

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 currently the President of the Board of Trustees and I am very proud of the work the Board has accomplished these past four years. We have weathered the rough seas of accreditation, labor strife and down-trending enrollment, and come out with free tuition for all residents, increased enrollment, a stabilized administration and contracts that display our appreciation for the hard-working faculty and staff at City College. Our board is a team of dedicated board members, including fellow incumbents, Thea Selby and John Rizzo. Our experience and leadership will help us achieve our goal to make CCSF the best community college in the country by 2018. I personally want to address faculty/staff/student housing issues, close the chronic achievement gap, expand childcare services, develop new programs that respond to workforce needs and create a sustainable, inviting physical locations for students. This is all entirely possible now and I can't wait to get started.

My affiliation with City College began with taking occasional classes in Visual Media Design, to assist my efforts to create a more robust visual learning experience for students in my own classes. I then found out about the accreditation problems and worked with my union to support AFT 2121 efforts to gain attention and challenge the accrediting agency. Currently, I still try to take one class per semester, but alas, I will not have time this semester. I encourage everyone to take the class I was planning to enroll in: VMD135 Hand Lettering M, 6:00- 8:50pm, 10/22/18-17/17/18.

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.

Delegate, Congressional District 8, Democratic National Convention, Denver CO 2008

President, San Francisco D11 Democratic Club, 2010 to 2015

Communications Chair, San Francisco Latino Democratic Club, 2014 to 2016

Communications Chair, San Francisco D11 Democratic Club, 2015 to Present

Last, through my position at San Francisco State University, I reach hundreds of young people every year through my U.S. government class. Since civics classes are rarely taught in high schools anymore, my class is the first time many students learn about voting rights and policy issues and participation in their communities.

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

I support my local neighborhood organizations like the Excelsior Action Group and the Mission Terrace Improvement Association.

I am also a proud union member of the California Faculty Association and previously held executive board positions at my local and the statewide PAC.

I currently sit on the Balboa Reservoir Citizen Advisory Committee

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

I bring a unique skill set to the Board. I am the only candidate with extensive higher education experience. I have been teaching at SFSU in the College of Ethnic Studies for almost 25 years. I am a proud member of a faculty union (CFA) and can explain the view from the other side. My experience in a college classroom has helped to inform many policy decisions. With my union and the university, I fought for equitable funding for higher education at statewide and federal levels.

I also bring a deep understanding of the issues and needs of the LatinX community as the only Latina on the board. I have the lived experience of growing up in a working-class Chicano neighborhood in Los Angeles,

and being a first-generation college student. I have the theory and policy understanding from my work in the Latina/o Studies Department at San Francisco State University. My life and professional experience gives me the ability to be a truly unique asset to the Board.

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

See attached Addendum of Endorsers. I was early endorsed this year by the S.F. Latino Democratic Club. I have been endorsed by a number of elected officials already including Assembly members Phil Ting and David Chiu, San Francisco Board of Supervisors Sandra Lee Fewer, Aaron Peskin, Malia Cohen, Hillary Ronen, Norman Yee, Rafael Mandelman and Jane Kim. I am proud to have the endorsement of AFT2121, Harvey Milk Democratic Club, Sierra Club, Alice B, Toklas Democratic Club and the League of Pissed Off Voters. I will know in September if I have the endorsement of many of the local Democratic Clubs, including my own SF D11 Democratic Club.

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

I mentioned some of my top concerns and will elaborate here:

EXPANDING FREE CITY: *The experimental Free City Program is a resounding success by any metric. We now need to resolve any remaining issues and solidify permanent funding for Fall, Spring and Summer into the future.*

AFFORDABLE FACULTY/STAFF HOUSING: *We will not be able to recruit and retain quality faculty if we do not provide affordable housing. Even the union realizes that the housing issue has gone beyond just a salary issue. Faculty members living in or near the communities they teach are necessary for student achievement, and boost the profile of the college by contributing to the community as a whole.*

