

San Francisco District 11 Democratic Club
Questionnaire for Candidates – November 2016 Candidates

PLEASE USE THIS TEMPLATE TO RESPOND ELECTRONICALLY TO
info@sfd11dems.com by **Wednesday, August 17, 2016** by 11pm.

Our PAC meetings are scheduled for Saturday, Aug.27 & Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016 from 10am-5pm each day. If you have a preferred time to schedule, please contact info@sfd11dems.com. Otherwise, you will receive time an email to sign up for timeslots using google docs.

- 1. Name: Rafael Mandelman**
- 2. Address: 1370 Valencia Street, # 4, San Francisco, CA 94110**
- 3. Telephone/Cell phone: 415-516-7761**
- 4. Email address: rafaelmandelman@yahoo.com**

5. What is your political affiliation? How long?

I have been a registered Democrat since I turned 18 in 1991.

6. Please list your campaign manager and contact info?

Arthur Welton, arthur@rafaelmandelman.com, 614-783-1398

7. What is the major source of your campaign funding? Also, please list your top 3 funders.

The City College race is subject to the \$500 per person limit. I am hoping to raise \$50-75,000 in donations of \$500 or less, but I still have a long way to go.

8. What office are you running for? Please explain why you are running and what your qualifications are for this specific office?

I am running for re-election to the City College Board of Trustees. Having been first elected to the Board of Trustees in 2012, as City College was struggling with serious financial and accreditation challenges, I bring a perspective on City College's past and future that is unique and will be helpful in confronting the challenges ahead. 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. However, significant challenges remain: our enrollment is down by a third, our financial future is consequently uncertain, and after nearly a decade of crisis (first the recession, then the accreditation debacle) the institution is in need of a lot of healing. 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.

9. Identify the three most important issues for the position you seek? What are the solutions you see for these specific issue areas or how will you work to tackle them?

Significant challenges remain for City College over the next few years: our enrollment is down by more than a third, our financial future is consequently uncertain, and after nearly a decade of crisis (first the recession, then the accreditation debacle) the institution is in need of a lot of healing. Our first task is to maintain the College's accreditation; the College has recently completed an extensive self-evaluation report demonstrating that we meet all accreditation standards, and an ACCJC visiting team will be visiting the College this fall. We are hopeful that the ACCJC will grant the College full accreditation status in January; if they do not, we will need to take whatever steps necessary, including additional litigation, to keep the College open and accredited. If, as we hope and expect, the ACCJC decision is favorable, that should help restore the confidence of the community and the College will be well-positioned to grow back enrollment in future years (and, critically, have that growth funded) thanks to special legislation we worked on with Senator Leno and Assemblymembers Ting and Chiu. Free City College could significantly improve our enrollment situation, so its implementation will be a priority, along with several other enrollment growth initiatives.

Regaining the enrollment we have lost will not be easy, and it is not something the Board can do directly. Rather, we have to make the recovery of enrollment a priority for our administration. I believe we have done that, and earlier this year, our administration presented us with a plan to increase enrollment through a set of new initiatives, including expanded partnerships with SFUSD, a compressed calendar and partnerships with the San Francisco Police Department to train their officers. Going forward, the Board will need to monitor the progress of those initiatives. We have also made clear that the administration must make significant improvements to our online registration process (which remains excessively difficult and, I fear, a significant barrier to enrollment). I also have encouraged the administration to undertake a department-by-department review to determine where the College has the capacity to grow and what additional support (e.g., faculty release time, help preparing grant applications, etc.) could help those departments recruit new students.

10. District 11 has more children, more ethnic diversity and more homeowners than any other district in San Francisco. These are just a few of the unique features of this district. If elected, describe the priorities of your office for District 11.

City College is a critically important resource for District 11 families. Our first priority with regard to District 11, as indeed for all of San Francisco, must be to keep the College open and accredited. Other priorities include: 1) preserving access to City College's amazing diversity of programs; 2) building the Performing Arts Center, which will be a community resource as well as a College resource; 3) improving the traffic, transit and pedestrian access situation around the Phelan Campus.

11. We would like to know your position on the following ALL of the Measures, please circle or clearly mark your preference. In addition, please add short comments to your top 5 issues on why you believe this measure or proposition is of critical importance this election:

LOCAL Measures:

Initiative Ordinance: Affordable Housing Requirements for Market-Rate Development Projects (Resubmitted)

Oppose

Initiative Ordinance: Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on City-Owned Projects (Resubmitted)

Oppose

Initiative Ordinance: Office Development in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point

Undecided

Initiative Ordinance: Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds

Undecided

Charter Amendment- Sixteen and Seventeen-Year-Old Voting for Municipal Elections

Support

San Francisco Community College District November 8, 2016 Parcel Tax Election

Support!!!!

Prohibiting Candidate-Controlled General Purpose Committees

Support or Oppose

Initiative Ordinance - Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Ordinance

Support

Initiative Ordinance - The Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

Oppose

Initiative Ordinance - Promotion of Safe and Open Sidewalks

Oppose

Resolution Ordering School Bond Election in an Amount Not to Exceed \$744,250,000 and Authorizing Necessary Actions in Connection Therewith

Support

Charter Amendment - Dignity Fund

Support

Charter Amendment - Municipal Transportation Agency- Appointments to Board of Directors and Budget Process

Support

Charter Amendment - Homeless Housing Services Fund; Transportation Improvement Fund - Budget Set-Asides

Support

Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Local Elective Office

Support

Initiative Ordinance - Increase Real Property Transfer Tax on Properties of At Least \$5,000,000

Support

Initiative Ordinance - Restrict Lobbyist Gifts, Campaign Contributions and Bundled Contributions

Support

Charter Amendment - Housing and Development Commission

Undecided

Charter Amendment - Department of Police Accountability

Support

Charter Amendment - Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections

Support

Charter Amendment - Public Advocate

Support

General Obligation Bond Election -Amending Earthquake Loan Bond Program to Finance Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing

Support

Charter Amendment - City Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees

Support

State Measures:

Proposition 51: School Bonds. Funding for K-12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statutory Amendment.

Support

Proposition 52: State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds. Initiative Statutory and Constitutional Amendment.

Support

Proposition 53: Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Oppose

Proposition 54: Legislature. Legislation and Proceedings. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Oppose

Proposition 55: Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Support

Proposition 56: Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Support

Proposition 57: Criminal Sentences. Juvenile Criminal Proceedings and Sentencing. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Support

Proposition 58: SB 1174 (Chapter 753, Statutes of 2014), Lara.

[English language education. \(PDF\)](#)

Support

Proposition 59: SB 254 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2016), Allen.

[Campaign finance: voter instruction. \(PDF\)](#)

Support

Proposition 60: Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.

Oppose

Proposition 61: State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.
Undecided

Proposition 62: Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.
Support

Proposition 63: Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.
Support

Proposition 65: Carry-Out Bags. Charges. Initiative Statute.
Undecided

Proposition 66: Death Penalty. Procedures. Initiative Statute.
Oppose

Proposition 67: Referendum to Overturn Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags.
Support