

# **District 5 Democratic Club November 2016 Endorsement Questionnaire Responses**

All candidates were asked “Why should we endorse you?”

## **Position: City College Board of Trustees**

### **Rafael Mandelman:**

I first ran and was elected to the City College Board of Trustees in 2012, as City College was struggling with serious financial and accreditation challenges. Within six months of my joining the Board in January 2013, the ACCJC announced it would be terminating City College’s accreditation and shutting the institution down by July 2014. Following on that announcement the State Chancellor suspended the locally elected Board and replaced us with an appointed Special Trustee. As a trustee-in-exile over the next year and a half, I joined the fight for fair accreditation in California and worked tirelessly to reverse the ACCJC’s termination decision. In addition to traveling across the State to explain our fight at other community colleges, I lobbied the City Attorney to sue the ACCJC and worked closely with his attorneys to strengthen their case, and I lobbied local, State and Federal elected officials to build support for City College and for accreditation reform. No member of our Board of Trustees was more outspoken or persistent in fighting back against the injustice of what was happening to City College. Since the State Chancellor began restoring the Board in late 2014, I believe that my leadership has helped hold the Board together and prove that locally elected leadership can govern the college responsibly and effectively. I am proud of the work I have done to save City College, restore local control and help the College begin to recover from the accreditation crisis. I am running for re-election because I believe I have the right skills and values to continue to champion the College and help assure its recovery.

### **Amy Bacharach:**

I am running for re-election to continue the work that this dynamic Board has been doing since having our power restored. I am passionate about higher education as I am a living example of the opportunities that higher education can provide, having gone from high-school drop-out to Ph.D. in less than 20 years. I have a unique perspective on the board due to my work in developing and analyzing policy, implementing evidence-based practices, and making hard decisions, as well as my work as an adjunct professor for many years, which brings a faculty perspective. I am a pragmatic, independent, strong, and unifying leader, which is exactly what City College needs right now. My independence has made me a target for some who

would prefer to have board members rubber stamp decisions, which is how City College got into its accreditation mess in the first place. This board is one of the most functional boards that City College has seen in a very long time, and it is because of this that we had our powers restored almost a year earlier than expected. I am proud to be serving on it. My vision is for the Board to move forward with strengthening the institution as a whole, making sure that the community's needs are being met with high-quality education and training and that the college is on track for financial stability. The Board must also rebuild mutual trust with all of its stakeholders, including faculty and staff, students, the community, the state chancellor's office, and even the accrediting agency.

In the last two years since I was elected, I've introduced resolutions calling for Prop 13 reform and supporting gun safety measures, and supporting AB 2822, which will provide emergency financial aid for students as crises arise so they don't have to drop out of school. I also recently wrote an op-ed supporting the Free City College initiative, and will help campaign for the real estate transfer tax in November to fund it, as well as the parcel tax extension. When I ran last time, one of my goals was to make sure that City College has a seat at the table and is working closely with SFUSD. I am now the co-chair of a joint committee between CCSF and SFUSD. One of my goals is to work closely with SFUSD to bring as many HS students and graduates into CCSF as possible. In the past, HS students have comprised a small percentage of overall enrollment. I believe that we can significantly increase this percentage and boost enrollment. I also want to create new collaborative partnerships with industries and professions in the Bay Area to provide vocational and skills training for the people in those industries and professions. We've done a great job at supplying the majority of nurses and culinary staff in the Bay Area; I'd like to see that applied to many other sectors. We should also be providing the training and education for existing employers in SF, including the County of San Francisco! My primary goal for this next term continues to be starting an alumni association for the estimated 1 in 7 or 8 San Franciscans who have been touched by City College. This will create so many more opportunities for our students, from funding to mentorships to job opportunities.

**Tom Temprano:**

Last year I decided to run for this office because I felt that, in the wake of the accreditation crisis and the resultant enrollment crisis facing City College, the College is in serious need of new leadership. I learned a lot from last year's campaign and it was the support of community members that inspired me to run again this year.

