

SEIU Questionnaire for Endorsement 2011

Candidate Name: Terry Baum

Occupation: Playwright/Performer/Social Activist

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Office Being Sought: Mayor

Are you the Incumbent? No

If so, or how long? n/a

What is your Political Party: Green

Campaign Identification: Green

Campaign Headquarters: San Francisco Green Party

Address: 288 Onandaga Ave. #4

City/Zip Code: San Francisco CA, 94112

Telephone:

Campaign Manager:

Name: Thom Goldkuhle

Telephone: 415-206-1951

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Campaign Consultant:

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Amount to be Raised: \$30,000

1. Why are you running for office?

I believe the election of a Green Mayor would transform the political culture of this country. It would send a message that we are no longer satisfied with just the crumbs falling off the table. In other words, tax the rich – duh. I'm also deeply shocked and moved by the plight of the immigrant "wage slaves" in San Francisco.

2. Have you ever been part of a union? If so, which union and for how long?

The Dramatist's Guild, for 31 years

3. Have you ever crossed a picket line? Please explain.

No.

4. Can you commit to protecting public sector workers against contracting out?

Yes.

Please explain your thoughts on contracting out.

I believe that government employees provide the highest quality and most efficient services.

Contracting out is a way for the government to save money by allowing private companies to take over. This is leading to lower-paid workers, non-Union companies and nonprofit organizations, and no pensions.

5. Is it your belief that when the City of San Francisco does contract with outside companies, that there should be a priority given for union firms whether they be for-profit or non-profit?

Yes.

Please explain.

Whether for-profit or non-profit, I would always give preference to union firms over non-union firms. The city of SF has a long tradition of being a Union city. We should honor it by promoting the effort of workers who have unionized and are collectively bargaining for better work conditions and wages.

6. In tough economic times, budget deficits necessitate difficult choices including cuts. What is your budget philosophy on budget cuts? What programs should be cut first and which should be made last?

All proposals for cuts should be analyzed thoroughly. Each budget cut cycle there is money found to make up for the proposed cuts. San Francisco is one of the richest

cities in the world, and we can do better financially by working with the community, Unions, and businesses.

When we have to make the decisions, I believe that revenue cuts should be progressive from the poorest to the richest; and in regards to health and social services, the poorest should be given the most credence in maintaining services for them.

7. What has been your relationship with SEIU?

I have admired the SEIU's activist stance. You are willing to join with community organizations to fight against budget cuts to social and health services.

8. Please describe the relationship you intend to have with SEIU?

I would strive to create a rapport that would consistently promote union values in creating a sustainable public sector here in The City.

SEIU is the largest Union in SF and represents the majority of the public workers. It is also growing in representation of nonprofit workers. It is a Union intricately tied to much of the workings of local government, and I would be ready to work with their leaders through all obstacles ahead.

9. Who have you endorsed for Board of Supervisors and School Board since 2006?

I have volunteered for the campaigns of both Mark Sanchez and Rafael Mandelman when they ran for Supervisor.

10. SEIU 1021 workers have been under attack for several years. One of the ugliest tactics has been mass-scale lay-offs of specific job classifications, and re-offering the same job duties with a new title and 6.25-25% less pay. What is your position on this tactic and Will you be willing to work with 1021 to uphold comparable worth in San Francisco and reverse past policies that have caused erosion of wealth of workers of color (deskilling)?

I believe the tactic in laying off then re-hiring at a lower wage and re-classification as reprehensible, and would be willing to work with 1021 to bring the standards of minority workers to a level that is comparable to employees in other work sectors in The City.

11. What in the past have you done to improve the health care system in San Francisco?

Quite frankly, I cannot think of anything.

12. What is your position on the city providing workforce training for laid off workers to give them the opportunity to move to vacant positions in other occupations.

I believe that they should have first crack at the position providing that they are qualified and willing to do on-the-job training, if needed.

13. Will you be willing to work with the African-American community to address the issue of Black flight from San Francisco? And have you participated in organization related to this issue?

I would strongly support and work with the African-American community to create policy that can help counter gentrification and "Black flight" from San Francisco. I see increased affordable housing as a large part of this effort. I have worked with activists in Bayview/Hunters Point to shut down the PG&E plant. I have participated in demonstrations, I have spoken at demonstrations, and I have spoken on panels about this issue.

LOCAL SERVICES

1) Please describe the circumstances under which you would support creation of any new tax preferences, i.e. tax "breaks", what kinds of accountability you would require to prevent abuse and how would you propose to pay for them.

