



Dear Candidate:

The San Francisco Democratic Party (SFDCCC) 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 SFDCCC, 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.

SFDCCC 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 SFDCCC 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.

<u>John Rizzo</u> (name)	<u>Community College Board</u> (position you are seeking)
 (signature)	<u>8/16/18</u> (date)

## City College Board of Trustees

Name \_\_\_\_\_ John Rizzo \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_ 325 Highland Ave, \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_ San Francisco CA 94110 \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Phone Number \_\_\_\_ 415-751-1615 \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_ (415) 517-1881 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ john@johnrizzoforcollegeboard.com \_\_\_\_\_

What office are you running for? \_\_\_\_ Community College Board \_\_\_\_\_

Are you running for re-election? **Yes**

What other elected positions have you held previously?

\_\_\_\_\_ Community College Board \_\_\_\_\_

### 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](mailto: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.

- We will distribute the questionnaires prior to your interview and post them on the DCCC website for the public to view.

**PART I: GENERAL QUESTIONS (250 words or less)**

Why are you committed to serving on the City College Board of Trustees? How are you affiliated to City College (e.g. faculty, student, etc.)?

I am an incumbent running for re-election to the College Board.

Are you a registered member of the Democratic Party? YES

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 political chair of the Sierra Club's Bay Area chapter, I have facilitated the election of Democratic candidates in 4 counties to local and state office and to Congress. I have directed Sierra Club endorsements and campaign activities in partisan races in the Bay Area and participated in campaigns to get them elected. I have also led Sierra Club efforts to support Democrats in non-partisan local races for supervisors, city councils, and other seats, in San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond and other cities in Alameda, Marin, and Contra Costa Counties.

I regularly participate in other activities, such as phonebanking for Democratic candidates in other states and in presidential races. I hosted fundraises for Barack Obama, Mark Leno, and others.

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

I am active with the Sierra Club, serving as the Political Chair for the San Francisco Bay Chapter, which covers 4 counties.

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

As a member of the Board of Trustees at City College, I successfully fought for City College's accreditation, free tuition for San Franciscans, and for streamlining

administration bureaucracy so that City College now educates more students at lower cost than two years ago. I am now working on building City College for the future.

We are on track to create affordable housing for 500 students and 200 teachers and staff. I am working to build a Performing Arts Center for students and the community and to expand curriculum to qualify students for the latest career fields. Now I am working with the Board of Supervisors to make Free City College permanent.

I am protective of our students' rights. I co-authored City College's Sanctuary campus policy to protect undocumented students and provide helpful information and resources.

As a member of the Community College Board and past President, I have spent much time on the board fighting for reform, starting with battling corruption and implementing policies that have cleaned up massive problems with construction projects, including huge cost overruns and misuse of public funds. I am now leading the charge to fix endemic problems with management and financial structures.

My other accomplishments include creating the City's first Local Hire policy at City College, which championed the hiring of economically disadvantaged San Francisco residents. I co-authored and passed the City College's first Sunshine Policy for open governance, defending and supporting education and counseling programs for disadvantaged students, and working to create green jobs training programs for disadvantaged communities.

I have worked to prioritize spending to maximize benefits to students, while seeking equitable ways to implement state budget cuts that are fair to faculty and other employees. I have made green jobs training a priority of the District and helped bring in several grants to fund new programs

For ten years, I served on the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority Board of Directors, a body that directed land use policy and public improvements.

With the Sierra Club, I have worked with private industry and state and local government to create policy and programs that have grown the green energy field and brought jobs to San Francisco.

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

Mark Leno, former Senator

Jane Kim, Supervisor

Phil Ting, Assemblymember

Scott Weiner, Senator

Sandra Fewer, Supervisor

Aaron Peskin, Supervisor

Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor

Tom Ammiano, former Assemblymember

Eric Mar, former Supervisor

Jake McGoldrick, former Supervisor

City College Board of Trustees Brigitte Davila, Alex Randolph, Thea Selby, Tom

Temprano, Shanell Williams

School Board members Matt Haney, Mark Sanchez

Bevan Dufty, BART Director

Sierra Club

National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)

LiUNA Laborers Local 261

Young Democrats of San Francisco

League of Pissed Off Voters

Brownie Mary Democratic Club

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

**Making Free City permanent & fully funding it**

Free college tuition opens doors for people who otherwise would not have access to it. Unfortunately, the current Free City program is set to expire next year, and is currently not fully fund. If re-elected I indent to work with Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and the Board of Supervisors to make the program permanent and fully funded.

