



2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - STATE SENATE

Instructions: Please provide brief responses to the following 10 questions by **Friday, July 22, 2016, and return via email to nicole@walksf.org**. Walk SF will share these responses with our members and the public. The Walk SF Board will consider endorsing candidates based on responses to this questionnaire AND candidates' track record on issues related to walking; note that the Walk SF Board may choose to remain neutral on a particular candidate race.

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Scott Wiener

Candidate for: State Senate

Date: 7/22/16

Current job title and employer: Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco

How long have you lived in San Francisco? 20 years

PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

1. Please describe what role walking plays in your life.

As a progressive urbanist, walking coupled with public transportation are my two main modes of transportation. Furthermore, I cherish my walks between City Hall and my home in the Castro. Even on my busiest days, I know, that I will be able to get valuable exercise as well as "clear my head" during that commute.

BIG PICTURE

2. Describe your vision of a healthy, safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for the city and the role that walking plays in that vision.

Please see my answer in question 3 below.

3. What are your priorities if elected as State Senator, and where does transportation and walking in your priorities?

Housing: I push to reform our approach to housing and ensure that we have enough housing for our growing population. I will work in the State Senate to move us toward smarter housing policy and smart growth. On the Board of Supervisors, I obtained significant funding for affordable housing, authored legislation to incentivize developers to increase the amount of affordable housing they include in their developments, and authored legislation to streamline the permitting process for

affordable housing. I authored multiple pieces of legislation to allow property owners to add in-law units in their buildings, since in-law units are the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing, as well as legislation making it easier for universities to build student housing and legislation allowing for smaller studios (so-called "micro-units"). I also authored legislation to keep tenants stable in their housing, including a requirement that all tenants receive formal notice before a landlord seeks a permit to demolish their apartments, a prohibition on universities purchasing rent-controlled apartments and converting them to student dorms, and a system making it easier for tenants displaced by disasters to obtain affordable temporary housing while their units are being fixed.

Transportation: I am a leading advocate for investing in public transportation and expanding our transit systems' capacity and reliability. Increasing investment in transit will be a major priority for me in Sacramento. I was named "Most Active Transportation Reformer" by Streetsblog, and the San Francisco Chronicle observed that I "have made a mission of getting Muni on track." I authored Proposition B, a successful ballot measure that ties transit funding to population growth, and I authored legislation to ensure that developers pay transit impact fees to account for the transportation impacts of their projects. I authored legislation to create a late night transit plan and legislation to make it easier to access car sharing. I work hard to expand bike sharing, improve bike infrastructure generally, and streamline the process to implement bike and pedestrian safety projects. On a regional level, I represent San Francisco on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. I am helping move forward the effort to plan for and fund a second Transbay tube for BART (including 24 hour BART service), modern and electrified Caltrain service, and future high speed rail service. I helped negotiate a regional agreement to ensure that high speed rail extends to the Transbay Transit Center in downtown San Francisco.

Health: I focus extensively on access to healthcare and smart public health policy. I'm a leading voice at City Hall to support people living with or at risk for HIV. I obtained significant funding to avoid HIV funding cuts and expand access to services. I am a member of the Getting to Zero Consortium, which has formulated a plan to end HIV infections in San Francisco. I also work to address the growing epidemics of type 2 diabetes and tooth decay, including links with sugary beverages. I helped lead the effort to adopt a soda tax in San Francisco, with funds dedicated to nutrition, physical activity, and health programs. I authored legislation to increase the tobacco purchase age to 21. I am a vocal supporter of ensuring that children are vaccinated, and I fought efforts by insurance companies to charge exorbitant and unaffordable drug co-pays. Exercise is a key component to our residents' health. And walking is an exercise in which all communities can participate.

Public Education: I work closely with the San Francisco Unified School District and individual public schools to improve education in San Francisco. For example, I obtained funding for after-school programs, improved access in schools to water bottle filling stations, and better support for LGBT students. I consistently support improved school funding and work closely with parents and teachers on a regular basis.

