

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:** Rachel Norton
2. **Address:** P.O. Box 210291, SF 94121
3. **Telephone/Cell phone:** 415-377-6678
4. **Email address:** rachel@rachelnorton.com
5. **What is your political affiliation? Democrat How long? 32 years**
6. **Please list your campaign manager and contact info? Self; see above**

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

Individuals in increments of \$500 or less. I have received no PAC or organization funding. The first three contributions I received were from myself, my husband and my mom.

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 a third term on the Board of Education. 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.

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?

First, income inequality and teacher compensation. We are having a more and more difficult time recruiting and keeping teachers, and teacher pay and working conditions (in that order) are the reasons for this. Second, we have a persistent achievement/opportunity gap that commands ongoing attention and investment. Finally, in the wake of Richard Carranza's departure for Houston, we need to recruit new leadership that is aligned with our community's needs.

Our school system has to get more nimble in adapting to change, and I'm focused on planning for the future. We need to get busy building new schools and developing a more robust recruitment pipeline for teachers and school leaders -- and to do that, we must pay teachers more so that we can attract and keep our educators in San Francisco. We spend thousands of dollars per teacher on professional development each year, so every teacher we lose to a higher-paying district represents a lost investment.

To address persistent achievement/opportunity gaps, we've made progress: our graduation rates are up and preliminary data suggests our approach to implementing Common Core is having a positive effect. Still, stabilizing staffs and enrollment at struggling schools needs to be addressed if we are ever to have a hope of closing these gaps. That means addressing compensation and working conditions for teachers, and making changes to our student assignment system to address schools that are under-enrolled and racially isolated.

We need to design an inclusive process for input into that crucial hire for the school district. We need to design a Superintendent search process that is inclusive of our community and helps us define and locate the right leader for our district.

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.

D11 residents have always been very engaged and supportive of their public schools and want them to succeed. I do too! Schools like Balboa HS and Denman MS have made strong gains in recent years; I've been very supportive of the Mandarin language programs in the school district, including the one at Jose Ortega ES. Other schools, like Cleveland, Guadalupe and Longfellow have more challenged populations and need additional supports from the school district. In general, I'm committed to making sure that all residents of D11 have great public school options close by.

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)

NO POSITION

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

NO POSITION - While in principle I support competitive bidding I am concerned that this measure would delay much needed progress on affordable housing projects. Therefore I am not taking a position.

Prop O Initiative Ordinance: Office Development in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point

SUPPORT - It's important to support the development of jobs and parks in this neighborhood, which has been cut off and underserved for too long.

Initiative Ordinance: Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds

OPPOSE - I support the sources of funding in the measure but believe it is really the job of Supervisors and the Mayor to determine budget priorities.

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

SUPPORT - I authored a resolution in support of this measure at the school board, because in my experience our students are incredibly thoughtful and engaged about issues that affect them. I think this measure will create more lifetime voters and more engaged citizens.

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

SUPPORT

Prohibiting Candidate-Controlled General Purpose Committees

No Position - withdrawn from November 2016 ballot

Initiative Ordinance - Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Ordinance

SUPPORT

Initiative Ordinance - The Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

SUPPORT

Initiative Ordinance - Promotion of Safe and Open Sidewalks

SUPPORT

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

OPPOSE

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

SUPPORT

Charter Amendment - Filling Vacancies in Local Elective Office

OPPOSE - unnecessarily restrictive and creates additional expense of special elections.

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

OPPOSE

Charter Amendment - Department of Police Accountability

SUPPORT

Charter Amendment - Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections

SUPPORT - The school board makes decisions that affect all families, not just those who are citizens. I support this Charter Amendment because I think it will lead to non-citizens being more engaged in our decisionmaking and how it affects their children.

Charter Amendment - Public Advocate

OPPOSE - This is not needed and creates a duplicate city bureaucracy

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 - the City should never have relinquished trees in the first place. Most homeowners don't know how to care for street trees or can't afford the expense of doing so, and there is a clear public benefit to maintaining a healthy tree canopy in SF.

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 - This makes the temporary tax increases passed in 2012 permanent. Our schools are still underfunded and cannot afford the loss of this revenue when we have just started recovering from the Great Recesion.

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.

OPPOSE

Proposition 62: Death Penalty. Initiative Statute.

SUPPORT

Proposition 63: Firearms. Ammunition Sales. Initiative Statute.

SUPPORT

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

OPPOSE

Proposition 66: Death Penalty. Procedures. Initiative Statute.

OPPOSE

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

OPPOSE