**Building affordable housing for students, faculty & staff & City College employees**

I have been working to have affordable housing built for students, faculty, and staff at the Ocean Campus and at other City College land. Last year I authored a resolution with Trustee Brigitte Davila to enable City College to acquire land at the lower Balboa Reservoir. The College is now proceeding along the lines that we proposed in our resolution. At this point, we are working towards several 500 beds of student housing

and up to 200 units of new affordable housing for faculty at Ocean Campus. I believe that we can up to 3000 units of affordable housing.

### **Growing enrollment**

Student enrollment dropped by nearly 40% during the accreditation crisis. I am committed to growing student enrollment to pre-crisis levels, which I call "full enrollment." We can do this by offering new programs that students need and including faculty and staff in all planning for growth. Though only a year old, this multi-year effort is succeeding. For instance, I am working to create a new cannabis degree program and expanding our offerings in medical technology, such as cardiology tech and pharmacy tech.

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

To me this means building a society where lower-income people can strive to the middle class, and where the middle class can thrive. A society where all people have healthcare regardless of economic status, and where people don't have to worry about a serious illness bankrupting them. The Platform calls for communities where people who want to work do, where people can start a business, and where those who want a better life can seek out educational opportunities. It also describes communities where individuals are not discriminated against because of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, social status, or country of origin. Communities where people are free from pollution and harmful substances, and where the air and water are safe. These communities also would have reliable public transit serving them, plenty of parks and open space, and enough markets selling healthy food.

## **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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs?

No

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM**

Do you support overhauling the bail system?

Yes

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

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?

No

## **EDUCATION**

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

Yes

Will you commit to keeping all of CCSF’s satellite campuses open and maintain their full program of classes?

Yes

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?

Yes

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

Yes

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Do you oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects?

Yes

Would you support divestment of fossil fuels?

Yes

## **HEALTHCARE**

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

Yes

Do you support the idea that women have access to safe and reliable access to reproductive services without their spouse, judicial, parental, or guardian consent?

Yes

## **CIVIL RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES**

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

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

## **LABOR**

Do you support employee rights to organize and collective bargaining and support enforceable organizing agreements?

Yes

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

Yes

Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs?

No

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

Would you sponsor and/or endorse the idea of implementing legislation for Clean Money (full public financing of election campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels)?

Yes

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

Yes

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

Do you believe that housing is a human right?

Yes

Do you believe that Proposition 13 needs to be reformed?

Yes

Would you support overturning Costa Hawkins to support the right for localities to pass rent control laws?

Yes

Do you support the repeal or reform of the Ellis Act?

Yes

Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?

Yes

Will you fight for its implementation in policies?

Yes

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

- 1) How will you work to fully implement Free City College and expand on its success?

Free City College is now a model that is being talked about all over the country. However, there are several aspects of Free City College that I believe need to happen:

1. It must be made permanent. Currently it is set to expire at the end of next year.
2. Summer sessions need to be covered. This year, students had to pay the tuition for summer session. Fortunately, the Board of Supervisors recently approved funding for the next two summers. This needs to be made permanent.
3. It needs to be fully funded. The first two years had an annual cap placed on the program. Because of this, the City underfunded the program by \$2.5 million per year. The City should lift this cap; no such cap was in the voter approved Proposition W.
4. The stipend for low-income students should be increased to \$500 annually, as the original proposal stated. These are students who are getting the BoG waiver and not receiving Free City Aid. The \$500 figure was carefully considered as an amount to cover books.

I intend to work with the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor for an agreement that includes these fixes.

- 2) As City College undergoes its Facilities Master Plan, what do you foresee are the challenges in developing more sites and housing? What solutions would you propose? Do you believe market-rate housing should be built on City College property?

Largely due to a resolution I co-authored with Trustee Brigitte Davila, we are on course for the building of 500 beds of affordable housing for students, and up to 200 units for teachers and staff. This is a good start, considering City College has no housing now, but I believe we can eventually build up to 3000 units of housing. I am in favor of this being 100% affordable.