I'm proud to be a former community college student and long-time CCSF advocate. As President of the Harvey Milk Club I was proud to lead our organization as we joined the fight to save City College. We were one of the first organizations to sound the alarm within the LGBTQ community and it has been a privilege to be fighting for this college from the beginning. The work we were able to do to support the efforts

of faculty and students at City College are the work I'm proudest of during my two years as President.

I have a communications background and have made a living for the past eight years leading grassroots marketing campaigns for small businesses and non-profits. I would take this experience and lead the Board of Trustees efforts to recover our college's enrollment. It would be an honor to go to every neighborhood in San Francisco as a member of the BOT and let San Franciscans know that there's a class for everyone at City College. The Board of Trustees should be City College's biggest cheerleader.

My Top Three Priorities are:

Create a common sense budget. I will cut spending on high-priced consultants and bloated salaries for middle management, and invest the savings to prevent necessary classes from being cut and provide a living wage to our workers and faculty.

Get San Francisco students into City College. I will focus on rebuilding the relationship between San Francisco Unified School District and City College to build an enrollment bridge for students.

Restore Confidence in City College. I will use my experience to create a vigorous community outreach campaign to undo the damage the accreditation crisis has done to student enrollment.

**Shanell Williams:**

I have the leadership, experience, knowledge and relationships necessary to represent the diverse interests of San Franciscans and City College stakeholders. My familiarity with the inner workings of City College cannot be matched— which is vital to realizing my vision of an accountable, affordable and diverse City College for years to come.

A native San Franciscan and proud graduate of City College, I have spent the past four years dedicated to the fight to Save City College from loss of accreditation and closure. I served as Associated Students President for a term and for two terms as Student Trustee. In these roles I helped to mobilize thousands of San Franciscans to save the College and highlighted the communities that need City College the most. I want to continue to protect City College offerings and programs for all students but especially want to improve quality of life for low-income, and working class people, LGBTQ people, our seniors, the homeless, immigrants, foster youth, people involved in the system, and first generation college students. I fought hard to save the City College that welcomes all of these communities not closes the door on opportunity for them.

I have over 16 years of professional development training and experience combined with lived experiences in the communities that City College serves. I have worked for numerous nonprofit agencies and labor organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of marginalized, low income communities such as: the Center for Young Women's Development, Youth Leadership Institute, UNITE HERE Local 2, Jobs with Justice, and Urban Services YMCA to name a few. I am a graduate of the Women's Policy Institute, the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, the School for Organizing, Unity and Liberation, and have served on the Youth Commission, the Juvenile Justice Commission and other community boards.

**Alex Randolph:**

As a current Trustee, I am deeply committed to educational justice for low-income communities of color. My background as a first generation college graduate and community college student give me a unique perspective on the Board. I take this responsibility seriously as I have benefitted from access to affordable higher education. CCSF provides critical access for thousands of students. Unfortunately, many students of color are still struggling to be successful. I worked hard as your Trustee, reaching out and connecting directly with these students and strengthening available resources. Every time I make a decision, I think of how it would have impacted my life as a community college student 13 years ago. The accreditation crisis provided us the opportunity to really look at how Trustees governed and made decisions in the past. Over the past two years my colleagues and I have received numerous trainings on accreditation, budgeting, enrollment management, labor negotiations, student success, team building, and how to make decisions on complex items outside of our core expertise making us extremely well trained. As Trustee I will continue to work hard to ensure that City College remains accessible, accredited and financially stable by working with my colleagues to make sure we make the right decisions. I am dedicated to strengthening our enrollment rates to maintain our classes and services for students by improving our marketing and presence throughout San Francisco. I am also championing initiatives to expand affordability, such as Prop W to make City College Free, for the parcel tax Prop B, for long term stability, and voted to support expanded Emergency Aid. Maintaining accreditation is essential and I will continue working to ensure decisions are made to achieve a "reaffirmation of accreditation" after our external review on the week of October 10th. I am committed to maintaining stable financial footing through responsible financial policies, management of reserves and voter approved bond funds.