Each year local government asks education, health, and human services industries to take budget cuts. While this happens, I cannot support a tax "break" for the wealthy or corporations. Instead, I support working with the community to explore and establish achievable revenue and tax measures that are fair and just. I would like to dump the payroll tax and institute a general receipts tax on businesses that could be very progressive.

If and when other branches of local government decide to pass tax "breaks", I would fight for fairness, accountability, and transparency in such legislation. Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Ed Lee just created a troubling and unfair payroll tax "break" for companies like Twitter to move into downtown. The Green Party took a position with the rest of the SF grassroots community, including SEIU 1021, and opposed this. I would continue this position from the community as your Mayor.

2) Do you support or oppose a return to majority vote standard to approve local government special taxes and bond measures?

Definitely a 50% +1 majority; for relying on a 2/3rd majority has always resulted in a Republican minority to override the Democratic majority's ability to raise taxes and revenues.

3) Name your top three budget priorities.

1. REVENUE. REVENUE. REVENUE. We must create short-term and long-term revenue plans. I would work with the public workers Unions and community organizations out there who are engaging the public on achievable revenue measures that can go through both City Hall and the ballot. Some new possibilities for revenue: A. A City-owned bank in which the city would deposit all pension funds,

thus keeping the profit to be invested in San Francisco (this would require a change in the charter); B. A downtown transit assessment district, which would charge a fee to all businesses in the downtown area which benefits disproportionately from MUNI; C. A progressive income tax, which could be legal if it was applied to, not people who live in San Francisco, but people who make money in San Francisco.

2 Securing Local funding for our Education, Health and Human Services, affordable housing, and also our Public workers Pension system.

3 Engaging the state budget process to protect our Courts and all affected public sectors and their workers in San Francisco.

4) What revenues do you support on the November ballot?
I don't know of any revenue measures on the ballot.

5) Do you support Adachi's measure?
No I don't.

HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

1. What would you do to increase access to affordable, quality health care for all Californians?

I fully support current legislation at the state level. Our program in San Francisco is a clear example of this program being able to benefit all Californians. But ultimately, we must have national single-payer health care. I would urge mayors to band together to lobby for this from the Federal government. A lot of the pension issue is a health insurance issue, and would be resolved by Single Payer.

2. What do you think is the County's role and responsibility for the delivery of health care services in the county?

It is its duty to promote and manage well our successful universal health care program. It is also our duty to keep our hospitals and clinics well-funded. By respecting the workers, the backbone of our public health system in SF, we have the best head start towards keeping our system fully functioning and ready for future needs. Funding is key to keeping health services enough to meet our city's needs.

3. Do you support or oppose hospital caregivers having a voice in staffing decisions at hospitals?

I believe and support the fact that caregivers should have a choice in the staffing process.

4. Non-profit hospitals are exempted from paying property taxes as well as other city and county fees, and in return are expected to provide other tangible benefits to the community. Yet many of these hospitals are failing to meet acceptable forms of community benefit, including charity care contributions to the uninsured. If elected, what kind of public oversight and accountability measures would you actively and publicly support?

There are certain things out there I could go after with the help of the community and

Labor. Negotiating, applying, and enforcing Community Benefits Agreements is one avenue I would strongly support. I would also support all legislation forcing these hospitals to attend to patients under Healthy San Francisco insurance and MediCal. These patients are often referred to the public hospitals and clinics, and it is creating a strain on them. If a nonprofit hospital is in San Francisco, it must also attend to the needs of all San Franciscans, regardless of insurance coverage.

5. If elected, would you actively support proposals to increase state funding to upgrade public hospitals and clinic infrastructures?

Yes, I would.

6. What would you do to decrease caseload levels for DPSS and DCFS workers?
I would work with their corresponding agencies to provide caseload information that I can use to promote more funding for these services. I believe that with help of the corresponding departments, the Unions, and local and state government we can create a long-term plan for better funding of these programs. This would allow more staffing and smaller, more manageable caseloads for each worker.

7. Would you support or oppose efforts to lift state and federal caps on funding and dollar matches relating to homecare worker's wages?

I believe that homecare worker's wages are much lower than they should be, thus I support in lifting the caps in making sure they can get paid more.

8. Would you be willing to allocate County money to provide benefits for homecare workers, such as healthcare, retirement benefits, sick pay, etc.?

Yes.

9. Would you actively support efforts to improve the payroll system for homecare workers (CMIPs) so that they would be paid on time and be able to receive sick pay and benefits?

Yes I fully support an effective payroll system; an inefficient payroll system is no excuse to not pay workers on a timely matter.

10. Would you support or oppose efforts to improve access and increase funding for training and referrals as well as to develop career ladders to attract more workers to the industry?