I don't believe there is a need for the College to build market rate housing. I have studied the issue, and many community colleges do offer housing. In California, most of the colleges with housing are rural schools, but the East Coast has many urban schools that offer housing. The main issue across the country is paying for the construction and then the maintenance. However, we are not the first to do this, and believe we can reach 3000 units of all-affordable housing.

- 3) With the advent of emerging technologies and automation, how do you foresee City College playing a role in workforce development for San Francisco?

City College already is the largest provider of workforce training in the Bay Area. This includes not only the construction trades, but in food preparation in the hospitality industry, auto repair, and the medical trades, including radiology, nursing, cardiology tech, pharmacy tech, and others. Workforce training is a core part of the College's mission. I support expanding this into new areas, such as the emerging business of cannabis. We can expand workforce training through the use of industry advisory committees to work with the faculty to come up with curriculum that fits the needs of the industry.

- 4) How would you improve public transit options and accessibility for City College students and faculty?

I am a supporter of having free or discounted "class-passes" made available to City College students, and have met with people at Muni about it. The issue has been how to pay for it. I believe it will have to be funded by a combination of student fees, CCSF funds, and Muni funds, and no one source seems to be able to cover it.

I would also like to see a discount BART ticket made available to students, and would work with the BART Board to see how this could be done.

- 5) Given City College's recovery from the accreditation crisis, what would you specifically change to ensure the institution's financial solvency and transparency?

Because of my work and that of the current Board of Trustees, City College is now educating 4000 more students than two years ago at a cost of \$8 million less. I expect this trend to continue this year and the following few years. And the State's FCMAT auditor has given City College a clean bill of financial health.

I have authored or co-authored a number of policies that have increased financial solvency and transparency. These include limiting the number of people at the college who can sign off on invoices, and reporting requirements on administrators. I fought for an external audit of the College's construction

practices (which was fought by the Board at the time). These Performance Audits exposed many practices that were resulting in cost overruns in construction. I authored policies that accepted the auditors recommendations, when saved millions of dollars in building the Chinatown campus and the Multipurpose Building.

I fought for the creation of a Board Audit Committee, which I now serve on, to oversee the independent audits of the College. I have worked to fully populate and staff the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee and the Oversight Committee for the Parcel Tax.

There are improvements that can be made. I would like to bring back the position of Internal Auditor, an inspector-general type position that was eliminated by the Special Trustee a few years ago. I also believe that the Board of Trustees should bring back a Board Budget Committee to increase oversight on the administration. The Budget Committee would meet year round to more closely track how spending is rolling out through the year. I am also in favor of having regular state audits of the College by FCMAT.

- 6) City College campuses provide critical access to underserved neighborhoods like Downtown, Mission, and Chinatown/North Beach. How will you ensure equitable distribution of credit/non credit courses to increase access to the populations those campuses serve?

I have been working to increase the credit courses at the neighborhood campuses. We now have more credit courses at Mission Campus than just a few years ago, as does the John Adams Campus. The Downtown campus has always had a lot of credit courses. Chinatown is the campus that that needs the most improvement in terms of credit courses. This is something that we on the Board of Trustees are aware of. The key to solving this issue, and what has worked, is to get the dean of a neighborhood campus more involved in the programming of the curriculum at the campus. We are currently working with the administration on this.

During the past several years, I worked to make all student services available at the satellite campuses, so that students don't need to go to the Ocean Campus for counseling or financial aid, for example. We were successful in this.

- 7) CCSF has a Child Development and Families Studies Department. A majority of the students are women and women of color. Early educators are among the lowest paid in the trained workforce. How can City College better support early educators as a field, and to to be advocates for themselves? How can CCSF expand access to affordable, quality childcare for students and faculty?

I have been a strong supporter of the Child Development and Families Studies Department, and opposed cuts to funding that were proposed about 5 years ago. City College has several childcare centers, which are available to students and faculty.

The College closed the childcare center at the John Adams campus a few years ago. I believe we can expand access for childcare by reopening this center.

To create advocates among the students in the Child Development department, I believe these students could benefit from taking classes in political science and our Labor Studies departement. It is against state law for a Board of Trustees to dictate what classes should be in any cirriculum; this is entirely up to the faculty. But it is worth having conversations about.