

San Francisco Labor Council

Board of Supervisors Candidate Questionnaire November 2020 Election

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 100,000 working men and women have a voice on the job through the 150 affiliated unions of the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO and Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO. These affiliates of the SFLC & SFBCTC are united in their resolve to support those candidates for San Francisco Board of Supervisors who demonstrate their commitment to honor the dignity of every worker and to provide working families the opportunities to pursue their dreams through:

- Their prior record of action and advocacy on behalf of working families;
- Their showing of the breadth and depth of support in their District necessary to win; and
- Their positions on the following issues that form the core of working families agenda for San Francisco

Please be candid, complete, and forthright in your responses, and prompt in returning the completed questionnaire by _____. Questionnaires can be mailed to the **San Francisco Labor Council, 1188 Franklin Street, Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94109, faxed to (415) 440-9297 or emailed to kim@sflaborcouncil.org.**

YOUR BACKGROUND

Candidate Name: Marjan Philhour Political Party: Democrat

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone(s): [REDACTED]

Occupation: Owner of Village Place/Bluestone Pottery on Balboa in the Richmond

Employer: Self

Work Address: [REDACTED]

Campaign address: 5654 Geary Blvd. #210458, San Francisco, CA 94121

Phone(s): (415) 889-2735

web/email: votemarjan.com / [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. Briefly describe your work background.

I have worked in government, politics, and community for over 30 years. I have both government and community experience ranging from working at the State, Federal, and Local levels of government to organizing neighbors in my own neighborhood. My first job was for the late Congressman Tom Lantos, I then worked on Capitol Hill then came back to California to work as Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff in the Gray Davis Administration. I've worked on Presidential campaigns as well as in field, fundraising, and communications for Democratic candidates at varying levels of government. I served

in the SF Mayor's office for 19 months. I have run two small businesses - one professional services firm and a neighborhood art studio and gift shop. I have organized neighbors around community events (neighborhood Halloween Festival, Spring Festival, merchant street fairs), and co-founded our local merchants association (Balboa Village Merchants Association). I take a hands on approach to community work as well as in my professional work and would bring that same passion to the role of Supervisor.

1. Briefly describe your educational background.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UC Berkeley in 1996.

2. Are you, or is anyone from your family, a present or past member of a union? If so, which union? (Please state International and Local, if possible.) What was your level of participation (steward, officer, member of bargaining team, etc.)? My husband Byron was a member of the faculty unions at city college and SF State from 2000-2004.

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

1. Who are your campaign manager and other key campaign consultant(s) and staff?

Campaign Manager: Rob Aiavao

Consultant: Maggie Muir

2. Campaign ID Number:

FPPC# 1425942

3. How much money have you raised and expect to raise?

My financial statements can be found on sfethics.org. I plan to raise the amount of money allowed under public financing.

4. Describe your plans for a field campaign.

We plan to connect with as many voters in District 1 as possible.

5. Do you have a consultant? Who?

See above.

CANDIDATE OVERVIEW

1. Briefly describe your priorities if elected. Rebuilding our economy and communities post-COVID, homelessness, housing. It is critical that our communities are involved in the process - we have started this conversation in our campaign by calling for a neighborhood summit www.votemarjan.com/neighborhoodsummit. Please see the policy briefing for more details.

2. What qualities distinguish you from other candidates for this office?

I have both government and community experience ranging from working at the State, Federal, and Local levels of government to organizing neighbors in my own neighborhood. My first job was for the late Congressman Tom Lantos, I then worked on Capitol Hill then came back to California to work as Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff in the Gray Davis Administration. I've worked on Presidential campaigns as well as in field, fundraising, and communications for Democratic candidates at varying levels of government. I served in the SF Mayor's office for 19 months. I have run two small businesses - one professional services firm and a neighborhood art studio and gift shop. I have organized neighbors around community events (neighborhood Halloween Festival, Spring Festival, merchant street fairs), and co-founded our local merchants association (Balboa Village Merchants Association). I take a hands on approach to community work as well as in my professional work and would bring that same passion to the role of Supervisor.