STUDENTS FIRST: *Putting students first is our # 1 goal as a Board. In terms of enrollment, City College was in free fall after the accreditation crisis. That is now behind us, but we still need to increase enrollment to create a robust campus academic community. We are working with other stakeholders to ensure we are expanding our class offerings to support our students. As important, are the City College facilities. They have suffered from a lack of maintenance and vision over the years. I will move forward to create a sustainable, welcoming, student-friendly campus by developing innovative transit opportunities, maintenance and/or replacement of failing infrastructure implementing creating student-friendly landscaping and gathering locations throughout.*

ACCREDITATION: *City College is accredited and has come through a trial by fire to achieve this. The board is in compliance with these steps now and we are setting up systems to meet accreditation standards in 2023.*

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

City College's Ocean Campus prospects as an example of a healthy, livable, sustainable community are indisputable. As mentioned in a previous question we are moving forward with affordable housing, we are also coordinating public transit recommendations to better serve our academic community, focusing on a sustainable plan for facilities with LEED buildings and infrastructure upgrades to keep costs down and maintain environmental standards, we have developed respectful labor negotiations, created a preferred name procedure and, finally, we will build a home for our fabulous Diego Rivera Mural on Frida Kahlo Way (née Phelan Avenue). Further ending the achievement gap will create opportunities for marginalized students will have the educational tools and wherewithal to be able to participate in healthy livable and sustainable communities.

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	YES	NO
Do you support the divestment of public funds from Wells Fargo and other financial institutions involved in speculative and questionable banking practices?	X	
Do you believe that the government should provide foreclosure relief for borrowers who were victims of unethical financial service practices?	X	
Do you support the creation of a local municipal bank in San Francisco?	XX	
Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs?		X

CRIMINAL JUSTICE/POLICE REFORM	YES	NO
Do you support overhauling the bail system?	X	
Do you believe in ending mass incarceration and supporting the abolishment of capital punishment?	X	
Do you support using jails as mental health facilities and substance abuse treatment programs?		X
Will you commit to encouraging “ban the box” to ensure that those formerly incarcerated are given an equal opportunity for housing, education, and employment?	X	
Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?		X

EDUCATION	YES	NO
Do you believe in a “debt-free college” and free community college (i.e. Education financed entirely without student loans)?	X	
Will you commit to keeping all of CCSF’s satellite campuses open and maintain their full program of classes?	X	
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?	X	
Do you support that teachers and professional staff deserve commensurate wages?	X	

ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO
Do you oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure projects?	X	
Would you support divestment of fossil fuels?	X	

HEALTHCARE	YES	NO
Do you support a publicly funded single payer health care system for all people?	X	
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?	X	

CIVIL RIGHTS	YES	NO
Will you work to implement Ethnic Studies courses and language immersion?	X	
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?	X	
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?	X	
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?	X	

LABOR	YES	NO
Do you support employee rights to organize and collective bargaining and support enforceable organizing agreements?	X	
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?	X	
Do you support the privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs?		X

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM	YES	NO
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)?	X	
Do you support full disclosure of funding sources for political advertisements?	X	

HOUSING, TENANT, & LAND USE ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you believe that housing is a human right?	X	
Do you believe that Proposition 13 needs to be reformed?	X	
Would you support overturning Costa Hawkins to support the right for localities to pass rent control laws?	X	
Do you support the repeal or reform of the Ellis Act?	X	
Have you read the California Democratic Party Platform?	X	
Will you fight for its implementation in policies?	X	

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?

That is my number one goal for a future term. I recently had the privilege of announcing FREE CITY for Summer 2019. Shortly after the Board of Supervisors voted to extend FREE CITY, Supervisor Jane Kim, Trustee Ivy Lee, and myself reached out to the Cantonese and Mandarin speaking community and we will be doing the same for the Spanish-speaking community in the weeks ahead. While I am very happy with this result, there is still work to be done. FREE CITY is a success by any metric and it is in the interest of the City to make this popular program permanent. We now have a majority of supportive Supervisors and a Mayor with a firm belief in City College. I not only foresee a permanent FREE CITY, but I hope to expand it to anyone working in S.F.

