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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 should be renamed the "Unethical Commission" because it has failed in its mission to act without political motivation.

In my own case, where I was wrongfully accused of ethics violations, they proceeded to spend over one million dollars of the city's money to foolishly conduct hearings knowing full well that their star witness had committed perjury and forgery, and then allowed that witness to take the Fifth without punishment. The entire case against me was politically motivated under direction of the Newsom administration in an effort to tarnish my reputation. After their loss, and in a weak attempt to save face, they then imposed a fictitious fine for unsubstantiated violations without any legal justification.

The entire commission should be disbanded or reconstituted in a way that is non-political if that is possible. If not then we should refer all cases to the state F.P.C.

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?*

Absolutely not.

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?*

I will not vote in favor of Prop E because it is designed to circumvent the will of the voters.

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

It might be the only way to throw light on the misdeeds of this farce of a commission.

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

Yes, the whistleblower program needs to be strengthened to keep a check on those who use government for their own gain as opposed to serving the public.

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?*

Absolutely not, this only opens the door for more corruption. The mayor and the members of the Board all know who the contractors and lobbyists are. They are only trying to fool the public with this one, as most of them only hold office because of the contributions by the contractors and lobbyists.

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?*

As Mayor I would expect all of my appointees to comply with the above regulations and would support regular public notice and disclosure regarding such.

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

As a member of the Board of Supervisors , I created and led the successful legislation which resulted in the appointments to the Ethics Commission being from different Department heads as opposed to the Mayor making all of the appointments. Unfortunately, I did not go far enough to ensure that even with the appointment structure changed, it would not prevent scoundrels from being appointed who would violate the public trust for political purposes.

(You may add additional pages to respond)