3. If the San Francisco Labor Council endorses you, will you carry the endorsement on your materials?

Yes

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you support Labor appointees on all City Commissions as a matter of policy?

Yes

2. What are the most important issues in your Supervisorial District?

Rebuilding our economy and communities post-COVID, homelessness, and housing. It is critical that our communities are involved in the process - we have started this conversation in our campaign by calling for a neighborhood summit www.votemarjan.com/neighborhoodsummit

3. What are the most important issues facing the entire City?

The \$1.7 billion dollar deficit, homelessness, rebuilding our neighborhood economies, building more affordable housing, and protecting working class families.

THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

1. Do you support the right of all workers to join a union without interference from employers? **Yes** **No** (circle) Why?

2. Will you support legislation prohibiting contractors receiving public funds, tax breaks, or other government benefits from using taxpayer funds to oppose unionization? **Yes** **No** (circle) Why?

3. Will you support local legislation allowing workers to gain union representation through a simple “card check recognition” as a condition of approval for projects in which the City maintains a proprietary interest or in which there is some form of public subsidy? **Yes** **No** (circle) How?

4. Will you honor **all** picket lines and boycotts sanctioned by the San Francisco Labor Council? **Yes** **No** (circle) Why?

5. What actions will you personally take to support workers organizing or fighting for a collective bargaining agreement? (Circle each individually.) YES ON ALL.

- Attend rallies
- Walk picket lines
- Speak out in support
- Write letters
- Make financial contributions to the workers’ struggle
- Participate in boycotts
- Make phone calls

6. Will you be willing to act as an intermediary and to actively promote alternatives to delays and legal maneuvers, which are used to slow down union certification elections? (Such alternatives could include agreements by the employer to remain neutral and recognize the union without an election if a majority of eligible employees sign a union membership card.) If not, why not?

7. Do you support prevailing wages? Explain briefly.

Yes, I believe that workers should be paid the proper prevailing wage on taxpayer-funded or subsidized construction, in additional industries where the City has established a prevailing wage, and for other work where a prevailing wage has been adopted. The labor movement has fought hard to provide these wage and benefits for workers, and as Supervisor I will honor that work by supporting prevailing wages.

8. Legislation has been introduced and passed by the Board of Supervisors to provide for a Citywide Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to guarantee that all construction trade workers are guaranteed the wages and benefits covered by San Francisco building and constructions trades’ collective bargaining agreements. This legislation guarantees that all City contractors must comply with the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements on all projects over \$1,000,000. Can we count on you to defend this legislation at the stated threshold?

Yes. Over the past year and a half I have worked to make sure that the citywide Project Labor Agreement is negotiated.

9. Do you support “Responsible Contractor” policies that require public agencies to purchase goods and services from employers and companies that pay decent wages and benefits and recognize employees’ rights to organize and join unions? Yes.

10. The Supreme Court has made agency shop in the public sector illegal. The unions representing San Francisco employees met with Mayor Lee before his passing, and he committed that all his managers at every level would be made to understand that the City fully supports the unions representing city employees and will do everything within its power to help unions minimize membership loss as a result of the Janus decision, and to encourage city employees to actively participate in their unions. Will you lead and help fulfill the City’s commitment on this issue? Yes.

11. Do you support public sector workers' right to strike? Yes.

LAND USE/HOUSING

Land use decisions must be made with a full regard to the rights of workers, including the right to organize and in accord with labor’s goals of decent wages and working conditions for workers, healthcare for them and their families, a continuing place to live for them in San Francisco, and comfortable and dignified retirements.

1. The fabric of our city is changing. Affordable housing being maintained and built is the key to keeping San Francisco the vibrant and diverse city that it is. Housing for our seniors, families, LGBTQ, and disability communities must be built. What percentage of affordable housing do you support for development? Explain your definition of affordable housing including AMI percentages.

I support building 100% affordable housing.

2. What have you done in your personal and professional work to prioritize these values in City development? I have supported leaders who support housing that is affordable and accessible, and have made my stances clear on my website www.votemarjan.com

3. AirBnB rentals have been exploited to take much needed affordable housing off the San Francisco market. As it now stands it is virtually impossible to regulate this industry. Legislation has been introduced to limit and regulate the AirBnB rentals to 60 per year. Can we count on you to be a co-sponsor of this legislation?

