



Candidate Questionnaire November 7, 2006 General Election

Deadline for Submission of Questionnaire: Thursday, August 31, 2006

Submit electronically, with resume and photo, to sfyd.issues.action@gmail.com

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot:

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Rob	L	Black

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

Board of Supervisors, District 6

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes No

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Campaign Name:	Rob Black for Supervisor
Address:	PO Box 410594
City, State, Zip:	San Francisco, CA 94130
Campaign Phone:	415-956-0611 – Rob’s cell 415-336-8684
Campaign Fax:	415-956-0611
Campaign E-mail	info@robblack2006.com
Campaign Website:	www.robblack2006.com

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices which you have held. Include positions on appointive Boards or Commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Treasure Island Development Authority Citizens Advisory Committee	Appointed	November 05 - Current	

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
NA	NA

QUESTIONS

1) Are you currently a member of the San Francisco Young Democrats in good standing?

No.

2) Why are you running, and what makes you qualified for this position?

I am a union organizer, legislative aide, elections and human rights advocate, and ethics attorney. I am a graduate of UC Hastings and practiced two years as an ethics and campaign attorney. For the past two years I was Legislative Aide to Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, where I delivered city services to the people of San Francisco, and drafted legislation and policy initiatives creating hundreds of new jobs in the bio-tech and film industries. While at the Board I also served as shop steward, and negotiation team member for Local 21, Professional & Technical Engineers AFL-CIO.

Prior to working at the Board, I served as an international election and human rights advocate for President Jimmy Carter’s The Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (un-official international arm of the Democratic Party) where I spent years monitoring elections and providing support to fledgling democracy movements in South Africa, Liberia, Cambodia, Paraguay

and Zambia. I also served as the Director of Special Projects for the Screen Actors Guild where I was responsible for contract campaign activities and strategic organizing, including a successful campaign to unionize the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers and Rupert Murdoch's Fox Kids Network.

I was the lead local advance coordinator for all of Clinton/Gore's 1992 New Mexico campaign events, including six principal events, and was a regional coordinator for the California Democratic Party / Clinton-Gore Coordinated Campaign in 1996, responsible for registering over 9,000 new Democrats.

I am running for office because I believe we need a Supervisor that will bring the community together to find common ground and common sense solutions that will:

- Ensuring Safe Streets. Crime and violence are on the rise and I will make it a priority to fight for more beat cops, cameras in high crime areas, and better technology for our police department.
- Reducing Homelessness. I'll work with Mayor Gavin Newsom to improve Care Not Cash and get the homeless off the streets and into supportive housing and rehabilitative services.
- Promoting Family Housing. I'll expand home ownership and rental opportunities for middle and low-income families, artists, and first responders.

3) What are the main challenges facing the city of San Francisco in the context of this position and how will you address those issues, if elected? If you are the incumbent, please list three accomplishments while in office.

As discussed above, I believe three major challenges facing San Francisco, but District 6 specifically are:

Ensuring safe, clean and green streets. Our neighborhoods have been plagued by crime in District 6. Unfortunately, little has been done to address this critical problem. With 96 homicides on record last year, San Francisco's homicide rate soared to its highest point in over a decade. Along with an increasing number of homicides, our District has experienced an influx of other violent and non-violent crimes. It is an unfortunate reality that District 6 suffers from a disproportionate amount of crime in relation to the rest of the City. Recently, District Attorney Kamala Harris stated that District 6 has 70% of the crime in the City but does not have 70% of the police resources.

- **Increased Police Presence-** We have a disproportionate amount of crime and must work to elevate our numbers of beat cops. An increased police presence, consisting of both patrol and foot officers, is a necessary first step in preventing crime in our District.
- **Increased Community Policing-** Effective community involvement by officers has been shown to have positive impacts on reducing neighborhood crime, helping to reduce fear of crime and enhancing the quality of life in the community We need to have more cops walking the beat, and more police and other first-responders (paramedics, firefighters) living in our communities, and must work to implement a First-Responder housing program.

