



2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - STATE ASSEMBLY

Instructions: Please provide brief responses to the following 9 questions by Wednesday, August 17, 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: David Chiu

Candidate for: State Assembly, District 17

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Current job title and employer: Assemblymember, California State Assembly

How long have you lived in San Francisco? 20 years

PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

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

Walking plays a vital role in my daily life. While I usually bicycle to and from the Capitol when I'm in Sacramento, I make many short walking trips in and around the statehouse for meetings and events. I also walk often throughout San Francisco's neighborhoods. I value walking as a way to exercise and stay mobile, even when my days are packed with meetings, votes and events. However, I now have a new reason for walking: my five and a half month old son. Whether I'm bringing him to events in a baby carrier or calming him to sleep, walking is a chance to connect with my boy and I am always grateful for it.

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.

San Francisco deserves a world-class transportation system that is safe, convenient, reliable and environmentally-friendly. I believe that one of our key transportation foundations is the Transit First policy enshrined in San Francisco's Charter - with transit

inclusive of walking and bicycling. Facilitating transit, bicycling and walking should be our first lense when we make policy and funding decisions. Vision Zero adds to Transit First by putting safety at the center of our transportation system. Since every great city in the world is a walkable city, walking must be central to our transportation vision. And we must always remember that every trip - to transit, to a car, to a bike or to a home, school or workplace - includes a walking trip.

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

In my first term in the Assembly, as chair of the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee, my top priority has been - and will continue to be - addressing the affordable housing crisis that afflicts our city, region, and state. But transportation has definitely been a top policy priority for me, as it was during my time on the Board of Supervisors. My bills so far, and my continued work with San Francisco and Sacramento transportation advocates, demonstrate my commitment.

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?

In my first year in office, I championed AB 1287, which in its original form included provisions to expand the ability of the SFMTA to enforce "block the box" violations with forward facing cameras on Muni buses. I appreciated the support of WalkSF in that effort, and look forward to restarting that effort in the future. This year, proposed after a horrific tour bus crash in Union Square that injured 20 people, my AB 1574 seeks to improve tour bus safety by eliminating so-called "ghost buses" that are not registered with the state regulatory agency and therefore avoid inspections. My staff and I have engaged closely with transportation advocates in Sacramento and look forward to working on more transportation bills in the coming years.

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?

I have been a strong advocate for passing revenue measures at the state level to increase transportation funding. I introduced a bill in the Transportation Special Session to raise the sales tax on diesel fuel to raise much-needed resources, and also support using cap & trade funding for sustainable transportation initiatives. I will continue to work with my colleagues and legislative leaders to push for a broad transportation funding solution.

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 have been a strong supporter of Vision Zero since it was proposed in San Francisco during my service on the Board of Supervisors. I support Automated Speed Enforcement, believe it is potentially the most important Vision Zero strategy, and am looking closely at sponsoring it in the next legislative session. Since taking office, I have been working with ASE advocates in San Francisco as well as the SFMTA to develop and implement a strategy for passing this bill. It will be an enormous challenge given the numerous opponents and the repeated failed attempts to pass such a policy in the past, but I look forward to the effort. I also support allowing local jurisdictions like San Francisco to lower speed limits for 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)?

As of now, there is very little awareness in Sacramento of Vision Zero as a policy framework. I will continue to talk to my colleagues and do anything I can to increase

awareness and support of it in Sacramento. I support efforts to get the California League of Cities to adopt Vision Zero. I am open to pursuing a wide variety of policies to improve traffic safety and justice - from increased funding for walk-friendly projects to reforming Caltrans to put pedestrians at the center of transportation policy and design decisions.

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?

Pursuing all of the policies above - and in particular Vision Zero - and making significant investments in pedestrian-friendly infrastructure will help us realize this goal. But we will also need a cultural shift to encourage people to have a greater appreciation of the health and well-being benefits of walking.

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 making our city more walkable and bikeable and to improving our public transportation system. It has been an honor to represent the people of San Francisco in the State Assembly. I've worked hard to deliver solutions to the issues facing San Franciscans, including traffic safety and transit. We've made a good start, but the work is certainly not done. I hope to continue this fight for San Francisco in my next term and respectfully ask for the support of WalkSF.