

SAN FRANCISCO

AND THE BAY AREA

NIGHT ASHBURY VF

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2000

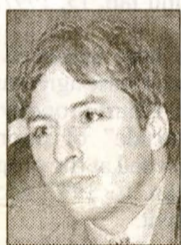
District Five

★ CAMPAIGN 2000 ★



BRANT WARD / The Chronicle

Along Haight Street in San Francisco's District 5, political signs jostle for attention with a pair of legs advertising a boutique.



Gonzalez



Hongisto



Jaicks



Konopka



Owens

Border to Border, District 5 A Liberal-Moderate Melange

Differing philosophies
will probably preclude any
hopeful winning outright

By Jonathan Curiel
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Chris Hirano laughs when he thinks about the distorted shape of San Francisco's District 5.

On a map, the supervisorial district looks like a discarded lamb bone, with jagged sections that incorporate the Inner Sunset, Parnassus Heights, Haight-Ashbury, Hayes Valley, Western Addition, Japantown and even Anza Vista.

In this district, Korean businesses near Pacific Heights are connected by electoral fiat to psychedelic shops on Haight Street.

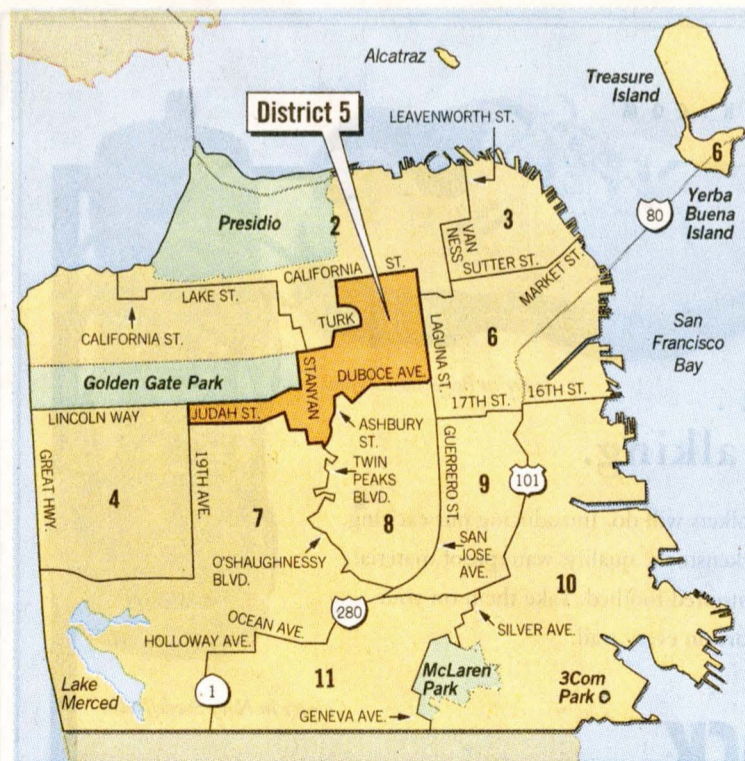
"I still don't know how they drew up these lines," said Hirano, director of community development for the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, whose headquarters is on Sutter Street at the northern edge of District 5. "It's such a cross section of the diversity of this city."

Election officials who created district boundaries in 1995 said they drew up District 5 by stitching together neighborhoods that historically have been liberal and moderate.

Rich DeLeon, a political science professor at San Francisco State University who helped sketch the district borders, said that it was "quite a task," and that "a problematic part of this district was putting together the more predominantly African American working-class (neighborhoods) with (areas) of white progressives."

"Over the last 10, 15, 20 years, blacks tend to align with progressive whites," DeLeon said. "On a whole range of issues, on the bread-and-butter issues like jobs, housing and education, there is a lot of agreement. But they're very opposite on things like supporting domestic partners or gay rights."

For this and other reasons, the district's vote could be spread evenly among many of the 10 men and one woman



Chronicle Graphic

who are running for the District 5 supervisor's seat Nov. 7.

The 11 candidates form a patchwork quilt of ideas and personalities.

Matt Gonzalez, a deputy public defender who ran for district attorney last year, entered the race after being encouraged by Supervisor Tom Ammann and others. Gonzalez is emphasizing a plan to create affordable housing, universal health care and better homeless services.

Richard Hongisto has publicly re-emerged in the district, touting his "independent" record as a former supervisor, former sheriff, former assessor and former police chief.

Agar Jaicks, a 76-year-old retired TV executive with long-time behind-the-scenes connections to the Democratic Party but no experience as an elected citywide official, is canvassing the area with his red-and-white brochures and a mes-

► MELANGE: Page A19 Col. 1

HOW TO DETERMINE YOUR DISTRICT

Still unsure which of the 11 new supervisors districts in San Francisco is yours?

You are not alone. The Department of Elections is undertaking a campaign to inform voters. Voters can call the department at (415) 554-4375 to learn what district they live in.

