

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.

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What are your qualifications for Community College Board Member? *

As I look around at the field of candidates for City College Board, I am proud to be in the company of such diverse and skillful people. But not possessing the same qualifications some of my fellow candidates enjoy does make me wonder what a young, Black Community Organizer has to offer our great city. What I lack for in political experience, I make up for with a devoted passion and the creative intuition to solve problems. And mitigating the climate crisis has always been a call for action.

My MBA in Environmental Management and Sustainability, plus the seven years I spent as an energy efficiency project manager, equips me with the business acumen and real-world experience essential to advance climate policy. Having worked in the Sustainability Department at a higher learning institution like UCSF, I led teams pioneering climate policy initiatives that have had a environmentally positive impact. The City College Board and our institutional leadership must set the tone for climate policy with research-based applications and thoughtful implementation.

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

All of them. But more specifically, if elected to City College Board, I would begin to lay the groundwork for these initiatives by doing an extensive energy audit of all campus facilities and operations. I would encourage implementing a strategic plan for minimizing wasteful practices; like moving from disposable utensils/containers to reusables.

Another initiative is actually one of the pillars of my campaign. CCSF achieving Carbon Neutrality sounds daunting. But I plan to take a leadership role to develop an actionable blueprint with the goal of having college campuses achieve Carbon Neutrality for all operations by 2030. I would ensure that the spending of Proposition A bond funds are prioritized on sustainable building design, procurement, and construction practices to minimize carbon use throughout the operating life of our facilities.

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

Beside being a strong proponent for Carbon Neutrality, on a personal level, I harbor a heartfelt passion for ending Environmental Injustice. Looking back, I should not have been forced to drink brown, swampy, facet water when I'd spend summers with my aunt in her Washington DC apartment. Our most vulnerable communities should be protected from environmental harm as much as our more privileged communities might be; we are all worthy of humanity. Walking around campuses like the Ocean Campus reminds me of the detrimental effects Environmental Injustice has had, in real time. Many of our underserved and impoverished students rely on walking, biking, or commuting to school. Ocean Campus does not encourage that. Students using the BART must cross a freeway on-ramp. Many trek steep slopes.

I would work to provide safe and adequate access to all facilities. I'd implement the installation of wheelchair ramps for students living with disabilities. I would advocate for a shuttle system serving all our campuses. Advance MUNI partnerships to serve our most vulnerable students, increasing the age limit on the 'Free MUNI For Youth' program. And provide free MUNI transfers on bus lines serving the campus neighborhood between the Balboa Park and Glen Park stations. As transport costs continue to rise and income disparity continues to grow, it is more important than ever our students have access to free and reliable transportation. Free public transit removes a genuine barrier Students face to accessing education, on top of helping out the environment.

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

This is a tough question, but an important one. Fighting the climate crisis should be the 'north star' in any endeavor we undertake, and that is why steering college facilities towards Carbon Neutrality is vital. One of the benefits of striving for Carbon Neutrality is that it massively helps alleviate the financial deficits City College has dealt with before, and will continue to deal with whenever we overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits of ensuring that new building construction and ongoing renovation of existing buildings adhere to environmentally sustainable practices are integral in discharging our fiduciary responsibilities.

Eliminating operating costs and easing the budget deficit would allow the City College Board to reduce financial shortfalls and invest in operational safety nets in case of ongoing/future health emergencies. CCSF must implement an Education Master Plan that makes Institutionalize Sustainability an integral element of its fiscal compliance. Doing that would shift resources toward classes and programs that would safeguard City College's and its accreditation.

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

City College needs to take a more vested interest in the urban planning taking place around our campuses; many times these plans do not serve the best interest of our school. It is a major reason why I am opposed to projects like the Balboa Reservoir Development project. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission essentially 'gifted' public property to private developers. Their proposed housing development did not meet the affordable housing standards our students require, did not promote inclusivity, and should not have been approved.

Since many of these deals allow private entities to maximize their profits, I am vehemently opposed to selling properties, especially those intended to be public resources. These developers far too often fail to incorporate carbon minimizing designs and wasteful construction practices. They do not invest in our students' best economic interests and do very little to advance the general well-being of our community. Knowing how difficult paying for student housing can be, we need to prioritize the input of our students, faculty, and the residents that are directly impacted by these projects.

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

As a climate activist, whose mission and values align so well with your organization, I would be honored to have the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters as a foundational endorsement. My partner and I riding our bikes to work, or installing solar panels on our home, or simply turning our lights off whenever we leave a room, are necessary and keep in the spirit of 'doing our part'. They, however, are not enough. These standards should be our bare minimum. It is unfortunate that our government, especially at the federal level, does not prioritize policy geared towards solving the climate crisis. The consequences of this lack of leadership result in 100 degree arctic temperatures, massive dust clouds, mega hurricanes like Laura, and the devastating fires we are experiencing here in California. And that is just 2020.

I firmly believe that we can make impactful, meaningful, and effectuate change. We can start by making sure City College pledges itself to the goal of achieving Carbon Neutrality, encouraging Green Transportation around campus, and Institutionalizing Sustainability to lower the cost of facilities. The purpose of my candidacy is for us to take a stand and advocate for environmental stewardship. I respectfully ask for your endorsement and thank you for your consideration.



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