This legislation was written prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City should reexamine the impact of this legislation so that it is fair and relevant to the times.

4. Do you think landlords should disclose Ellis Act evictions to potential home buyers? What about TIC evictions? Yes.

IMMIGRATION

San Francisco is a City built and maintained by immigrants and is proud of its status as a Sanctuary City. AB 450, the new Immigrant Worker Protection Act, which among other things, prohibits ICE to enter the private areas of workplaces without a “judicial” warrant.

Representatives of the federal government have threatened arrest of city officials who do not cooperate with federal immigration policy by supporting Sanctuary policies. How do you propose city officials respond and what will you do to further protect San Francisco’s immigrant communities from ICE? City officials should respond by protecting all residents, including immigrants.

Will you pledge not to contract or do business with companies and corporations that terminate employees due to I-9 audits? Yes.

HEALTHCARE

Every San Franciscan should have access to affordable, quality healthcare. Everyone should be able to get the healthcare they need, when they need it, from a healthcare system that provides quality care that is culturally competent and linguistically appropriate. Every San Franciscan must be able to rely on a strong healthcare safety net that ensures that primary care, hospital care, home care, long-term care and emergency services are affordable and accessible to residents in every neighborhood in the city. These services must have adequate funding so that healthcare workers are able to live in dignity. The Healthy San Francisco program should continue to grow as a key strategy for guaranteeing every resident has access to care.

1. Will you fight to maintain essential healthcare services throughout the City including preserving services at SF General, the pharmacies, and other medical facilities as well as taking a stand against private healthcare corporations so that access to healthcare is equitable to all City residents including low income neighborhoods?

As Supervisor I will fight to make sure that access to healthcare in San Francisco is equitable and work to preserve quality services at SF General and other medical facilities.

2. Do you support a single payer healthcare system in California?

Yes

3. Would you support legislation to ensure medical and pharmaceutical rate regulation with full transparency? Yes
4. In the Age of Covid, do you support that the City will not contract with any entity that does not provide full family healthcare coverage to its employees? Yes

PRIVATIZATION AND CONTRACTING OUT

1. Under what circumstances, if any, would you approve a private contract for work currently performed by City employees? Given our current budget shortfall and need to keep employees working, we should utilize the skills of the employees we have as opposed to contracting out.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

UESF represents 6,000 public school teachers and paraprofessionals working in San Francisco's public schools. We support the growing cooperation between the public schools and City Hall. Support from Prop H, increasing funds from the First Five Commission to our Child Development program, the rainy day funds and the City's Teacher of the Month program are examples of the kinds of programs that we expect members of the Board of Supervisors to support.

1. Do you support school voucher programs?
2. Do you support charter schools?
3. Will you promise not to take any campaign contributions from proponents of charter schools, or other funds that are used to elect charter school candidates?
4. Do you support collective bargaining rights for employees at charter schools?
5. Childcare is at a premium throughout the city, yet childcare workers are underpaid and given a minimum of respect. What should the City do to expand both the quality and quantity of childcare programs as well as before and after school programs?
6. Will you support legislation and take public action to ensure that safe, inexpensive, and subsidized childcare is available for workers? If not, why not? YES
7. It must be the goal of workforce development programs to produce high-road and self-sufficient jobs. CityBuild is an excellent example of this type of program. Explain the importance that you will give to this issue and how you would work with the Labor Council to continue to develop city policy which ensures trainings in work-related sectors which provide for career ladders and living wages and benefits. Workforce development will be critical in the coming months and years as the economic landscape in our city has shifted due to COVID-19. CityBuild has shown success because there are direct relationships with unions and employers that offer a standard in training and a career pathway post-graduation. I will work with the Labor Council to look at sectors that will continue to grow in the current climate and provide union training opportunities that advance union job opportunities for local San Franciscans.
8. Many of us consider City College of San Francisco the most essential working class institution in our City, and SF labor, electeds, and voters and residents have fought to defend the college over the last several years. What role do you believe City College can play in achieving your vision of San Francisco? We must provide educational opportunities to all residents, as well as vocational training. City College is an excellent way to earn a valuable degree and transfer to the workforce or a four year college.
9. Labor accomplished a major victory for working families in 2016 with Prop W and the creation of the Free City program, making community college free (again) for City residents. The program has been highly successful in reducing economic barriers to