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?

Housing for faculty staff and now students is another issue I've been championing since I began my first term and I'm finally beginning to see fruit. CCSF must be able to recruit and retain faculty, particularly faculty that reflects the majority of students at CCSF. It will be difficult to be competitive with housing costs more than twice as high as other areas. The same goes for recruiting staff to make the college run. Housing becomes more difficult for students to find every year and while community colleges were designed to serve students already living in the district, our housing market has forced families out leaving many students with few options. I sit on the Balboa Reservoir CAC and advocated for faculty housing to be developed on this property as part of the 50% affordable requirement the CAC approved. While we are negotiating now, we do have hard promises of almost 200 units for faculty/staff housing. In addition, we are working out an exchange for 500 beds for students. We are also looking at our other properties as appropriate for faculty/staff/student housing. For example, the Civic Center building that has state funds earmarked to bring it up to earthquake code. We can also include housing on this property without losing any classrooms. There are a number of other possibilities and I have also discussed creating a cooperative approach with the school district to create academic villages. There are many advantages with cooperating with other educational institutions around housing. With our housing needs so great we don't have the surplus property to develop market rate housing beyond 33 Gough, a property that was transferred before I joined the board.

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

We have now just launched our online college where we will have a higher concentration of courses available through emerging learning technologies. We had online courses before this, but we now have a coordinated streamlined approach. The emerging trend across the country is increased certifications, badges, and licensing programs and we are poised to participate to meet the needs of our workforce.

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

We are developing plans now for that now through our Facilities Management Planning and because of neighboring developments impact on transportation. First, we need to coordinate our transit-rich locations to make public transit it as convenient as possible and definitely more convenient than driving. We can start with coordinating discounted transit passes for employees and free passes for full-time students. Also, convenient transit stops around campus and possibly a shuttle or tunnel from BART. We can also encourage our faculty and staff to lead the way by not driving. Designated covered bike parking in priority parking spots, and even promotions and raffles work. My day job is teaching at SFSU and I can see how the activities around Bike-to-Work day have slowly but surely influenced the campus to provide better bike facilities including a bike barn for repairs. We will still need a garage but I authored a resolution calling for a flexible and green garage to encourage car shares, house covered bike parking and convertible to other uses as car commuting wanes

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

We have come a long way from the dark days where City College's very existence was threatened. As I mentioned in answer to a question in Part 1, the board is in compliance with all accreditation standards now, we have already set up checks regarding our financial health. Part of the reason that our labor negotiations proceeded so smoothly is that there was a transparent representation of the college's financial health.

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?

There is high demand for non-credit, but are not enough credit programs at Downtown, Mission and Chinatown/North Beach. The Chinatown and Mission Centers would particularly like to see more credit classes offered. Mission Center pioneered the working adult program, which creates supported cohorts for block scheduled credit courses leading to certification or a degree. Expanding these to the above named centers would increase opportunities for these underserved communities.

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 be advocates for themselves? How can CCSF expand access to affordable, quality childcare for students and faculty?

Unfortunately, it is usually underpaid women who are at the heart of the childcare industry, a decent wage would acknowledge the important role these women play. City College already has the important infrastructure for childcare programs and training at City College. These programs would be ideal candidates for expansion into year-round programs culminating in certificates or articulation agreements with San Francisco State University's related majors.

In addition, affordable, quality childcare allows women to participate in the workforce, develop in demand skill sets and obtain degrees, licenses or other certification that assist them with access to better employment opportunities. There is a severe shortage of childcare in San Francisco and this undermines many women's ability to move forward or at least stabilize financially. In addition to a women's issue it is a basic social investment in the future. I supported Prop C in June 2018 and want to create partnerships with CCSF providing a pipeline for childcare workers. As a mother and grandmother, I will never understand why the workers that take care of what is most precious are the most poorly paid.