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Mayoral Questionnaire

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Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

- 1. Do you believe the city's Ethics Commission is successful at its mission, or do you tend to agree with the Civil Grand Jury's conclusion that it is a "Sleeping Watchdog." What reforms will you support to strengthen the disclosure and enforcement of the city's ethics and good government laws?**

The Ethics Commission is weak and unaccountable, and needs to have greater independence to investigate the big money and how it is spent in our elections, not waste its time investigating smaller candidates and smaller campaigns. It needs more investigators with better resources, and be able to file penalties under greater Sunshine Laws.

- 2. Will you vote in favor or against Proposition F to allow the Ethics Commission and Board to change the law on campaign consultants without voter approval?**

Against; I signed a Ballot Argument urging No on Prop F.

- 3. Will you vote in favor or against Proposition E to allow the Board to amend or repeal ballot measures approved by voters from the mayor or four Board members?**

Against; I signed a Ballot Argument urging No on Prop E.

4. Will you add funding for the Ethics Commission meetings to be televised like other city commissions?

Yes. I believe it would be an appropriate use of funding, as well as provide important transparency to the public; people are more likely to live-stream a meeting on the internet than download an audio recording.

5. Do you believe the city needs to strengthen protections for city worker whistleblowers against retaliation, as the Civil Grand Jury recommended?

Yes, unequivocally.

6. Will you introduce a measure to ban contributions from businesses that benefit financially from City decisions, including tax benefits, zoning variances and other benefits similar to the voter-approved Proposition J (November 2000) passed but later altered?

Yes.

7. Do you support the Ethics Commission's proposal to amend the city's pay-to-play law to allow contributions from contractors with the Redevelopment Agency, Treasure Island and other agencies because they claim the mayor and Board don't know who the contractors are?

No, absolutely not. The idea that the Mayor is not aware of who the contractors are is at best naïve and at worst disingenuous.

8. The Ethics Commission won amendments to the lobbyist law that means fewer businesses have to disclose their efforts. Do you believe that people with special access like former mayor Willie Brown or Rose Pak should have to register and report on their contacts with city officials?

Yes.

9. What steps will you take to ensure that your appointees attend commission meetings, file required public economic disclosure statements, and adhere to the city's Sunshine Ordinance? What standard will you use?

I will have a particular person staff dedicated to monitoring commission appointees to ensure they're fulfilling their obligations under Sunshine Laws and financial disclosure. I will also make examples of commissioners who do not fulfill their financial obligations; I will have zero tolerance for intentional violations.

10. What steps have you taken to improve transparency in city government and enforce good government laws?

Backroom deals seem to be becoming more and more the norm at City Hall, with deals like Twitter and the appointment of Gascón and Ed Lee as the most recent examples. Everyone seems to think that this policy of governing is okay.

I personally have always supported Sunshine Laws, and believe in open government, and make a point of working with ethics watchdogs in proposing policy. As Mayor I will conduct business in the sunshine; I will govern in a style that ensures community members of San Francisco can have access to City Hall, and that promotes a government where their voices are not just aired, but heard and acted upon.

(You may add additional pages to respond)