



## 2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE - STATE SENATE

**Instructions:** Please provide brief responses to the following 9 questions by **Wednesday, August 17, 2016, and return via email to [nicole@walksf.org](mailto: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: Phil Ting \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for: State Assembly, District 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 8/18/16 \_\_\_\_\_

Current job title and employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Assemblymember, California State Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in San Francisco? \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL WALKING EXPERIENCE

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

*I appreciate how walkable San Francisco and its neighborhoods are. I often walk from my home to businesses on Irving and Noriega Streets as well as up to Golden Gate Park to enjoy a day with my family. In Sacramento, the topography is mercifully flat, so I regularly walk to meetings and events in the Capitol area.*

### 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.

*We deserve a system that integrates BART with MUNI buses and light rail in a way that make sense. We should be sure that transit stations and vehicle stops have good pedestrian access. In order to ensure that our transportation systems have good pedestrian access, we must implement Vision Zero. Walking is the simplest and most equitable form of transportation, so we must work to build walkable communities.*

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

*My priorities in the Assembly are to increase funding for education at all levels and make higher education more affordable for everyone, create more good-paying jobs in 21<sup>st</sup> century industries like clean energy and electric vehicles, ensuring that everyone is entitled to his or her civil rights regardless of race or language spoken, and making state government more accessible for those it serves.*

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 2013, I authored and passed AB 707, which increases speed warning signage around senior centers, helping to protect an especially vulnerable population of pedestrians. In 2015, I authored and passed AB 40, which prohibits those who walk across our state's bridges from having to pay a toll. Walk San Francisco was an essential partner in passing that legislation. Additionally, I am the author of this year's AB 1677, which would develop standards for inspections that would ensure that the tour buses that roam our city's streets are in safe working order. After the unfortunate death of a city worker in the crosswalk in front of City Hall and the injury of several pedestrians near Union Square by a runaway tour bus, these inspection regimens are desperately needed. This bill has passed the Legislature and is awaiting Governor Brown's signature; Walk San Francisco's support was very helpful in moving it through the legislative process. I also authored AB 2428, which enables San Francisco to lease Caltrans-owned spaces underneath highways at below market rate in order to develop green spaces, parks and recreational facilities, thus creating more spaces for walking in the city. Though that bill will not be moving forward through the legislative process, I will continue to find creative approaches to make San Francisco more walkable and our transportation more sustainable.*

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?

*The Legislature is currently working on a comprehensive transportation package that will direct additional funding to transportation projects, and as chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, I am working to be sure it contains funding for active transportation, including walking and biking.*

### 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 had several conversations with organizations such as yourself and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition about possible ASE legislation. I remain open to the possibility of sponsoring such legislation, but we will need to continue to work together to address serious concerns related to technological integrity, privacy of our citizens and due process that are critical when implementing automated traffic enforcement. As for changes in speed limits, I am open to discussing possible legislation with organizations such as yourselves.*

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)?

*In addition to the legislation I described in Question 4, I am open to discussing additional legislative ideas to help San Francisco and every city in California improve pedestrian safety.*

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?

*The Legislature is working on a long-term transportation infrastructure plan; I will work to include funding to upgrade pedestrian infrastructure. Additionally, I am happy to work with Walk San Francisco and related organizations across the state to promote walking in the community.*

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?

*It has been a pleasure to represent the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly District for four years. I have appreciated the working relationship that I have had with Walk San Francisco during my first two terms. I hope to continue our work to make our streets safer in my third term.*