

**Name**

Alida Fisher

**Office Sought**

SF Board of Education

**Website**[www.alidafisher.com](http://www.alidafisher.com)**What San Francisco street/intersection would you choose for an epic street party and why?**

San Francisco has so many great options for street parties that it's really hard to choose. Plus, we have had so many epic street parties in the past few years that I'm not sure what it would take to host anything that competes in that category. I mean, how do you top Bay to Breakers, Carnival, or Pride? "Epic" is a subjective term, and my version would be significantly more low key than many of our famous SF bashes. My version of an epic street party would involve friends and family plus good food and drinks. My family and I used to live on the Great Highway, a block north of the zoo. We could hear the animals at night; I can tell you for a fact that howler monkeys are appropriately named. We used to love Sunday Streets in June, because the Great Highway was closed to vehicle traffic from Sloat Boulevard all the way up into Golden Gate Park. Riding up and down the highway, stopping randomly to play on a sand dune or listen to a band - that was pretty epic, in a family-friendly way. So my intersection of choice would be the Great Highway and Fulton Street. The street is wide enough for one kick ass party, plus we could meander down to the fire pits on Ocean Beach once we were forced to reopen the street. You bring the firewood, I'll bring the s'mores.

**Please list the 3 endorsements you are most proud of:**

I haven't been looking or asking for official endorsements. I know, that's not a very politically savvy move. But hey, I'm a political rookie. However, I have been encouraged to run for this office by many of my friends and family. The fact that many fellow public school parents are encouraging me to run and supporting my campaign is important to me. Most importantly, I have the support of my husband and four children.

**What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner? (1250 character limit)**

1. Make all students feel welcome, included, & supported at each & every school
2. Provide a learning environment with targeted interventions & supports that allows all students to thrive, regardless of their learning style & challenges
3. Give more professional development opportunities & co-planning time to educators, paraeducators, administrators, & parents, which are necessary to meet goals 1 & 2

All students deserve instruction and supports that help them thrive, regardless of their learning style. Some students need interventions and supports to help them meet their potential. Others need challenges beyond the traditional curriculum to stay engaged. Managing a classroom of diverse learners is no easy task; our teachers are requesting additional support and training to help them meet the needs of our students. We must also consider social and emotional health in order to improve outcomes for our students. I will strengthen the focus on community building in our schools. Unless students feel safe and included at school, they are not open to learning. Building a strong sense of community helps our students develop greater problem solving and collaboration skills, which they need to participate in our 21st century city.

**What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?**

As a parent with four children, most of my advocacy work has been surrounding public education. I am the Chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC), a parent led committee that advises SFUSD on matters related to special education. I am also an active member of the district-level African American Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC). I have served on the PTA Board at Miraloma Elementary School, James Lick Middle School, and Denman Middle School. I have also been a PTA and/or PTSA member at Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary, Lakeshore Elementary, Everett Middle School, and Mission High School, as well as a school-site AAPAC member at Denman, Everett, and Mission. I think it's important to point out that the majority of the time I was active with various school-site committees, I was also working full-time and raising four children. My children are eight years apart, so they have always been at different schools. As the kids got older - my oldest just graduated from Mission High School - I was able to get involved in more district-level committees and boards. I currently sit on the district's LCAP Task Force and Performance Indicator Review Committee. I have taken my advocacy beyond SFUSD as well. I am currently a volunteer with Community Alliance for Special Education (CASE) and I'm a Parent Mentor with Support for Families of Children with Disabilities. I am a member of the statewide CAC Leadership Collaborative, a group made up of CAC leaders throughout the state.

Politically, I'm a member of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, as well as the San Francisco Young Dems, the D11 Democratic Club and the FDR Democratic Club.

**What local and state commissions and policy bodies have you served on -- currently or in the past?**

I have not served on state commissions, but I attend and provide public comment during multiple Advisory Commission for Special Education meetings annually. I attended my first State Board of Education meeting this past school year as well. In my role as Chair of the CAC, I coordinate a trip to Sacramento each year with a group of parents and SFUSD staff for SELPA [Special Education Local Plan Area] Legislative Day. Under my leadership, the CAC actively worked with the Department of Finance to provide public comment and policy suggestions related to proposed policy changes for special education financing during the 2017 state budget cycle. CAC members attended meetings in Sacramento, San Mateo, and San Francisco, wrote letters, and worked with Department of Finance staff members. We were advised that our advocacy not only helped prevent the proposed changes from being implemented, but were also responsible for an additional \$100 million dollars being added to the special education budget (earmarked for special education teacher recruitment, training, and retention).

