

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#) *

Han Zou running for City College Board of Trustees. Contact: Monica Barnett, (310)962-221, hanforsf@gmail.com. FPPC # 1427112

What are your qualifications for Community College Board Member? *

I immigrated to the United States from China when I was 6 years old and my entire education has been through the public system. I'm proud as a first generation Chinese immigrant to have learned to speak English in our public school system. I've dedicated my entire adult life to working with Chinese children and families and working to bridge the gap between black, brown, and API communities.

At the Asian Law Caucus I worked to bring services to undocumented children, students and families as well as to incarcerated immigrants. As the Executive Director of the Democratic Party I worked to bring the Chinese, Latino and Black communities into the Democratic Party and staffed the Committee to Develop the Black Agenda. As a legislative Aide for Supervisor Haney's District 6 office I've been focused on bridging the gap between Chinese children and families and city services.

I can tell you as someone who has spent their life organizing Chinese families that City College--especially the Chinatown campus--is hugely important to our community and to all immigrant and working-class families. As a trustee I want to bring my experience and my background to make sure that City College will play a key role for communities who have been most affected by the shutdown to use the school as an opportunity to help change careers and learn new skills in the new economy. It's going to be an incredibly difficult couple of years ahead for the City and for the school but we have to make sure that it's still an opportunity for families like mine.

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

Climate change is the single most devastating issue facing our planet and our youth and while. As the youngest person running this November, I'm genuinely afraid of what my future holds if we don't take drastic action immediately. As a city that's bordered by water on three sides, it's even more imperative that more effort is made.

I'm proud to see City College has made a commitment to achieve Zero Waste and I'm committed to keeping the school on track. I will also push for classes that will help prepare students for jobs and careers in green energy and make that a focus - much in the same way that we've seen the push for the Cannabis Studies degree.

CCSF has a Facilities Master Plan Facilities Master Plan that includes a sustainability plan. As a Trustee, I want to ensure that the plan is implemented and that CCSF achieves a zero-carbon footprint and I plan to continue to support the Board's sustainability efforts and push to take them further. CCSF's purchasing department abides by the October 2005 California State Senate's law (Senate Bill No. 1106) on recycled product requirements and I will work with the administration to ensure we are not only upholding standards but exceeding them.

Fighting the climate crisis is going to take a lot more than just San Francisco and I will advocate in every way I can at the State and Federal level for climate first policies.

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

A 2017 study found that just 100 companies are responsible for 71% of our global industrial emissions. I find it unconscionable that we are not holding these companies more accountable and that there are so many in the energy sector who continue to invest in fossil fuels. We are living with the effects of fossil fuel extraction - changing weather patterns, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity etc. and yet major corporations continue to rely on coal, gas and oil.

Currently, CCSF offers just 5 degrees and 4 certificates in classes such as Earth Science, Environmental Studies, Oceanography and the Green and Sustainable Business Certificate as part of the Sustainability curriculum. As Trustee, I would like to see the course offerings increased, particularly as the demand for sustainability professionals is growing and the calls to save the planet are getting louder. San Francisco has played such an important role in the creation of the sustainability movement and having courses at City College that reflect those values is important. I'd like to see matching course offerings that include classes on Fossil Fuel Divestment, new technologies like Earth Source Heat and classes on Activism on the Fossil Fuel Industry etc.

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

While the pandemic has proved catastrophic in most ways, it also forced us to re-examine our normal existence through an environmental/green lens. The improved air quality, the quieter 'slow' streets and the reduced congestion brought by the global shelter in place showed us how possible it would be for us to address the climate crisis head on. As a community, we should be focusing on how we can incorporate this fortuitous climate change mitigation into our strategies for post pandemic recovery. San Francisco has always claimed to be a transit first City but there is a lot more we can and need to do to truly be one. Based on 2018 travel survey results, the majority of both employees and students live within the City of San Francisco, with many living within three miles of CCSF campuses, and many employees commute by driving alone. As Trustee, I will work with SFMTA to increase biking infrastructure, including more safe bike lanes around CCSF campuses. I would also advocate for free Muni passes for CCSF faculty and students San Francisco State University currently issues a Muni pass to all students who meet an enrollment threshold and there's no reason City College can't do it too.

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

As with the Balboa Reservoir project, it is important that the neighbors and the City College community engage in discussions and plans that shape future projects. CCSF has both long and short term goals around increasing their enrollment and implementing their Facilities Master Plan. This will have an impact on traffic patterns around their campuses and so it will be important for the Board of Trustees to be involved in neighborhood planning.

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

As a young candidate who is concerned about the environment, I know how important and how effective your endorsement is and the trust San Francisco voters have in your recommendations. But most importantly, I believe my personal values align very closely with your advocacy around environmental laws and policies.



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