

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 spent 28 years at CCSF as a teacher, faculty leader (AFT 2121 president, Academic Senate president, statewide Academic Senate officer), Dean of Students, and Vice Chancellor of Instruction (VCI). I represented the College on statewide committees and taskforces. I was appointed VCI, with faculty support, and assigned to merge two divisions (one with seven campuses) and a central administrative office into a comprehensive community college in response to an accreditation recommendation. As a long-time union/senate leader, I knew how to read the budget and I knew most faculty and staff at the campuses. I created a team to get the work done within nine months

- resulting in a flat, more efficient administrative organizational structure,
- installing a participatory governance system of committees and processes, and
- easing the transition of noncredit students into credit thus discovering that more students from noncredit enroll in credit than students coming from all SF high schools.

I deferred entry to a doctoral program at Cal in Community College Leadership but took a sabbatical when my VCI work was completed to start coursework, returning to CCSF as Dean of Students. I qualified in student services because I was the Associate Director and then Director of the EOP at SFSU prior to working at CCSF. The knowledge, work experience, and wisdom from a 40-year higher education career, including middle and senior administrative leadership posts at two other community colleges, give me insights to share with the Board to reverse the CCSF's current downward spiral.

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 turmoil is directly attributable to the Board's hiring an incompetent Chancellor who established an overblown administrative structure. After community pressured the Board to fire him, it hired an interim chancellor. I've long advocated to the Board for an administrative structure that makes more sense. The Interim Chancellor hired July 1 proposed and the Board approved on July 30 a structure more consistent with community college governance, as I'd advocated.

One position is for an Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities, Construction, and Planning who will have responsibility for spending the \$835 million bond; someone may be hired this year. The position announcement should include a requirement for expertise in environmental planning and construction practice so the impact on the environment will be considered every time money is spent. Examples: during renovation, install low-flow water faucets and toilets; during construction, consider which materials can be recycled instead of dumped; situate new buildings to take advantage of natural wind currents to heat/cool facilities; use solar or other passive power sources. (I learned much about such principles while Vice President of Student Learning at College of Marin as an administrative lead to work with builders on new or renovated student services and instructional space.) I also think it will be critical to learn from COVID-19 and large fires occurring with greater frequency about how to plan structures with good HVAC to keep air clean and filtered and provide space that works to keep people safe.

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

I am passionate about building wisely (noted above) and living green. I would advocate for

- installation of safe water filling stations so we use fewer plastic bottles;
- using compostable dishes and utensils in food facilities and vendors;
- buying paper products with high use of recycled paper;
- reducing use of plastic materials, e.g., classroom garbage bins;
- decreasing the use of paper by relying on online transmission of learning materials instead of duplicating them; same for operational materials;
- ensuring that the three types of refuse bins are in highly visible spots ;
- creating safe places to park bicycles and preferred campus parking for electric vehicles;
- working with transit agencies to ensure efficient transit is available;
- ensuring that plants appropriate to the environment are cultivated in garden spaces;
- educating students and employees about conscious and conscientious environmental practice by being good role models;
- supporting the environmentalists on campus; and
- emulating De Anza College as a role model for being a green college.

As a mestiza with indigenous roots in the American Southwest, my environmental values are guided by the Native American proverb: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

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

I think we should make good use of the bond money to integrate environmental imperatives; we are fortunate that the bond passed on March 3 before COVID-19 became real to all of us. The wildfires are also teaching us that we need to be super-aware of our environment and environmental changes; that awareness should be incorporated in construction planning, design, and building and in our everyday teaching and learning lives.

By suddenly having to do everything online in mid-March without advance planning, we have the opportunity to learn from our mistakes as well as our successes. Some teachers may discover that online learning is natural to them and with greater support and more time to prepare would like to continue to teach at least some of their classes online. Some students may find they both prefer and are good at learning online. If the quality of instruction remains high and we minimize barriers to student learning, this is a chance to change some in-person class sections into online learning. That would diminish travel and the impact of travel on the environment. (I supervised online instruction; there are real challenges to maintaining quality, performance, and student learning outcomes; the challenges could be overcome by critically thinking about how to address and overcome them.) The same may be true for some support work that could be done without a commute to the college as long as sufficient in-person contact is retained.

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

The college should be part of the planning by gathering data and information about the learning needs and preferences of current and future residents. One neighborhood, for example, may have a large percentage of immigrants who could benefit from ESL classes. Another neighborhood may have large numbers of older San Franciscans who would benefit from Older Adults classes. A third neighborhood may be in transition from retired people to younger families with parents who would like to make progress on a degree. A fourth neighborhood might not have many or any of the College's offerings within the community. The instructional offerings could be tailored and changed or increased/decreased as the community changes.

Another aspect is when a neighborhood is being developed for profit with scant attention being paid to the impact on the neighborhood, and by extension, on the College. The College should remain aware and active in the planning discussions.

A third and different aspect is the retention or sale of College property. Public land should be sold for 100% affordable housing. I am not in favor of the College selling its properties, but if the College does sell an asset, it should be sold to a developer who will build only affordable housing. Judging by the vacancy rate, there's more than enough new market-rate housing in San Francisco.

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

You should endorse me because I'm the best qualified candidate. I can provide insight and wisdom to overcome challenges, e.g., budget, the need to improve outcomes for Black and Brown students, and upcoming accreditation. I have experience in these and other issues in three community colleges. I have worked for many chancellors, and know how to select the most qualified when it comes time to select one next year.

This is a critical time for CCSF, having suffered from imposed administrations and no Board authority post-accreditation crisis. When the Board got its authority back, it made some mistakes impacting the College's future. For example, the Board hired the wrong chancellor who severely damaged the College. The Board allowed huge cuts in class offerings endangering future revenue. (Almost all its revenue comes from the state and is generated by class enrollment.) I would not have supported either.

To face the crisis at the College, at least one member of the Board should have enough knowledge about community college governance and insight on the inner workings on City College to share with the rest of the Board. I bring that to the Board as well as the ability to work with anyone. As City College insiders know, this is a make or break time when the College's future will be decided. Does CCSF continue to be downsized to a junior college, or should CCSF be revitalized to be the community college it is ceasing to be? That is the question.



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