Environment and Open Space: I have made innovative and aggressive proposals to increase environmental sustainability, and I'm proud to have the endorsement of the California League of Conservation Voters. I will pursue an aggressive environmental sustainability in Sacramento, focusing on smart water policy, clean energy, and transit. I authored legislation to expand the use of Hetch Hetchy clean hydro-electric power in new developments and legislation to require that new

developments install water recycling systems and solar panels. I've taken the lead in protecting San Francisco's urban forest and am working on funding solutions to ensure better maintenance of trees, as well as planting more trees. I've authored several pieces of legislation to preserve open space and create new parks.

Supporting Working People: I have a long history working with organized labor to make sure that working men and women can survive and thrive in our city and our region. I have authored multiple pieces of legislation to strengthen our prevailing wage requirements. I am currently authoring legislation to make San Francisco the first city in the country to guarantee all workers six fully paid weeks of paid parental leave. In Sacramento, I will continue to support working people.

LGBT Community: As a gay man and representative of the Castro, support for the LGBT community is a high priority for me. I authored groundbreaking legislation to create a bill of rights for LGBT seniors in long-term care facilities and am currently authoring legislation to require data collection around LGBT seniors in city-funded programs. I've obtained significant funding for housing for at-risk LGBT youth, to expand access by LGBT people to San Francisco's affordable housing program, and to address the needs of LGBT seniors experiencing dementia or isolation. I played a key role in pressuring our Department of Public Health to provide full health benefits to transgender residents under San Francisco's universal health care program.

4. Have you championed initiatives that are in line with Walk San Francisco's mission of making walking in San Francisco safe, so that our community is healthier and livable?

I recently sponsored a ¼% sales tax that has significant funding for Vision Zero. My opponent, Jane Kim voted against this measure. My 2014 Charter Amendment, Prop B, had dedicated funding for pedestrian safety. As a Supervisor, I authored and the City passed a series of pedestrian safety legislation. Furthermore, I have consistently fought for wider sidewalks and narrower street widths to make streets safer for pedestrians (ie the Castro street scape project).

5. What would you do to address the State's contribution to transportation funding, which has been steadily declining over the last few decades leaving local tax payers to fill the gaps, and/or resulting in sub-par transportation systems in communities across the state?

As a Supervisor, I authored the 2014 Prop B Charter Amendment that guaranteed funding for San Francisco's public transportation. There has been no bigger champion of securing funding and investing in the Bay Area's public transportation system.

As a state senator, I will continue to champion funding for public transportation. I specifically support split-role Prop 13 reform, returning Vehicle Licensing Fee to its historical levels and renewing Prop 30. I strongly support a portion earmarking a portion of these revenues for public transportation

VISION ZERO

6. The most dangerous transportation behavior in the city is speed, as it exponentially increases a victim's risk of injury or death. Two key strategies that have effectively reduced speeds in other states and countries are automated speed cameras and decreased speed limits. Unfortunately, the State of California doesn't permit automated speed enforcement and only allows speeds lower than 25 mph in limited school zones. Do you support these strategies? If so, how will you work to change these laws so the City can use these strategies to save lives?

I am open to any and all ideas that increase pedestrian safety.

7. If elected, what steps would you take to ensure that Vision Zero issues in San Francisco are prioritized in the State Capital? What policy issues would you champion related to traffic safety and justice (in addition to any of the policies listed above, if applicable)?

Everyone deserves safe streets for walking. A well funded public transportation system will go a long way to get people out of their cars and make streets less congested and safer for pedestrians.

WALKABILITY/WALKING MODE INCREASE

8. The State established a goal to double walking trips by 2020 (from 2015 baseline). What would you do to help San Francisco (and other communities) realize this goal?

I will promote Vision Zero to encourage people to walk more. Furthermore, I will support legislation that widens sidewalks and other pedestrian safety measures to make walking a more attractive alternative.

OTHER

9. Is there anything else you'd like to share with the people of San Francisco, all of whom walk or travel with an assistive device at some point?

I am committed to the Vision Zero goals for all people. As state senator, I will advocate for pedestrian safety for all community members. People who walk with an assistive device are helped by wider sidewalks, great public transportation, and traffic calming measures. I will continue my advocacy for all of these issues in Sacramento.