



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDC) is eager to learn more about your candidacy and invites you to participate in our endorsement process.

If you would like to be considered for an endorsement by SFDC, please complete the attached Endorsement Questionnaire and return to [info@sfdemocrats.org](mailto:info@sfdemocrats.org) by **Monday, August 13 at 5:00pm**. Our Endorsement Committee will meet candidates for interviews on **August 18, 2018**. The exact time of your interview and location will be provided to you after we review your completed Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and have determined that you meet our bottom line requirements to be considered for an endorsement. At the time of the interview, you may also provide additional information to supplement your questionnaire. You are limited to four (4) total pages, and you must provide 5 copies.

SFDC seeks to encourage the election of qualified local candidates who will help to advance our shared Democratic values. We are only able to endorse registered Democrats, except in the case of a nonpartisan race in which no registered Democrat has qualified for the ballot. We also seek to support those candidates who express agreement and have demonstrated support for our core issues and priorities, which are included in the California Democratic Party Platform, our Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures Manual (which can all be found at [www.cadems.org](http://www.cadems.org) and [www.sfdemocrats.org](http://www.sfdemocrats.org)).

To qualify for an endorsement interview, all candidates must indicate that they support the Democratic principles in our party platform, complete the Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire, and return it by the deadline of **August 13, 2018 at 5:00pm**.

Candidate interviews will be brief and will be open to both SFDC members and members of San Francisco's chartered democratic clubs. Following the Endorsement

Committee interview, the full body will deliberate and vote on a final endorsement at our meeting scheduled for August 22, 2018, at 6:30pm, at the Tenderloin Community Elementary School. Meetings are open to the general public and are live streamed on our Facebook page. You are welcome to attend or follow our progress online.

The following rules also apply to the SFDCCC endorsement process and any violation may be subject to further actions, including a revocation of the endorsement:

1. Candidates may only use the "SF Democratic Party" name and image after the full membership endorsement;
2. Once endorsed, the SFDCCC will provide a high-resolution copy of our logo which may be used in your materials **only** for the race for which you were endorsed;
3. In the case of elections in which Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is employed, listing of the SFDCCC endorsement must accurately reflect the ranked endorsement as detailed in our Policies and Procedures Manual;
4. Third parties wishing to utilize the SFDCCC name or logo in their campaign materials must submit a request to our Executive Director.

Thank you very much for your interest in the SFDCCC endorsement. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to learning more about your candidacy and your campaign.

Respectfully,  
The San Francisco Democratic Party

By signing below, you acknowledge that you will comply with the SFDCCC's Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and you will not utilize the SFDCCC name, the San Francisco Democratic Party, or its logo without written permission.

Connor Krone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Board of Ed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(position you are seeking)

8/13/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

SF DCCC Candidate Questionnaire  
Board of Education

Name Connor Krone

Address 1885 Mission St

City, State, Zip SF, CA, 94103

Campaign Phone Number 415-766-8997

Cell Phone Number 202-213-3224

E-mail Address Connor@ConnorKrone.com

Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party?  Yes  No

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?  Yes  No

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?  Yes  No

What office are you running for? Board of Education

Are you running for re-election? Yes   No

What other elected positions have you held previously?  
NA

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Please complete this questionnaire and bring 5 copies (for the 31 Committee members and for Democratic Clubs) with you to be distributed just prior to your interview appointment on **August 18, 2018**
- **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** Please send electronic copies to info@SFDemocrats.org by **5:00 PM on**

**August 13, 2018**

- With the *possible exception* of a Democratic candidate filing to run after the questionnaire due date, *only* candidates who return a completed questionnaire electronically by the due date will be allowed to present before the committee.
- At the time of the interview, you may also provide 45 copies of up to 4 pages of supplemental information attached to your questionnaire for distribution to SFDCCC members (materials are not to be passed out during the meeting).
- We may distribute the questionnaires in preparation for event and post them on the SFDCCC website for the public to view.
- If you have not heard from the committee by **Thursday, August 16**, please contact Executive Director, Adam Mehis at 415-626-1161 or info@sfdemocrats.org to schedule a time slot during the Endorsement Interview Meeting.

**PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (200 words or less)**

**Why are you committed to serving on the School Board? What stake do you have in decisions made at the School Board (e.g. parent, student, educator, etc.)?**

I grew up in SF, attending our public schools. Today I am the founder of a financial education organization for SF high school students. I regularly teach high school classes, and what I see is our public schools remain a realm of inequality, divided across class and racial lines. The fact is our schools have been unable to make up for the long-term effects of poverty, racism, and other deeply rooted injustices. I am running to bring the voice of an educator with a track record for public school solutions to the Board of Education; in my career I have mentored high school students to become entrepreneurs who designed a new kind of solar panel. I worked for the College Board to bring STEM coaching to minorities in Brooklyn who were gearing up to take the SAT. I developed a curriculum for K-5 students to build robots. I ran a youth leadership lab in Singapore. I am an innovative candidate, and I will think outside of the box for our students. I am proud of the work I have done for San Francisco students, and want to continue as an advocate for kids on the Board of Education.

**Please describe your contributions to the Democratic Party and/or increasing civic engagement in the democratic process at the local, state and or/national level in the most recent years.**

As a high school history teacher I created civic engagement opportunities for youth to research issues that impact their community, and advocate for change with the state legislature. We developed a classroom lobbying campaign to clean up neighborhood streets by writing to members of state congress. In my work today (at the financial education non-profit I founded) I tasked student community leaders with developing a civic engagement project. They chose to lobby for more responsible student loans. We wrote letters to the Federal Reserve, which resulted in a collaboration with the SF Federal Reserve to develop a “cost of college” program to educate students about the real cost of college. Throughout my career I have taught that civic engagement through our democratic processes is one of the most powerful ways to champion change.

**Are there any other civic causes or organizations that you are involved with? Please describe.**

I am a member of the San Francisco Rotary club where I continue to work on education issues. Under support of the Rotary I became District Chair for Interact, a group of thousands of high school students who form leadership clubs to design + implement community projects. I lead trainings, provide mentorship, and help raise money to support our amazing youth leaders.

I also work on projects to distribute bicycles to SF public school elementary students (to teach road safety), and volunteer at the ARC (a center for developmentally disabled youth and adults).

**Please summarize your qualifications and experience for the office you are seeking.**

I started my career as a teacher after earning a master’s in education science from the University of Pennsylvania. I continued in public education with the College Board, where I developed STEM learning programs for minorities in New York to have better access to SAT preparation programs. I also managed our relationships with New York’s Department of Education. After, I joined the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, where I managed 30 teachers in an entrepreneurship class taught in public schools. I was also the vendor relationship manager for the school districts in Philadelphia, Camden, and throughout Delaware; *I am the only candidate with cross-functional experience in classrooms and at the school district level.* Today I am the founder of Money Study, which serves SF public schools with financial education in economics classes.

**Please list any organizations or elected officials who have endorsed you. (You may attach a list and exceed the word count limit).**

NA

**If you are elected, what are your top concerns? How would you address these concerns?**

School Lottery: the lottery preferences siblings and students from low test score neighborhoods. We know the lottery is unpopular with parents, and even worse, doing little to mitigate the effects of racial segregation in our schools. I think a stronger indicator of school choice should be family income. Take Bayview as an example; the neighborhood has extremely low test scores, but also high income families living in new condo developments popping up in the area. What this means is struggling neighborhoods undergoing gentrification actually suffer the most in the lottery process. We must change this.

Innovation: SFUSD only recently introduced computer science in the heart of the world's technology center. We are woefully behind in developing innovation and entrepreneurship as core mindsets of our students. However, we know these are the skills employers demand in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As a small non-profit founder, I believe we can do more to create more accountability AND more transparency in welcoming third party education organizations to work with our children.

**The California Democratic Party Platform mentions building health, livable, and sustainable communities, what does this mean to you?**

It means healthcare is a right, not a privilege. It means we have the right to live in the cities we work in. It means housing access must weigh urban sprawl against the needs of the large class being forced out of San Francisco. It means promoting a sustainable Bay Area that becomes a national model for how we can preserve our environment for future generations.

**Would you support the idea of school districts using local accountability plans to grant funds to reach students with the greatest needs for whom they are most needed? Why or why not?**

I support the accountability plans/LCAP process in principle. Research shows us learning (and then measuring learning progress) relates just as much to social-emotional, healthcare, family well-being, and extracurricular targets as it relates to test scores and income. Right now the LCAP does not comprehensively account for those former elements. As a result, I believe there are instances where LCAP funding is misallocated because we don't have a strong picture of

who is truly most in need of funding. Instead I would encourage SFUSD to build on the success of LCAP with a more nuanced, comprehensive measurement of what “most needed” means as we continue to close the education achievement gap.