The department is also setting up a Web site, www.sfgov.org/election, that will tell voters their district and the location of their polling place.

By the end of September, the city will start mailing the voters information pamphlet, which will contain the same information for every voter.

With Vote Spread Evenly, Runoff Expected in District 5

► MELANGE

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sage of activism.

Juanita Owens is stressing her experience as a school board member and a dean at City College of San Francisco, telling residents at the district's first candidates forum, "I always work toward inclusion. ... That's my management style."

Mayor Willie Brown has endorsed both Owens and Jaicks, although the mayor's approval may not mean much in a district that voted strongly for Ammiano in last year's mayoral election.

How liberal is District 5? During the first debate, residents jeered and hissed when the moderator said Bank of America was a sponsor.

Traditionally, the district is politically active, with more registered voters than any other San Francisco district — and yet the November election hasn't seemed to galvanize residents.

At one of the district's epicenters, Haight and Ashbury, few of the nearby homes and apartments have political signs in the windows. In fact, the most common sign in the Haight these days is the one that says "For Sale" — a testament to the volatile real estate market.

Housing is an issue that all the district's candidates have been forced to address. Rent control has wide support among the supervisor hopefuls — not surprisingly, since renters make up a high percentage of voters in District 5.

At the first debate, all the candidates ridiculed the idea of putting up large apartment buildings in the district, saying those structures are better suited for the South of Market.

Among other housing ideas,

Gonzalez is calling for more city-sponsored cooperatives like St. Francis Square, the 300-unit development for moderate-income tenants in the Western Addition. The low-rise complex went up in 1963.

"It's a great thing to do," he said, "when you're talking about how to keep lower- and middle-income people in the neighborhood."

Candidate Joe Konopka, founder of the Haight-Ashbury group Residents Against Drugs, says legalized in-law units would increase the housing stock around San Francisco, including District 5.

And candidate Jay Bagi, a 37-year-old chef, is pushing a plan he says would create more transitional housing and apartments and condominiums in the floor space of downtown buildings.

Besides the lack of affordable housing, residents who have attended District 5 debates have complained about the Municipal Railway, the threat of chain-store



Palmer



Anderson



Bagi



Gaffney

DISTRICT 5 DEMOGRAPHICS

■ Total voters: 55,000, the most among the 11 districts.

■ Turnout in November 1998: 19,800, a number that ranked eighth as a percentage among the 11 districts. It was last in 1999 in the proportion of absentee voters.

■ It's a young district, ranking third in people ages 25 to 34 and last in those over 65.

■ It also ranks 10th in number of homeowners, with just 5,600 people owning rather than renting. It is also first among total households, with 51,000, showing that it has lots of young, single people.

■ District includes the Golden Gate Park Panhandle.

SOURCE: SOLEM & ASSOCIATES AND THE CHINESE AMERICAN VOTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



Turner



Barrett

Pelosi, Carole Migden and Harry Britt.

"I don't owe them — they owe me," said Jaicks, who is the oldest candidate running for supervisor.

Jaicks' strength has been one of the surprises in District 5. His critics call him the "safe candidate" because of his 30-year connection to Brown and his past chairmanship of the San Francisco Democratic Party.

Photographer and educator Holman Turner, 57, says he entered the race to do something about the violence that plagues the Western Addition's black areas.

"More than 30 African American men have (recently) been killed in the Western Addition," he said. "That's one reason I decided to run and give up my privacy."

Green Party advocate Rob Anderson, business owner Demian Barrett, public relations consultant Nicholas Gaffney and first-time candidate John Palmer round out the field in District 5.

Because there is a large field of candidates and little polling has been done, it's anyone's guess who District 5 will support for supervisor. There is little question there will be a runoff in December, and that there is still time for all the candidates to sway voters to their side.

"You really have to rely on the voters to get educated," Gonzalez said. "People have to take an interest and figure things out."

FOR DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AND PREVIOUS STORIES ON THE SUPERVISORIAL RACES, LOG ON TO WWW.SFGATE.COM/ELECTION2000.

E-mail Jonathan Curiel at jcuriel@sfgchronicle.com.

"More than 30 African American men have (recently) been killed in the Western Addition. That's one reason I decided to run and give up my privacy."

AGAR JAICKS, District 5 candidate

developments and the amount of crime that occurs in pockets of the district.

The Muni is a good example of how district elections are localizing city issues. Some residents in District 5 are campaigning for morning buses that start their routes in the district and then go downtown. As it is, residents say, they'll wait for a

31-Balboa, a 38-Geary, a 71-Haight-Noriega or a comparable bus, only to see them arrive full of passengers who got on in the Richmond and Sunset districts.

"That happens with all the lines that go downtown," said Rick Os-

mon, a member of the Western Addition Political Action Coalition. "They're all terrible for commuters."

Jaicks received the organization's endorsement after saying that he will not run for higher office if elected and that he is not beholden to his long list of endorsers, who include John Burton, Kevin Shelley, Nancy