

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.

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? *

I have over a decade of experience as an educator, working in schools or on policies that impact schools. As a legislative aide, I drafted "Ban the Box" legislation to prohibit the use of criminal-justice information on applications for private colleges in San Francisco, making SF the first in the nation to do so. While pursuing my MA in Education Policy from Columbia University, I served as a student senator and developed a pro-diversity admissions policy. My thesis paper also focused on the burden of student debt. As a Fulbright Scholar in North Macedonia, I served as an ESL teacher and also drafted a policy paper analyzing the failure of top-down approaches in advancing higher education reform. Currently, I oversee the Free City College Program at the Department of Children Youth and Their Families and led the successful execution of the ten-year MOU for the Free City Program.

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

The most pressing environmental issues facing City College of San Francisco (CCSF) are to ensure: 1) that our college continues to provide environmental studies courses, including courses that have a focus on the intersection of race and environmental justice, 2) that all new construction is environmentally sound, and 3) that students have improved access to centers by ensuring adequate public transportation options. As a trustee, I will protect environmental studies and ensure those classes are offered and will advocate for increased revenue measures that can support the college in offering these classes. I will ensure that any development that comes before the Board of Trustees is environmentally sound and will also fight for the inclusion of green policies and practices that include the use of solar power, recycling, and efficient energy use. Finally, I will collaborate with students, teachers, and community members and also with the SFMTA and Bart Board to support in meeting transportation needs for our students.

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

As part of my mission to address the total cost of attendance for students at CCSF, I will advocate for a Student Passport Program, which would provide students access to free muni and BART. This will address the total cost of attendance for students, while also promoting the use of public transportation. I will collaborate with the SFMTA and the BART Board to identify solutions to increase use of public transportation to CCSF campuses. Additionally, I will advocate for improved bike safety, including: safe and devoted bike routes to, from, and between CCSF campuses, increased bike rack access, and the development of a bike loan program. These initiatives should be coupled with a public education campaign to inform students of these resources and to promote the various environmental and economic benefits of using eco-friendly commuter options. Additionally, I will advocate for programs that incentivize students to bike to campus.

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

Financial constraints at CCSF have been a reality for a long time, and securing state aid will be incredibly difficult given the many competing priorities during COVID-19. That said, environmental education is a priority - not only for our future as a planet, but for the many students who will fill in-demand careers like environmental engineering, law, and education (among others) for years to come. An investment in environmental sciences and studies is an investment in our future. As a Trustee, I will work with labor partners, faculty, and student leadership to fight for and protect environmental studies at CCSF. I will advocate for additional funding measures to ensure that these classes are protected. I also think that it is important to ensure that environmental studies include clear career pathways or transfer requirements which can help protect this important area of study. I will also advocate for opportunities and partnerships for students to gain skills for the Green economy and invest in programs that provide green jobs curricula.

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

Neighborhood planning is an issue of safety, equity, and access. I think it is important to apply high standards and rigorous environmental analysis to every contract that goes before the board of trustees to ensure environmental quality. I will fight to ensure there is the lowest environmental impact possible by applying conservation standards and a goal of moving towards a zero carbon footprint. I will ensure that any neighborhood planning does not have a negative impact on our community college.

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

I would be proud to have the endorsement of the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters because your work has pushed San Francisco to make environmentally sound decisions. I am also committed to ensuring that decisions made at city college are environmentally sound, prioritize addressing public transit for our students, and ensuring that environmental studies are protected. CCSF needs someone who has the knowledge of educational institutions and policy expertise, and can rally support to get things done.



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