

"The polarization of politics — NIMBY vs. YIMBY, techies vs. arts, and everyone pointing blame instead of working together — is holding San Francisco back. What will you do to bring people together and foster real community?"

London Breed

Too often in this era of social media and fractured media environment, we focus on what separates us, not on what unites us. San Franciscans love their city. They feel pride in who we are and what we stand for. Even when we have disagreements, we have opportunities to unite around that shared love and pride.

That starts with doing more to bring people together. During COVID, so many of us were locked up and away from each other, which exacerbated divisions. One of my goals over the last two years as we've really emerged from this pandemic has been to create more joyful public spaces where people can gather. We've funded public events, including concerts, activations, festivals and night markets that allow the community to come together in our neighborhoods to remember what unites us. I've passed legislation to eliminate fees and barriers to these kinds of events from happening because I want our local community to have the ability to put on their own events without having to deal with the permitting, costs, and bureaucracy. Over the last year, as so many of these events, many city-funded, have come together, it's been a true joy to see San Franciscans gathering together and celebrating.

That doesn't mean we don't have disagreements and there isn't room for robust policy debates. As an elected leader, I strive to lead by example, to set the tone for respectful conversations and even disagreements. Healthy public dialogue and debate is essential to our democracy whether it takes place at the national, state or local level. Here in San Francisco we have a long history of activism and public debate that we are proud of and even foster. As Mayor, it is my job to ensure every person feels safe in our city and has the protected right to demonstrate peacefully and voice their opinions. However, we do not tolerate hate speech, violence or threats of violence. When free speech turns to hate speech, threats or intimidation that is unacceptable behavior we will not tolerate as a city.

What matters most to me is that people feel heard, valued, and supported. I am proud of the relationships I have built across this city from growing, learning and working here my entire life. In this race, I have support from people who have been opposed to a number of policies I've worked on in the past because they know that when we align, we can work together. I even have support from people who have run for office against me because I know that one political race does not define a person. It's the work they are willing to do to improve our city. One of my first actions as Mayor was to appoint someone to the Community College Board, Ivy Lee, who had worked for one of my opponents in the 2018 mayoral race. I didn't care that Ivy was aligned with one of my former opponents — I cared about the work she was committed to doing. That's the approach I take every day. I work closely with people to hear their thoughts and share my own, and as Mayor I will continue to do so.

Daniel Lurie

The constant finger-pointing and excuse-making need to stop. When I am Mayor, I will take full accountability for what happens. A mayor has more power and influence than many voters have been led to believe by the rhetoric coming out of the current office.

Throughout my career, I have been a coalition builder who brings people together to find common ground and get big things done such as building affordable housing and shelter with a unanimous vote from the Board of Supervisors, and a Superbowl that brought \$240 million in economic activity to the region. Where that's not possible, a good leader is willing to be bold and spend political and social capital on what matters most to them. The petty fights that define today's City Hall have done nothing to make progress on public safety, the drug crisis, homelessness, and housing.

I have a proven track record of bringing people together around even the hardest issues our society faces, speaking truth to power, and finding a way forward collaboratively.

Aaron Peskin

We may disagree, especially during election season, about the best way to move San Francisco forward, but when it comes time to govern, we must put that bickering aside and do what is best for the voters and tax-payers for whom we work.

I am proud of my track record of bringing together elected leaders and stakeholders from every corner of the city. Prop M, the tax reform measure which I authored with the Mayor and Big Tent stakeholders, is a prime example. We were able to create consensus around balancing tax reforms to both help small businesses AND keep our largest employers in San Francisco—always a difficult challenge. I will be a Mayor for the entire city, and continue to work with elected leaders, community leaders, business, labor and all interest groups to forge consensus on key issues.

Mark Farrell

I don't believe in YIMBY vs. NIMBY or progressive vs. moderate—I believe in results.

I'm running for Mayor to get San Francisco back on track by focusing on the basics: safe neighborhoods, clean streets, and a thriving economy.

I have a proven track record of working across the aisle and with diverse stakeholders to deliver impactful results for San Francisco. From working with my progressive colleagues to pass historic policy to compel treatment for the most severely mentally ill, to strengthen owner-move-in protections, to expanding ADUs that were subject to rent control citywide - I know what it takes to get things done.

I am committed to listening to the people of San Francisco and working together to help our City thrive. I will launch a Mayoral "Listening Tour," a series of community town halls in every Supervisorial District in my first 100-days, to listen directly to residents and businesses about their priorities and concerns.