- **Improving SFPD's Information Technology-** One of the most important and powerful ways that the City can enhance public safety is by adopting cutting-edge technology. We pride ourselves on being a cutting-edge City; unfortunately our police officers are still operating in the technological dark ages. It is incredible to note that some members of our police force do not even have email! This needs to be remedied. Many crime fighting advances have been successfully implemented in other major metropolitan cities. We must learn from these success stories and use available technologies to equip our officers with the tools and know-how to fight crime in the 21st century.
- **Monitoring-** San Francisco has recently begun to install security cameras in notoriously high crime areas around the City, and many residents of District 6 have expressed their desire for such cameras. When a community asks the City for help in making their neighborhood safer, we must respond. Through meetings with neighborhood stakeholders, Police and City officials, the community should determine if and where cameras should be placed in our District.

A Supervisor must work closely with the Mayor, Board, SFPD, DA's Office, and our communities in order to make the City streets safer. It is time to break from convention and work together to reanalyze our approach to crime fighting in our neighborhoods.

Reducing Homelessness. The City must continue on a course of compassionate and supportive services combined with better enforcement policies for those that continually refuse to abide by the law. Effective solutions can only be derived by addressing the issue from a multitude of angles. Accordingly, we need to promote successful programs such as Care Not Cash and continue to strive to find workable solutions to our City's ongoing homeless issue.

Promoting Family Housing. Housing must be available for San Franciscans of all income levels. We are currently not meeting the need for those individuals who can reasonably afford middle-income type housing like our firefighters, police officers and teachers. The housing stock structure in District 6 is severely flawed – imagine a ladder with the middle rungs missing. San Franciscan's can not move up the housing ladder without the middle-rungs of workforce / family housing.

As we plan for the future of district 6, it is imperative to anticipate and provide a variety of housing opportunities for those residents who are essential to our City. Some ways to begin to address our housing problems include:

- Prioritizing the City's budget and resources to create housing alternatives and opportunities for housing providers to help residents find affordable places to live.

Learning from housing initiatives in other cities, such as equity caps for certain below market rate home ownership opportunities, limited equity cooperatives, and density bonuses for the development of family housing. We have the opportunity to create a model for large cities, cultivating a community that can both live and work in an area of strong economic growth.

- Expand existing and develop new down payment assistance programs for first time home buyers.
- The City must adopt and continue an implementation of a variety of resources such as inclusionary housing, developer bonuses and homebuyer education programs. We must be creative in how we diversify our housing stock moving forward.
- The redevelopment of Treasure Island should focus on its current residents' ability to be prepared financially for the opportunity to obtain housing once the development has occurred, and not be forced out of a high-price development and into other communities in the Bay area.
- District 6 should encourage collaborative projects between developers and City agencies to create opportunities for retail or commercial use, and a high percentage of affordable units as opposed to a majority of market rate housing developments. With support and ingenuity, District 6 residents would greatly benefit from such projects as 601 King Street, which along with bicycle and car share facilities, has 76% of the 224 units deemed affordable.
- Encouraging new funding mechanisms such as evergreen leases and a locally-managed affordable housing trust fund through a private-public partnership.
- Develop stronger 1st time homebuyer programs, including education initiatives for developing good credit and savings.

We have a great opportunity to provide housing to those at all income levels in District 6 and throughout the City. In order to do so, we need to use creative and innovative new policies and ideas to produce the type of housing that is needed. Nonetheless, we must not focus on one group or income level, rather spreading our policies equally with the ultimate goal of diversified housing and homeownership.

4) Identify two challenges to San Francisco's young people in the context of the position you seek. What specific commitment will you make to address these issues if elected? If you are the incumbent, how have you addressed these challenges while in office?

For young people in San Francisco, I believe the ability to work and live and the City are the two main issues. Young people need to know that they will be able to someday own a home in San Francisco, so we need to do everything we can to ensure that opportunity. For details on housing, please see my answers to question 3.

