

Q1

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Name: Victor Olivieri, Ph.D.

District: San Francisco (citywide)

Campaign contact: Derek Jansen

Phone #: 415-439-9055

Email: victor@victorforsf.com

FPPC #: 1398474

Q2

What are your qualifications for Community College Board Member? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I am an educator with two decades of experience in higher education and I believe we have a responsibility to help every City College student achieve academic, career, and lifelong success. I'm committed to serving City College because I understand the struggles of our most vulnerable students and I understand the power of education. I immigrated from Spain at 12 years old without speaking English and struggled to graduate from high school and make ends meet to put myself through community college and a four-year university. I'm a first-generation college graduate who went on to earn a Ph.D. in Political Science, become a U.S. Army Officer, an educator, and a senior administrator of one of the most diverse universities in the country. Academically, I have lectured at several universities, founded and served as Director of a university fellowship program for undergraduates, been a Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, and the Chief of Staff for the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at UC Riverside. Most recently, I have worked as Director of a nonprofit in high-tech workforce development sector and I am currently a City Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, a Trustee of a nonprofit arts organization, and California Democratic Party Delegate on the Resolutions Committee.

Q3

How would you increase walking, biking, and public transit use by CCSF students and employees? (please limit your response to 250 words)

As Trustee, I will partner with the bicycle coalition and last-mile transportation companies to raise awareness, develop a concerted effort to drive less, and switch to zero-emissions vehicles. I will also partner with the SFMTA and BART to provide all of our students, faculty, and staff free or heavily-reduced transportation to City College. Instruct the Chancellor to work with the Deans to conduct a curriculum review that identifies which classes should be offered on different campuses to make sure every community has equitable access across the city. Partner with bike sharing and last-mile transportation

companies on free or subsidized passes for all students, staff, and faculty. Provide safe areas for bicycle and low-emission vehicles to be securely stored, for free, on all campuses. Have bike share and last-mile companies encourage the use by students by donating to money for miles to the Associated Students student resource centers at the beginning of each semester. Partner with the bicycle coalition to schedule several "Bike to School" days to raise awareness. Partner with van-sharing company to establish free intercampus shuttle loop for students, staff, and faculty.

Q4

How would you promote and implement green building elements for new and renovated school district buildings? (please limit your response to 250 words)

When drafting a bond issue to cover deferred maintenance and new buildings, I will make sure City College builds (at minimum) at Gold LEED standards and brings existing buildings to (at minimum) Silver LEED standard, switch to green energy to cut back on fossil fuel emissions, including the installation of solar and wind power on every property, installing low-flow faucets and toilets, acquiring only ENERGY STAR-certified equipment, and installing timed drip irrigation systems. On the day-to-day aspects, for example, I will work with SEIU 1021 to switch to non-toxic cleaning products and eco-friendly pesticides/herbicides to protect our groundwater, review our usage of recycled paper products in bathrooms, and drive a recycling campaign throughout our campuses to raise awareness. I will also have the Chancellor work with the Deans to identify key environmental issues on their campuses and more proactively focus on entrepreneurial solutions that are sustainability-minded. The goal of City College should be to become a truly urban college with the Ocean Campus becoming the first truly sustainable campus in the country.

Q5

What should CCSF do to improve its environmental practices? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Revamp the CCSF Sustainability Plan (2009) to focus on sustainable college operations, maintenance and custodial operations, sustainable purchasing practices and procurement of local materials, waste diversion, management and recycling activities, water conservation measures (all of the objectives were established for completion by 2018 but the accreditation crisis took a heavy toll on their success). I would also direct the Chancellor to strive for a zero-waste standard across our entire operation with key performance indicators to be reported to the Board quarterly. I would earmark facilities improvements on bond issue for the installation of solar panels on every building and surface lot possible, replace toilets and faucets with low-flow systems, procure only ENERGY STAR rated equipment, and establish an internal awareness campaign to "fix it" instead of "replace it" with our facilities management teams. I would also establish internal awareness campaigns to reduce our energy and water consumption (i.e. turn off the lights, irrigate at night, lower the thermostat, etc.). Sustainability should have been infused

throughout the curriculum and operations of City College, as one of the goals of the Sustainability Plan, so the first thing to do would be a curriculum review to make sure that happened (i.e. look at all courses on sustainability, find sustainability readings on course syllabi, find sustainability training on employee manuals, sustainability processes on facilities standard operating procedures, etc.) and then reinforce and systematically strengthen our approach to sustainability.

Q6

How would you improve facilities planning at CCSF? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Focus on creating a truly urban college in which every new or refurbished building serves as housing (top floors), classrooms/office (ground and middle floors), and parking/central plan (underground) that are built using public/private partnerships, particularly following a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) model, that can be quickly implemented on City College land with the highest LEED standards.

Q7

What should CCSF's role in neighborhood planning around its campuses be? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I want to guide City College into becoming an urban campus that interacts with the community and surrounding spaces by being a model of sustainability. The Ocean Campus is in desperate need of modernization and reconstruction – I would love to embrace this as the opportunity to create a model for the rest of the country and create the first truly sustainable campus that also minimizes the need for commuting by shaping an academic village around it with the Balboa reservoir project and the nearby merchant and transportation corridors. City College also have several properties that could be developed for affordable housing for our faculty, staff, and students. All of these properties could be developed for mixed-use, with classrooms and retail on the lower floors, and affordable housing on the top floors – my ideal goal would be to lead these City College centers into becoming truly urban colleges in which every new or refurbished building serves 3-4 aspects needed in the community we serve without the need to commute. City College ultimately would benefit greatly by being able to retain new junior faculty members with affordable housing and should be helping our most underserved community members by providing them with a path for a college education or a vocational trade, but also with supportive housing.

Q8

Why should SFLCV endorse you? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I have fostered a more sustainable San Francisco through on-the-ground action with various Democratic clubs in the city and championed environmental protections as a California Democratic Party Delegate on the Resolutions Committee. You can count on me to continue to fight for the environment through sound policy and a focus on a more sustainable City College every step of the way. I have earned endorsements from the entire democratic spectrum in San Francisco, as well as the endorsements of 3 sitting City

College Trustees, because these elected officials see me as the most capable candidate to provide the new type of leadership City College needs. While I am not an expert on environmental policy, I am a scientist, I value empirical evidence, and I take a collaborative approach to solving the very pressing problems we face with nuanced policy solutions and an eye toward the future. I hope we have the opportunity to work together on making City College stronger for our next generation. Thank you for your time and consideration of my candidacy.