I would be in support of all of these efforts.

Education

1. Do you support or oppose school vouchers?

I oppose school vouchers.

2. What do you see as your role as a Mayor in relation to the School District?

I would work with all parties involved. I would also respect the autonomy and decisions of the School Board, yet be ready to extend myself to the community (parents, educators, children, Unions and workers).

PROPERTY SERVICES

1. As Mayor, would you be willing to encourage building owners, the true controllers of the building service economy, to provide livable wages and benefits to the janitors, window cleaners and security officers who service their buildings?

Yes I would.

2. Would you ensure that all buildings owned by the county and leased to private entities use unionized janitors and security officers? Such as convention centers that are in a public-private partnership with the County? Please explain what you will do to ensure that the County chooses responsible union companies.

As Mayor, I would ensure it under this power as much possible. When the decision lies in other branches of local government, I will do my best to encourage Union hiring and will work with Unions to fight for their workers to get these jobs.

3. Will you ensure that only responsible contractors are used for services overseen by the county?

Yes.

4. Would you publicly support or oppose card check recognition and neutrality agreements for security officers, hospital & healthcare workers, janitors and other property services workers?

Yes, I would support card check. It is the fair thing to do when workers want to Unionize and affiliate to an official Union.

OTHER ISSUES

Which of the following actions would you take to support workers engaged in union activity such as bargaining and organizing?

YES NO

- Walk picket lines
- Mediate with employers
- Write letters of support
- Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law
- Hold a press conference
- Speak at rallies

Additional actions or comments:

1. Would you cross a picket line?

YES NO

With one exception, if I had to attend a Board of Supervisors Meeting/Emergency Meeting

2. If elected, which of the following will you commit to for the purpose of building a

strong working relationship with SEIU?

YES NO

- Call for and welcome SEIU input on relevant policy matters
- Attend SEIU leadership and worksite meetings
- Work with SEIU to develop legislative proposals
- Ensure direct access to you and your staff
- Work to appoint qualified union members to appropriate Boards and Commissions

Initiatives/Civil Rights

1. What is your position on federalizing sheriff's deputies with respect to enforcement of federal immigration law? What have you done or plan to do publicly to support your position?

I believe in Sanctuary City status for immigrants and am against federalizing sheriff's deputies; for I believe that Homeland In-Security is far too overreaching,

2. Do you support or oppose the general legalization of immigrants currently living in this country?

I fully support the general legalization of immigrants currently living in this country.

3. Is there anything else you believe is important for the members of SEIU to know about you and your campaign?

As a lesbian playwright I've been a lifelong advocate for LGBT Rights and would continue my advocacy in the political realm.

CANDIDATE PLEDGE – SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO CHOOSE A UNION

Section 923 of California's Labor Code states it is the public policy of this state that "It is necessary that the individual workman have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives...."

Employers have the power to fire, promote, change work assignments and other wise reward and punish their workers. There are many responsible employers who respect the rights of their workers and obey the law. Unfortunately, many employers abuse their power in the workplace to deny their workers the right to freely choose a voice on the job by joining a union and bargaining contracts determining the terms and conditions of their employment.

Each year workers seeking to organize a union in their workplace are fired although the law says this is illegal. After years of litigation, employers are required to rehire these workers and pay back wages minus any income the worker earned after being fired. Employers pay no other penalty. Workers receive no compensation for the harm done to their lives and careers. And unions receive no compensation for the impact of such illegal activities on their organizing drives.

Even after workers overcome employer interference and vote for a union many

employers then refuse to bargain a contract in good faith.

SEIU asks you as a candidate and elected official to exert moral leadership and to actively support public policies that protect the right of workers to freely choose a voice on the job by participating in a union and to bargaining with their employers.

As a candidate and elected official I hereby pledge: 1.

To publicly support and actively encourage workers who are organizing a union with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

2.

To publicly support and actively encourage the position that workers should be able to freely choose for themselves whether they want to gain a voice on the job by unionizing without the intimidating effects of any employer interference. This includes publicly supporting and encouraging employers to remain neutral on the question of unionization.

3.

To publicly support and actively encourage the position that no taxpayer money should be spent interfering with the right of workers to freely choose a union.

4.

To publicly support and actively encourage a fair and fast process for determining worker support for unionization including secret ballot election or card check recognition.

5.

To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate an agreement with the union within 90 days after the majority of workers express their choice in favor of forming a union.

6.

To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate good faith collective bargaining agreements with their workers and to abide by the terms of those agreements.

Signature: Terry Joan Baum

Date: July 23, 2011

Print Name: Terry Joan Baum