education, providing new opportunities for personal and career development, and recruiting new and returning students to City College of San Francisco. However, Free City is underfunded and remains a 2-year pilot program. Do you support permanently funding the program, as well as extending it over the summer session, fully funding student stipends for low-income students, and including undocumented students?

BUDGET

1. Name your top three budget priorities.

Rebuilding our economy and communities post-COVID, homelessness, housing.

2. In a City with growing income disparities how will you fight to address social and income inequality?

I support Mayor Breed's proposal to invest in programs and organizations that support communities that have previously been hurt by City policies. Racial equity in San Francisco's neighborhood planning can only be achieved through dismantling the racist system of zoning designed to segregate BIPOC communities.

3. San Francisco is well known for its thriving and multi-faceted nonprofit sector that contributes to the city's social, economic and community well being. In San Francisco, over 1000 nonprofit workers are union members. Will you work with both the city and nonprofit unions to ensure that all workers are treated fairly and economic decisions are made that take both sectors into account? Why or why not?

Yes, it's the role of a Supervisor to lead conversations like these and make sure all parties are heard.

4. The Mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors are negotiating the Gross Receipts Tax reform. Conservatives think that the tax should not be raised thereby making the tax a neutral tax. Progressive Supervisors believe that the tax should be increased to pay for things like cleaner streets, homeless services, mental health services, Covid expenses, etc....Which camp do you fall in? and Why?

The economic impact of this pandemic will dwarf any revenue generating measures - I await the Controller's report on the current measures before making a decision on this.

5. If the Mayor puts up a Gross Receipts revenue measure for 76 million and the Board of Supervisors puts up another that raises 181 million which measure would you support? And why?

It would depend on how the money from each measure would be spent - I await the Controller's report for guidance on this.

AB5

With the passage of AB 5, workers from across the state will be re-classified as employees. Companies such as Uber, Lyft and many others are vowing to fight this. Do you support AB5? If so are you willing to make it part of your campaign platform to support workers in becoming

employees and fighting these corporations? If so, please explain why? Will you oppose the state wide ballot measure that Lyft and Uber have placed on the ballot? If yes, why and how? Will you help raise money to fight the initiative?

Yes, I support AB5. I oppose the statewide ballot measure to repeal AB5.

Schools and Communities First:

The public budget has been decimated by Covid 19. The Labor Council will be fighting to pass Schools and Communities First. It will tax corporation and raise millions for local programs such as our public schools, public health programs etc.... This undoes the protections that commercial tax loopholes and provides funding for our communities. Will you support SCF? If so how?

Yes. Endorsement and community organizing

CANDIDATE PLEDGE

SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO CHOOSE A UNION

As a candidate and elected official I hereby pledge:

- To publicly support and actively encourage workers who are organizing a union with San Francisco Labor Council affiliates.
- To publicly support and actively encourage the position that workers should be able to freely choose for themselves whether they want to gain a voice on the job by unionizing without the intimidating effects of any employer interference. This includes publicly supporting and encouraging employers to remain neutral on the question of unionization.
- To publicly support and actively encourage the position that no taxpayer money should be spent interfering with the right of workers to freely choose a union.
- To publicly support and actively encourage a fair and fast process for determining worker support for unionization including secret ballot election or card check recognition.
- To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate an agreement with the union within 90 days after the majority of workers express their choice in favor of forming a union.
- To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate good faith collective bargaining agreements with their workers and to abide by the terms of those agreements

SIGNATURE

I attest that these answers represent my actions and beliefs, are now part of my public record, and may be used by the unions of the San Francisco Labor Council to keep union members informed about important issues.

 Signature: Marjan Philhour	Date: July 8, 2020
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