**PART II: YES/NO QUESTIONS**

While it may seem that some of these questions do not apply to the office you are seeking, they represent California Democratic Party Platform principles and since many people run for higher office where they will be called upon to answer these questions, we would like them addressed.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

Do you support the divestment of public funds from Wells Fargo and other financial institutions involved in speculative and questionable banking practices?

Yes

No

Do you believe that the government should provide foreclosure relief for borrowers who were victims of unethical financial service practices?

Yes

No

Do you support the creation of a local municipal bank in San Francisco?

Yes

No

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM**

Do you support overhauling the bail system?

Yes

No

Do you believe in ending mass incarceration and supporting the abolishment of capital punishment?

Yes

No

Do you support using jails as mental health facilities and substance abuse treatment programs?

Yes

No

Will you commit to encouraging “ban the box” to ensure that those formerly incarcerated are given an equal opportunity for housing and employment?

Yes

No

Do you support the San Francisco Police Department being equipped with Tasers?

Yes

No

### **CHILDCARE**

Do you support expanding affordable childcare to low- and middle-income families?

Yes

No

Do you support expanding child care to include children aged 0-3 years old?

Yes

No

### **EDUCATION**

Do you believe in a “debt-free college” and free community college (i.e. Education financed entirely without student loans)?

Yes

No

Would you support the idea of school districts using local accountability plans to grant funds to reach students with the greatest needs for whom they are most needed? (9)

Yes

No

Do you support that teachers and professional staff deserve commensurate wages?

Yes

No

**ENVIRONMENT**

Do you oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects and supporting the divestment of fossil fuels?

Yes

No

Do you believe in Free MUNI for youth?

Yes

No

Do you support the Safe Routes to Schools program?

Yes

No

**HEALTHCARE**

Do you support a publicly funded single payer health care system for all people?

Yes

No

Should SFUSD expand Healthcare Centers to all high schools?

Yes

No

Do you support that all students have access to safe and reliable reproductive services and information without their spouse, judicial, parental, or guardian consent?

Yes

No

**CIVIL RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**

Will you work to implement full Ethnic Studies courses and language immersion?

Yes

No

Will you support Sanctuary policies and Due Process for All -- limiting the ability for local authorities to collaborate with Federal government on immigration enforcement which incites fear in immigrant communities?

Yes

No

Do you support speaking out in public against all forms of racism, discrimination, hatred and violence and support standing in solidarity with movements that promote equity, including Black Lives Matter?

Yes

No

Will you protect the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of society regardless of their gender identity and the gender assigned at birth?

Yes

No

**LABOR**

Will you support the push for a statewide minimum wage for at least \$15 per hour and living wages for areas that have high cost of living?

Yes

No

Do you support that teachers and professional staff deserve commensurate wages?

Yes

No

Do you support paid parental leave for school educators?

Yes

No

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

Do you support full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements?

Yes

No

Do you support full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements?

Yes

No

**HOUSING, TENANT, & LAND USE ISSUES**

Do you believe that housing is a human right?

Yes

No

Do you believe the split roll for Proposition 13 that treats taxes for commercial and residential property differently?

Yes

No

Would you support repealing Costa Hawkins and the Ellis Act?

Yes

No

Do you support use of SFUSD property to build affordable housing?

Yes

No

But right now they are building about 200 units. We need thousands more!

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?

Yes

No

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?

Yes

No

**PART III: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ISSUES (250 words or less)**

- 1) What programs or initiatives would you undertake to address the educational disparities for SFUSD students?

-Developing a fairer school lottery that better predicts which students have the most need.

-Working within SFUSD and with community organizations to create stronger innovation, career and tech, and computer science programs that prepare SFUSD graduates for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.

- 2) What would be your budget priorities for the School District?

With the caveat that the LCFF needs to be allocated before any candidate can intelligently answer, I support restoration of centralized services from this year's cut, expansion of CTE programs with stronger funding for business/community relations development, and meeting Prop G allocations for raising teacher pay.