As well, we need to make sure that our economy is strong and that we are creating good paying jobs for our young people. As aide to Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, I took the lead in drafting and creating the first film and television incentive program in the state of California. For years, San Francisco has seen its film industry reduced to almost nothing. The loss of jobs and wages were painful to our artists, stagehands, and teamsters. I worked with labor unions and business groups to create a broad coalition of support which effectively articulated the benefits of the industry to San Francisco. The program encourages production of

both low-budget and feature films. The film industry has a very high economic multiplier impact on local economies in part because it is one of the most highly unionized industries in the country, environmentally clean, and promotes tourism by broadcasting images of San Francisco around the world. Only Supervisor's Daly and Peskin voted against this pro-jobs legislation. I will continue to work on innovate programs that create good paying job opportunities for young San Franciscans.

5) If (re-)elected, how, specifically, would you work with SFYD to engage more of San Francisco's young people in the political process?

San Francisco is home to the future business leaders of not only America but the world. We need to engage these young leaders in the political process, so that the party, the City and the country can benefit from their expanded leadership capacity. Involvement with the SFYD can help that transition take place. I would be happy to help host events, write letters or otherwise engage with SFYD in outreach to this country's emerging leaders.

6) Have you collaborated with young people in your work in the past (list specific examples)? What value did you experience in working with young people? How are young people involved in your campaign?

I have worked with young people in leadership roles all my life. Whether as a student volunteer with Democratic Party when I was in college, to working with youth groups in South Africa, to organizing young actors on the Fox Kids Network, I have seen the political and social power of young leaders. I have also benefited from older individuals who believed that a young person could be given large responsibilities, so I understand the importance of that mentor position as well. Providing empowerment and opportunity to young people builds strong leaders for tomorrow. I am actively recruiting students and other young people to become part of my campaign team.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. Please explain how your experience would make you an effective advocate for young people as an office holder.

District 6 is a unique district, yet in some ways also very typical. It is unique in that it is the most diverse district in the City. We have SRO housing and shelters and some of the most expensive waterfront real estate in the country. We have the ball park, SFMOMA, the theater district and the majority of the City's homeless service providers. There are large communities of Filipinos, Vietnamese, Hispanics, African Americans, and Anglos, with an estimated 30% of the residents being members of the LGBTQ community. However, District 6 is also very typical in that it is a microcosm of the entire City. San Francisco's amazing diversity is remarkably well represented in this one District.

Additionally, the District is the most dynamic place in the City. From the changes on Rincon Hill, to Mission Bay to Treasure Island, to the proposed Mid-Market renovations – the District is changing and evolving every day.

To properly represent this amazingly diverse district a Supervisor must be 1) sensitive to vulnerable communities and willing to stand up for their rights, 2) able to proactively engage with many different stakeholders and communities, from neighborhood groups and non-profits, to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, so that no-one is shut out of the process in order to ensure that long term, neighborhood and environmentally sensitive planning guides the many changes occurring in the district, and 3) willing to work on preserving and improving the residents quality of life. Whether by making our neighborhoods more pedestrian friendly or by cracking down on street crime, everyone in District 6, no matter where you live, deserves safe, clean and green streets.

I believe that my experience working for President Jimmy Carter's, The Carter Center helped build my capacity as a strong advocate for human rights and equal representation. I spent years working to ensure that disadvantaged communities in Africa and Asia had the right to participate in their government and civil society. As a union organizer, I learned the power of creating unity and solidarity, of allowing people to get beyond their individual concerns to those of the broader community or movement. And finally, as a legislative aide, I learned how to turn my commitment to human rights and equality, in combination with my ability to organize and build unity of purpose, into tangible, concrete results – legislation. With these skills and qualifications, I will be an effective advocate for young people in the community.

Please include the following when you submit your candidate survey: a resume and a photo.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2006

SUBMIT VIA E-MAIL TO sfyd.issues.action@gmail.com