

Peninsula Dog PAC Questionnaire

1. Do you have a dog? If so, where are your favorite places to walk your dog?

I grew up with dogs, and almost all of my friends have dogs. However, given that I live in a small place, spend a lot of time in Sacramento, and am not home much, I don't think it would be responsible for me to have a dog at this point in my life. I know, however, that I will adopt a dog at some point in my life.

2. Are there parks, open spaces, and/or trails in your district which: *(mark all that apply)*

(a) Do not allow dogs that you believe should allow dogs on-leash or off-leash? Yes

(b) Permit dogs on-leash, but you believe should allow dogs off-leash? Yes

(c) Allow dogs off-leash, but you believe should only permit dogs on-leash or not at all?

No

(d) Allow dogs on-leash, but you believe should not allow dogs at all? No

Please elaborate.

We need to ensure that dogs have strong access to recreational areas — local, state, and federal. When we are overly restrictive in where dogs can be, and where they can be off-leash, we simply cause over-crowding in the limited areas that are permitted. We saw this, for example, when our beach areas in San Francisco were closed a few years back due to tidal wave alerts and city parks, for example Stern Grove, immediately became over-crowded.

As a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors — my office before I was elected to the State Senate — I was a leading voice for robust dog access. I was the leading voice among San Francisco elected officials in fighting the National Park Service to oppose efforts to restrict dog access at GGNRA. I worked closely with advocates and other elected officials, passed resolutions, gave in-person testimony, directly advocated to federal officials, marched in protests, and otherwise provided leadership to prevent these restrictions.

I also was active in working through neighborhood disputes about dog access in parks, always ensuring that dogs were not driven out. I obtained funding for dog play areas, including upgrades to the Walter Haas Park Dog Play Area in Diamond Heights, where we installed artificial turf and otherwise improved the area.

As a State Senator, I've continued to be vocal in opposing efforts to drive dogs out of parks. This issue has been and will remain a priority for me.

3. What are your thoughts about allowing people and their dogs on leash access to California State Parks beyond the parking lot? Would you carry such legislation?

I would be open to carrying that legislation. Blanket dog access bans make no sense. See above for my lengthy history demanding dog access in federal parks.

4. Are you supportive of off-leash walking opportunities in Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and retaining the current off-leash dog walking at Fort Funston?

Yes, I am. As described above, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, I was a leading voice in opposition to the National Park Service's efforts to restrict dog access at GGNRA. For example: <https://missionlocal.org/2013/10/supervisor-wiener-calls-for-a-more-balanced-dog-walking-plan/>

5. Are you supportive of on-leash dog walking and some off-leash dog walking opportunities in San Mateo County parks in Senate District 11? (FYI: Currently San Mateo County allows 8% on-leash and 0% of its parks off-leash dog access; Mid-Peninsula Open Space allows 26% on leash and under 8% off leash)

Yes, I am. San Mateo County is too restrictive in dog access at county parks.

6. Is there anything else you would like voters to know about your position on recreational dog walking access?

I've long been a leader in advocating for the needs of dogs and their guardians. In addition to my advocacy around dog access in parks, I authored San Francisco's legislation to create standards and a permitting system for professional dog walkers (legislation broadly supported by the dog walker community and dog community more generally), and I championed increased budget allocations for San Francisco Animal Care and Control. I'll always be there for dogs and the other wonderful animals that make our lives better.

Scott Wiener
Printed Name

/s/ Scott Wiener
Signature

September 6, 2020
Date

Thank you for answering these questions. We plan on putting your answers on our website to make it easy for your constituents to view your positions.