- 3) Do you believe that SFUSD's school assignment system needs reform? If not, why? If so, how would you change it?

Yes. Sibling preference and low test score neighborhoods are not great predictors of who needs access to better schools the most. Take the example of a high income family who lives in a new condo development in Hunter's Point; they don't need lottery tie-breakers, but get them under the current system because the Hunter's Point catchment area has low test scores. A better predictor of school need would be relating tie-breakers to income, and length of time living in a catchment area.

- 4) What is your belief on Common Core Standards? In recent years, there has been controversy that the new methodology is placing some students at a disadvantage for high achievement and college preparation. How would you address this concern?

I support CCSS. One issue in public education is we are impatient to see change. CCSS was only rolled out in the last decade; there are no students who have learned under CCSS for their entire public school education. I believe the standards represent a path to the demanding subjects that many local educators have long doubted students could or should study. The achievement gap in public education, unfortunately, is in no small part an expectations gap. Instead of changing or dropping the CCSS, we need better professional development for our teachers to understand how CCSS differs from the past standards, and to grow best teaching practices.

- 5) What do you think are the factors attributing to the teacher shortage in SFUSD? How would you address this?

Why would anyone want to live in the most expensive cities in the world for one of the worst paid careers? It's simple: if we want people to teach in San Francisco, we need to pay them enough to live (and have a life) where they work.

- 6) What is your perspective about charter schools and their role in San Francisco? How would you advocate differently than SFUSD's current policies?

I preference our public schools and believe we need to resource them first. There are limited instances where a charter school may be appropriate, for instance in a growing neighborhood without a school, or to serve a special student population. We must do serious economic research to understand how costs increase to the public system when charter schools come to San Francisco; just because a charter takes students out of a public school doesn't mean that school doesn't have to keep the lights on, pay salaries, and fund other non-variable expenses. My greatest concern supporting new charters is to ensure neighborhoods stay balanced and accessible to ALL students.

- 7) Do you support the Safe and Supportive Schools Policy at SFUSD? How would you further these goals as a School Board member?

I absolutely support Safe and Supportive Schools; kids need to be in class, and schools need to be resourced with the tools they need to help disruptive students improve (instead of kicking them out of class, or school). To further support SSSP I would advocate for continued measurement of restorative practices and positive behavior interventions to ensure the policy is followed. I would also increase the professional development to help educators learn the social-emotional pedagogy required to effectively implement the policy and help students stay in class.

- 8) What role do you feel the Board of Education should play in sexual harassment and assault cases involving students? If elected, how will you address this concern?

I see this as an administrative issue that must be referred to the appropriate counseling, legal, and school professionals at SFUSD. The only role the Board of Education should play is to follow up in times when a parent or student has a claim of inaction on the part of the school district.

- 9) There is a perception that parent-led fundraising has widened the educational inequality gap among schools. What are your thoughts on this issue and how would you address distribution of school funds districtwide?

I agree that some schools have parent demographics with more fundraising capability. Instead of limiting a parent's privilege to become active in their child's school (including fundraising), we should ensure that students are accepted to schools based on a fair process. Because the lottery isn't fair now, some schools have a lot of rich parents. However if we truly have socio-economically diverse schools (through a fair lottery), schools would also have more equal opportunity for parent fundraising.

- 10) What role do you believe SFUSD should play in the City's housing crisis? How would you address the needs of homeless or underhoused students and their families?

I think DCYF and Human Services need to continue to manage our city's homeless. SFUSD has a responsibility for making sure that families know how to access programs at those agencies, ensuring students have school transportation (ie: free muni) to get to school, and providing meals under the free + reduced cost program.

- 11) Beyond reforming school assignment program, what do you see as the greatest barriers or major issues for families and youth getting to school safely while reducing traffic congestion?

Muni should expand or eliminate the income caps for youth passes so more students can use public transportation to get to school. For a family of 3, the income cap is \$103K. That works out to just over 50K annual salaries per parent. In a city like San Francisco, it is ridiculous to ask a family over the income cap to pay the extra expense of getting their children to school; even though 103K is reasonable in other cities, it's difficult to live as a family on that amount here.

We can also expand yellow bus routes to include stops at major transportation hubs so students who live outside of neighborhood zones can transfer to muni to get home (when they are old enough to ride alone).