## **Position: Board of Education**

**Trevor McNeil:**

San Francisco hasn't elected a public school teacher to the board of education in 12 years. But it's not just that I have experience teaching in almost every school in our city - I'm a teachers union rep, I sit on an SFUSD subcommittee, I tutor kids in the mission, and I'm almost done with my national board certification. Policy can't be

divorced or removed from accountable implementation and that's what I would always bring to the board. I'm also an activist - former vice-chair of the SFCCC, member of the SF Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, and former member of the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors association. It's important that school board members know how to reach out and stay connected to our communities. Finally, I'm a young parent with skin in the game. I'm committed to the long-term growth and success of our schools.

Having grown up in D5 and attended D5 schools I would be honored to receive your endorsement. I've been endorsed by the D5 Supervisor and when I ran two years ago (when I came within .5%!) I focused on D5 outreach with a district-specific doorhanger. Thank you.

**Rachel Norton:**

I am a parent of two public school students and a two-term incumbent. I've demonstrated my commitment to transparency by making significant efforts to inform constituents about the inner workings of the Board and our policy deliberations through my blog.

As the Board's budget committee chair the last two school years, I've made sure the Board is focusing on funding the right priorities for our district. I also closely monitor our student assignment system and have pushed for changes to make it fairer and more effective. I've spent significant time monitoring our curriculum reforms such as Common Core implementation (particularly the controversial math sequence) and proposed improvements to address the concerns of constituents.

Finally, as a parent of a child with a disability I have been a champion for the needs of our 5,000+ students with disabilities and their families.

**Rob Geller:**

Because I need your endorsement more than any other candidate needs your endorsement! Because I used to live in District 5, on Stanyan Street! Because Bernie Sanders told me to run, and he's very popular in the Haight! Because I have two children in the District schools and want to make policies that will encourage them and others to think for themselves! Because my 17 years of experience in Public Health Finance will positively impact the budget! Because I am the only candidate or Commissioner talking about bringing Organic Food to the Cafeterias of SFUSD schools! Because I am endorsed by Donna Gouse, former President and Board member of HANC. Because no one else is questioning the District's headlong rush into all things tech, and it's potential implications for students' academic, social and cognitive development. Because I once worked in the recording studio with Danny Glover and he lives in the District! Because my children have taken many classes at Acrosports! Because I will bring EVERY voice to the table! Because the current Board is destroying opportunity in the name of Equity, and does not have a clue how to make Equity and Excellence coexist! Because we need more music in the schools

every bit as much as we need more coding, and you can't dance to coding! Because I grew up poor in a housing project in the South Bronx, one block from where Hip Hop music was born, and you're marveling at how I managed to escape poverty, and want to help me succeed! Because I think Ross Mirkirimi was a great sheriff! Because I campaigned for Matt Gonzalez for Mayor! Because my band used to play at Nightbreak! Because the Board of Education on August 23 incorporated a "medical condition" amendment into its landmark transgender single-stall restroom Resolution at my suggestion, which proves I can work well with this Board and achieve results! Because unlike some of my opponents I think Lowell High School is just fine the way it is! Because unlike the current Board, I won't gamble away our children's future like it's Las Vegas! Because you're tired of 7-0 votes and want to see some 6-1 votes! Because now that Superintendent Carranza is gone, you need a new guitarist! Because I voted against Proposition 13 in 1978! Because I promise to make Board meetings much more interesting and entertaining! Because the Board needs a Consumer voice! Because I will provide robust Citizen Oversight! Because I'm the best person for the job, and you're the best Democratic Club in town! Thank you for your consideration!

**Mark Sanchez:**

I have served SF public education for 23 years--seven years as a school teacher, eight years as School Board Commissioner, and eight years as an SFUSD principal.

As the co-founder of Teachers 4 Social Justice and Teachers 4 Change, I have worked to create quality schools for all of our children, and to give a stronger voice to parents and educators.

As Board of Education commissioner, I was one of the main authors of the 2004 ballot measure Prop H (the Public Education Enrichment Fund) that was resoundingly passed, and then renewed in 2015. PEEF provides a \$60 million annual increase in funding for increased student services: librarians, nurses and PE teachers; arts programs; universal Pre-K programs; and other needed services for our district's students. In 2008, as president of the Board of Education, I led the board in hiring Superintendent Carlos Garcia and in passing Prop A, securing to increase teacher salaries and to help make San Francisco more affordable for SFUSD employees.

