

Q1

Please enter your contact info here

Name: John Rizzo

Campaign contact: Josh Steinberger

Phone #: 4157511615

Email: jrizzo@sprintmail.com

FPPC #: 1401562

Q2

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

As a member of the Board of Trustees at City College, I successfully fought for City College's accreditation, free tuition for San Franciscans, and for streamlining administration bureaucracy so that City College now educates more students at lower cost than two years ago. I am now working on building City College for the future.

As a Board member, I have always believed that City College should be part of the solution to San Francisco's problems. For instance, I've been working on affordable housing. Largely due to a Board resolution I co-authored with Trustee Brigitte Davila, we are on-track for building the college's first housing at the Balboa reservoir. This includes 500 student beds on City College land and 200 affordable units for faculty and staff on the SF PUC land.

I believe that City College can build up to 3000 units of affordable housing on City College land. In addition to making going to college more affordable, it would also ease the pressure on the housing market in San Francisco.

I served as Board of Trustees president for three years. I pushed for and co-authored the College's first Sustainability Plan and I worked to create green jobs training programs for disadvantaged communities. I also co-authored and passed the City College's first Sunshine Policy for open governance. I created the San Francisco's first Local Hire policy at City College, which championed the hiring of economically disadvantaged San Francisco residents.

Q3

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

As a Trustee, I have pushed for increasing the number of bike racks at City College, supported bike lanes on Phelan Avenue, and, as Chair of the Facilities Committee, oversaw the installation of a system of wheel-chair accessible ramps across the main hill.

And, after years of my asking MTA for a crosswalk on Ocean Avenue at the BART station, MTA recently put one in. However, it is east of the BART station, while City College is to the west. So, a cross-walk further west is still needed.

For the future, I support the idea of removal of the hill at Ocean Ave near Phelan (and the current Conlan Hall on top), so that future buildings on Ocean Avenue are at street level and facing Ocean. This would go long way to making it easier and safer to get around by foot.

I am a long supporter of having free or discounted "class passes" made available to City College students, and have met with people at Muni about it as well as lobbied Supervisors for funding. The issue has been how to pay for it. I believe it will have to be funded by a combination of student fees, CCSF funds, and Muni funds, and no one source seems to be able to cover it.

Q4

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

I am currently doing this through my work on the College's 10 Year Facilities Master Plan, which has so far identified \$1.3 billion worth of new and retrofitted buildings. First, I recently succeeded in having Sustainability added as a Core Design Principle for the Facilities Master Plan. This means that green building elements will be required for every new building and remodel in the plan. Sustainable principles will be used in not just building elements, but in overall campus design.

I am also pushing for NET-Zero buildings in both the new buildings and retrofits. NET-Zero goes beyond the LEED standards in considering energy, water, sewage, and maintenance of the buildings. And I am promoting the retrofitting of old buildings rather than the removal of old buildings where possible, to prevent tons of materials from going into landfills.

I have a record of pushing for and implementing green building elements in the last round of construction the College did, the Chinatown campus buildings and the Multi-use building, which are both LEED certified. In particular, we installed 500 geothermal wells that power the heating and cooling system of not just the Multi-use Building, but of the future Performing Arts Center as well.

Most recently, we brought in the first water bottle refilling stations, something that we need to roll-out throughout the College.

Q5

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

The most effective thing CCSF can do for environmental practices is to hire a Director of Sustainability, something that I have been advocating for since we won the accreditation fight. The Director will ensure that various College departments were following the environmental practices in the Sustainability Plan in the operations of the college. This person would also have the responsibility to oversee and improve the College's recycling program and implement methods to reduce the waste stream. Currently, the problem is that no one person at the College has these responsibilities, or the responsibility to see that the Sustainability Plan is followed. I have brought up this topic with the Board at public meetings and with the chancellor, and there is support for creating this position. I am hopeful that this will happen within a year.

We have made reductions in the amount of single-use plastics in the cafeteria, and now offer washable silverware. I believe we can make further reductions.

Q6

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

Some of my past work includes reforming facilities planning at City College. The main reform was to have the College use a professional construction planning firm during the planning phases to work with college faculty, staff, and the Board of Trustees. This approach proved useful in preventing the kinds of cost overruns that were seen with the Wellness Center and the Mission Campus projects.

We are using such a firm now for the creation of our 10-Year Facilities Master Plan. They are well-versed in environmental building practices, and I have been having discussions with them about pushing the envelope.

I am also working to give College's faculty Facilities Committee more support and a bigger voice in facilities planning. The faculty and department heads are our experts in what uses new and refurbished buildings should have. Their meetings are open, agendized, public meetings.

Q7

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

CCSF should be a good neighbor in each neighborhood where it has a presence. That means informing and seeking input from the communities it is situated in, as well as participating as a stakeholder in the city's planning activities. For instance, we participated in the Fix Masonic effort that led to the recently completed Masonic Avenue pedestrian and cyclist improvements.

CCSF also gave the city considerable input into the proposed Balboa development. I coauthored a resolution at the Board that first provided input as to the college's needs, and was involved in two follow-up resolutions, one of which led to the creation of student/teacher housing that I mentioned earlier. Administration staff regularly meets with the developer and city officials regarding the development.

Q8

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

I am proud of my record of environmental stewardship at City College and can point to many tangible accomplishments, some of which I described here. While on the Board, I have brought my work as a Sierra Club activist to the Board of Trustees. I am looking forward making City College a greener organization and model of how a large institution can dramatically lessen its impact on the environment.

This is particularly true right now, when the college is planning \$1.3 billion worth of building and renovation projects. What the Board of Trustees decides during the next year will set the stage for decades to come. I believe we need to push the envelope and plan for not just today's best sustainable practices, but tomorrow's.

A big help to me has been the recent hiring of a Vice Chancellor of Facilities who has experience in sustainable infrastructure and sustainable practices. Vice Chancellor Smith is a partner in my push for a more sustainable City College.

The Sierra Club has endorsed me, and I would be honored to have the SF League of Conservation Voters endorsement.

