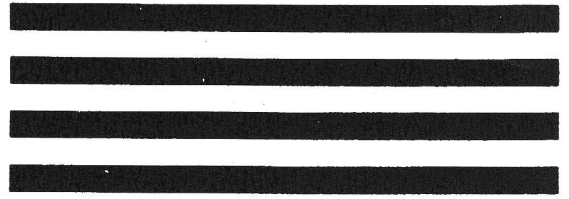


GAYVOTE



NEWS FROM THE HARVEY MILK GAY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

FEBRUARY 1983

Should we endorse the Recall?

Yes

By John Mehring

In coming to a decision regarding the April 26 recall of Mayor Feinstein we cannot separate the outcome of the election with the choices offered to us in November's mayoral election. Simply put, progressives won't have an opportunity to participate in a debate which includes our concerns and commitments this fall—indeed we won't even have a candidate to support—if Feinstein wins the recall by a substantial margin. Therefore, the attempt to recall the mayor should revolve around opening up the political process by sending an unmistakable message that a significant part of the electorate—possibly even a majority—no longer maintains confidence in Feinstein or her policies.

And what about the process of recall itself? Many progressives who energetically oppose Mayor Feinstein's policies and practices seem unable to get beyond the anti-populist propaganda issued by politicians more interested in retaining office than pursuing a progressive agenda. The recall, it's said, is an improper use of the electoral process. Concerned and activist citizens, however, have more faith in the City Charter than the politicians. The recall is a

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No

By San Franciscans for Responsible Elections

If you are still undecided or have already decided to support the Recall of Mayor Dianne Feinstein on April 26, please take the time to consider the following:

Where were you in October 1969? Dianne Feinstein, running for Supervisor for the first time, sensed the need to respond to the concerns of San Francisco's growing gay community. She was a political outsider at the time. Most politicians considered the "gay vote" too insignificant to take a chance on. She took that chance, but not out of pragmatism or political expediency. Dianne Feinstein believed sincerely that all San Franciscans deserved to be heard at City Hall. One of San Francisco's pioneering gay groups, The Society for Individual Rights, endorsed her. Dianne Feinstein finished first in the race.

Where were you in July 1971? Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors introducing historic legislation which, when passed, would prohibit discrimination against gays on the basis of sexual orientation. The legislation she proposed would cover the hiring practices of the City and any firm

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Later

By Gwenn Craig

One of the most difficult issues ever to face our Club is now before us: the recall of Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Not only the leadership and members of the Club, but the lesbian and gay community, is of varying minds as to the direction we should take on this loaded question. Our action should be carefully considered and well-informed, taken only when the maximum amount of information is available from which to draw conclusions. Above all, our decision must be based on the wisest course for the lesbian and gay community.

Mayor Feinstein has been a major disappointment for this Club, and little question exists that her record on progressive issues does not warrant continued support for her re-election in November. When she appeared before us for our endorsement in 1979, the Mayor made a number of promises which have not been kept, or have been given only the barest attention. Her most recent action vetoing the domestic partner legislation left us angry, and legitimately questioning her well-advertised but transparent support of lesbian and gay rights.

The question confronting us is how to best channel our anger at the Mayor's betrayal of our support. Retiring Dianne Feinstein from office does not assure us the Mayor we want, or that the highly charged politics of recall will not be used against our club

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This doesn't look like an easy choice.