**Phil Kim:**

In many ways, my life reflects so many hard-working families in San Francisco. I am a first-generation American-born educator. I am the son of small business owners. I am a product of the K-12 public school system. I am gay. Money was an incredible barrier for our me, as I grew up in a family struggling to make ends meet. My mother and younger brother now live in government subsidized low-income housing outside of Detroit. Carrying my identities with me, I came into teaching with a desire to serve and give back to my community, and stayed in education because I realized how critical our educational system is in providing access and opportunity (and

because I loved my team and my students). I believe my experience both personally and professionally makes me uniquely positioned to be able to make informed decisions and enact policies or build programs necessary to elevate the needs of students, families, and teachers.

1. As our district looks to embody 21st century learning and STEM pathways, my educational background in the sciences and professional work around STEM planning and strategy well positions me to ensure our vision as a district to bring a world-class science program is carried out.

2. As it relates to two of SFUSD's ten big shifts outlined in Vision 2025, I have direct experience working with (1) blended learning programs and building (2) innovative systems that are forward-thinking. Currently as Innovation Manager at KIPP Bay Area Schools, I directly work to support initiatives around personalized learning and innovative school and classroom models to ensure our teachers are reaching more students and meeting them at their levels.

3. I have experience in bringing large visions and ideas to reality. From laying the foundation for a community school on the outskirts of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to scaling technology in my school from 5 laptops to being completely one-to-one; I have worked at the local school site, district, state, and national levels of our education system to scale ideas and help communities bring ideas into fruition.

**Ian Kalin:**

My wife and I are raising our kids here because we believe in San Francisco. We're entering the school system and know it isn't working for everyone. A smart city needs strong schools. That's why I'm fighting to help EVERY student.

I grew up in a bilingual, immigrant household and my career started after the 9/11 terror attacks when I became a U.S. Navy Officer. The skills I learned served me well; I grew clean-tech and data businesses right here in San Francisco, I led technology improvements for 200+ governments nationwide, delivering billions of taxpayer savings and creating 300+ jobs. I've also spent years helping SFUSD to raise money, improve connections with families, and streamline their operations.

Today, appointed by President Obama, I modernize governments as the Chief Data Officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce. I will put these skills to work for San Francisco and strengthen our schools.

With your endorsement, I will deliver:

**IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY.** San Francisco is failing to grade our schools. We need transparent, official performance metrics.

**SIMPLIFIED ENROLLMENT.** Neighborhoods are torn apart. We can improve

diversity and communities by reforming student assignments.  
BUDGET SOLUTIONS. Teacher shortages, overcrowding, and run-down facilities limit our children's potential. Better fiscal oversight can avert this crisis.

Changemaker endorsements include:

Supervisor Katy Tang

Supervisor Mark Farrell

MotherCoders Founder Tina Lee

City College Board Trustee Steve Ngo

BART Director Nick Josefowitz

San Francisco Chief Innovation Officer Jay Nath

Jon Garcia, San Francisco Unified School District Chief Development Officer

## **Position: BART Board of Directors, District 9**

**Bevan Dufty:** Through 23 years of City government service and 14 years working on Capitol Hill and for the LA Metro system, I have amassed the skills, knowledge and experience to be a strong leader on the BART Board.

It is unacceptable that \$7.5 billion in deferred maintenance has put this 44-year transit system on the brink. I am working hard to pass Measure RR to fund the first \$3.5 billion, but we need leadership to ensure that this work is done expeditiously, transparently and with an independent evaluation that we have achieved a "state of good repair".

I will be a BART Director with years of experience pursuing federal transit dollars, as well as policies to restore cuts in federal transit operations funding that contributed to BART's shortfall. I'm also a nuts and bolts elected official and will roll up my sleeves to change the station experience for our riders. We need to open and staff BART's bathrooms. Drawing on my years helping people exit homelessness, we will do more to help people who have been living in our stations, especially those with severe mental illness.

I led the effort to replace Muni's outdated Central Control Facility and I will lead the replacement of BART's 1968 train control facility. I have always been a highly accessible public official, and I will connect with BART riders to respond to problems and build a great system for the next 40 years.