

# SFLCV November 2020 Election Community College Board Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorsement process. Please limit answers to the below questions to 2-3 paragraphs at most (250 words). We are accepting responses until Friday August 28, 2020 at midnight. Please note that your responses will be posted publicly on our website at [www.sflcv.org](http://www.sflcv.org).

Please enter your contact info here (Name, District, Campaign contact, Phone, Email, FPPC#) \*

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### What are your qualifications for Community College Board Member? \*

My entire family attended City College and all of our lives have been transformed by it. When my father immigrated to San Francisco, he was laid off from his factory job. While my father attended City College to learn English, he also enrolled in the College's Chinatown culinary program, which allowed him to become a Local 2 union hotel cook at the Grand Hyatt and the sole provider of my family for two decades. The City College classes I took as a teenager with a low-income tuition waiver helped me graduate from UCSD when I was 19-years-old.

In my work as Education Policy Advisor for Supervisor Mar, I helped draft and advance the 'Free City College' legislation at the Board of Supervisors to secure a decade of Free City College. In partnership with City College, Sunset nonprofits, and local schools, I expanded City College into the Sunset District. I worked with students, AFT Local 2121, college trustees, administrators, and stakeholders to draft the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund in order to provide job training for workers, promote economic recovery, and bolster student wraparound services.

In March, my dad, like many service sector workers, was laid off from his hotel job at the Clift Hotel after COVID-19 hit. He's been unemployed since. I'm the sole provider for my family now and I believe that at this time of great challenges, City College can be that place of hope and opportunity again for people like my father.

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Given the unprecedented administrative turmoil of the past few years, what do you feel are the most important environmental initiatives City College should undertake?

In March 2020, voters approved the Proposition A bond for City College. This bond measure will fund the necessary improvement and environmental sustainability of City College campuses and facilities for years to come.

We must successfully invest the recently approved \$845 million dollar bond in an environmentally sustainable way to improve the quality learning environment for our students. We need to improve sustainability by installing solar panels, creating energy storage solutions, building energy efficient buildings, and increasing green energy sources. The new buildings must use as much renewable energy as possible, get as close to a zero-waste model, use nontoxic, ethical, and sustainable construction materials, incentivize sustainable transportation through design, and be designed, constructed, and operated with the environment in mind. The MUB (Multi-Use Building) when built, was rated LEED Gold, our new buildings should meet this or exceed to LEED Platinum ratings. In addition, we must repair and retrofit our college campus facilities, such as fixing leaky roofs, drafty windows, poorly insulated classrooms, removing asbestos and mold, and updating electrical, security, emergency communication, fire/life safety systems, and improving disabled access, safety, and lighting.

We must also ensure that we take into consideration environmental sustainability, green energy sources, and energy efficiency as we rebuild the Ocean childcare, student success center, workforce training facilities, and a new STEAM building. These environmentally sustainable improvements will boost green jobs and help preserve City College as a lynchpin in the economic recovery of our city and the social mobility of our neediest community members.

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What environmental issues are you personally passionate about and plan to champion at CCSF? \*

I will provide new leadership and ideas at the College. City College needs to set high standards for itself and be on par with the rest of the City. I would require that City College set a timeline for zero net emissions by 2050 (if not sooner). This plan would be implemented by eliminating the use of fossil fuels, reducing the consumption of energy, and using renewable sources. I would make systematic changes to make it easier for students and staff to bike, walk, or take public transit to the college. I will reduce emissions from buildings by replacing oil boilers and natural gas with electric space and water heaters. Finally, I would require that the college proactively take steps to lower waste, increase the use of reusable materials, and increase the greenery across our campuses by setting a zero-waste timeline and goal. These steps would be implemented equitably across all campuses because all students deserve environmental justice.

Furthermore, we must ensure that: We have the greenest possible buildings and facilities from Proposition A, the 3 bin system is collected and adhered to (which really should only focus on our recycling and composting while keeping garbage to an absolute minimum), and plant native plants whenever possible.

Given the constraints posed by the COVID-19 crisis, both financial and operational, how would you integrate environmental imperatives with this new reality? \*

Green and environmental imperatives must be seamlessly integrated in all aspects of the budget, policies, operation, construction, and maintenance of the College such that it is just business as usual and nothing special.

When we build buildings, often we only look at how much the building will cost, but we also need to take into account what keeps it environmentally sustainable. We must always take the costs and requirements associated with environmentally sustainable practices, maintenance, energy efficiency, and green buildings into account. For example, we must consider the environment in the design, construction, and operation of buildings, use non-toxic, ethical, and sustainable materials, ensure good indoor air quality, maximize pollution and waste reduction measures including reuse and recycling, and use efficient and renewable energy. We need to ensure that custodians, building engineers, and maintenance contracts are trained to operate and maintain our buildings with the best environmental practices.

Budgets are moral documents that state the values of the institution. We must incorporate green budgeting to achieve environmental outcomes by aligning our budget priorities with environmental goals such as climate impact, ethical use of resources, and transition to a low-carbon economy.

What should CCSF's role in neighborhood planning around its campuses be? \*

A majority of students take public transit to City College. We should work together with the neighborhoods around our campuses to advance environmental and structural changes making it easier for students and staff to bike, walk, or take public transit to the college. I will work to:

- Develop a comprehensive sustainable transportation management plan and have a systematic review of City College facilities to identify ways to make campuses safer for pedestrians. Including advocating for necessary crosswalks and safety features to promote safety for pedestrians and proper lighting and visibility to support security and prevent accidents during the night;
- Expand the existing programs providing subsidized and free passes for students and employees;
- Work with SFMTA and BART to make City College campuses transit hubs in their neighborhoods, make permanent environmental changes on roads, transit routes, and incentivize sustainable transportation;
- Increase capacity and access to secure bicycle parking.

Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? \*

I have a strong personal connection with the College, a track record of doing the work, and the trust of all City College stakeholders.

I'm the consensus candidate of the College that can bring people together to take on the dire and immediate challenges facing the College. I'm endorsed by all six City College Trustees that are making endorsements this election, both major City College unions AFT Local 2121 (college faculty union) and SEIU Local 1021 (college classified staff), as well as a supermajority of the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and both our Assemblymembers. My relationships and trust will enable me to be an effective advocate for City College.

City College is personal to me because I have experienced it first-hand; as an institution of hope and opportunity where miraculous things can happen and I believe that once again City College can make a difference in people's lives. As Trustee, I will place a strong emphasis on job training, equity for Black and Brown students, and ensuring that our College has its finances in order for future generations.



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