing Ellis Act evictions and permanently preserving affordable, rent-controlled housing.
- Strengthening inclusionary zoning policies to ensure that new construction results in affordable housing units.
- Actively look at City land to build affordable housing.

San Francisco has to protect its working- *and* middle-class citizens. With a steady stream of affordable housing, strong renter protections, and increased density in our transit-rich neighborhoods we can build our housing supply, minimize displacement, and prevent San Francisco from becoming a city for only the uber-wealthy.

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

Absolutely. We've already identified five sites in D5 for the construction of 100% affordable housing, including the former McDonald's location on Stanyan. These

projects desperately need funding to be completed, it's why we need a big affordable housing bond like the \$500 million bond proposed by Mayor Breed.

New construction of public housing goes hand-in-hand with the Small Sites program, which purchases at-risk rent-controlled buildings, creating permanent 100% affordable housing and preventing evictions and displacement.

## HOMELESSNESS

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

With an appropriately high bar, conservatorship is a necessary step to save those suffering from mental health illnesses and drug addiction. There are some who cannot seek voluntary treatment, while the number is small, they can't be left behind. We see their heartbreaking cases on our streets and should be doing all we can to help out of the endless cycle of addiction.

I'm working with my colleague Supervisor Mandelman on a bill that authorizes the creation of a San Francisco conservatorship program in accordance with SB1045 and a housing conservatorship working group.

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

I've proposed a number of programs to address homelessness in District 5:

- First, yes, we strongly need a Navigation Center in District 5. I'm actively looking for a location near Haight-Ashbury where many of our unhoused youth are already. Ideally, we can find a way to make this Navigation Center a permanent structure focused on youth homelessness.
- We're also working on creating more local solutions like smaller neighborhood shelters and daytime resting places at Churches and other places of worship. Six days out of the week, these are often underutilized structures. The city could provide services to homeless persons at these locations during the day and offer homeless people a place to rest.
- The most important part would be housing, of course, and making sure that new construction includes affordable and supportive housing that can help get our homeless population off the street.

## TRANSIT

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

We need to start by making Muni more reliable. I'm intimately familiar with my constituents' frustration towards Muni — I've been stranded on the N Judah countless times myself.

I initiated a report as Supervisor that found that our Muni operators are not paid a living wage and are consequently leaving for higher paying jobs in other transit districts. This is not only hurting our Muni operators but affecting the ability of Muni to function for everyone, as it has to rely on an increasingly small pool of operators to work overtime — something they won't always be willing to do, as we saw just a few weeks ago.

Beyond making Muni more reliable, so much of encouraging people to leave their cars behind is about ensuring that there are safe and efficient alternatives. We still have work to do to make our streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

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

San Francisco is not on target to meet our Vision Zero goals. We need to treat that fact like the tragedy it is, and not as a statistic. More must be done to improve the safety of our streets for bicyclists and pedestrians: protected bikes lanes, increased enforcement by SFPD and Muni, and looking closely at banning right turns at many busy and dangerous intersections.

I'm also troubled by the issues seen on our new Muni train cars, including the car couplers and malfunctioning doors. These safety issues need to be addressed promptly by SFMTA and the manufacturer.

## **EDUCATION**

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

I think we need to look at charter schools on a case-by-case basis. A good charter school can do so much to serve a community's specific needs and provide new opportunities to kids. I can say first hand that there are some great arts focused charters in my district that are expanding the idea of what's possible for our students.



All this being said, as with anything, accountability is key.

## ENVIRONMENT

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

I've long been an advocate for the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. I worked for a decade to create our clean energy provider, CleanPowerSF. I worked on the legislation for the first plastic bag ban in California, and I'm now working on a new version of the bill to raise the bag fee and ban plastic vegetable bags from grocery stores.

As Supervisor, I co-sponsored the Mayor's legislation to require all commercial properties larger than 500,000 sq. ft. to use 100% renewable energy by 2030. I also introduced legislation in February to require all multi-family residential property over 50,000 sq. ft. to report energy use back to the City, because you can't manage what you aren't measuring.

## EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

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

20% of my contributions are under \$100. 78% of my donations are from San Francisco residents, and less than 2% of my donations are from out of state.

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

Yes. I'm proud to support Assemblymember Chiu's AB857 to clear the path for San Francisco to charter a public bank. San Franciscans need a fair lender that serves the people, not profits. The 17% of African American and 14% of Latinx households that are unbanked would greatly benefit from a free City checking account and access to fair lenders.

In the meantime, the Board of Supervisors just unanimously passed my legislation to make sure our unbanked citizens can still shop in San Francisco by banning brick and mortar stores from not accepting cash.

## POLICE & SAFETY

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

San Francisco has taken a strong stance against police brutality, both by the public and by those in charge of our criminal justice system. The SFPD should be well trained in de-escalation techniques above all else.

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

In most cases, I believe the SFPD should be out on beat patrol by foot and on bicycle, rather than in a squad car. Our communities need face-to-face interaction with officers to build trust, that's why beat patrols to address were my first legislative push at City Hall.