**Do you support San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) fully divesting from fossil fuels within three years and holding SFERS accountable at the ballot if they do not divest?** Yes

**Have you signed up for CleanPowerSF?** No, I do not plan to sign up for CleanPowerSF

**Do you support California Prop 10 that repeals the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act?**

Yes

**Do you support renewing SFPD's involvement with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force?**

No

**Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?** No

**San Francisco suffers a continued affordability and housing crisis. Please explain how you think this crisis should be addressed (in general), then list actionable concrete steps you would take, if elected, to move toward those solutions. Include an explanation of whose interests you will prioritize.**

San Francisco needs more housing, period. I am grateful for the concerted effort by many in our community to create new housing, particularly housing for residents of all income levels and housing for teachers. We should focus on building more housing along transit corridors (such as more housing near the Balboa Park BART Station). As more units are built and housing becomes available, how do we allocate that housing? I believe that priority should be given to teachers, firefighters, police officers, social workers, and artists. One of the biggest heartbreaks for me is that many residents who grew up in San Francisco have been priced out. I live in Oceanview (which is a small community between Ingleside and Excelsior). In my neighborhood, like many others of the city, it's common for multiple generations of families to share one house. The neighbors who live two doors away from me have four generations sharing their four bedroom house. Every SFUSD graduate should be able to live independently and work in the city they have called home their entire life. They shouldn't have to move back into their parents' house to afford to live here. My family is currently experiencing this uncertainty firsthand. My oldest daughter just graduated from Mission High School. She's heading off to Washington College in Maryland in a few short weeks. She is already worried about whether or not she'll be able to return to San Francisco when she graduates from college - and she hasn't even left the city yet. Lotteries for low and middle income housing, as well as down payment assistance programs, should also provide priority or tie breaker options for young San Franciscans whose families have been in San Francisco for at least a generation, as well as families whose students are currently enrolled in SFUSD.

**Do you support the NAACP's call for a moratorium on charter schools?** Yes

**Do you support the current SFUSD high school math course sequence?** Yes

**Will you commit to visiting a variety of SFUSD school sites in addition to attending Board meetings?** Yes

**Do you support the "Our City, Our Home" tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services?** Yes

**Do you support the gross receipts tax on transportation network companies (TNCs) and other private transit vehicle services? Yes**

**Who are you supporting for D2 Supervisor?**

**Catherine Stefani 1st**

**Who are you supporting for D4 Supervisor?**

**Gordon Mar 1st**

**Who are you supporting for D6 Supervisor?**

**Matt Haney 1st**

**Christine Johnson 2nd**

**Sonja Trauss 3rd**

**Who are you supporting for D8 Supervisor?**

**Rafael Mandelman 1st**

**Who are you supporting for D10 Supervisor?**

**Shamann Walton 1st**

**Who are you supporting for Board of Education?**

Emily Murase, Alida Fisher, Alison Collins

**Who are you supporting for Community College Board?**

Thea Selby, John Rizzo, Brigitte Davila

**Who are you supporting for BART Board, D8?**

**Who did you support for Mayor?**

**London Breed 1st**

**Did you support June 2018 Prop C, Tax on Commercial Rent for Child Care & Early Education?**

Yes

**Did you support June 2018 Prop D, Commercial Tax for Housing? No**

**Who did you support for D1 Supervisor?**

**Sandra Lee Fewer 1st**

**Marjan Philhour 2nd**

**Who did you support for D3 Supervisor?**

**Who did you support for D5 Supervisor?**

**London Breed 1st**

**Who did you support for D7 Supervisor?**

**Norman Yee** 1st

**Who did you support for D9 Supervisor?**

**Hillary Ronen** 1st

**Who did you support for D11 Supervisor?**

**Ahsha Safai** 1st

**Did you support 2016's Prop D "Let's Elect Our Elected Officials" to have special elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Supervisors? Yes**

**Did you support 2014's Prop G, the anti-speculation tax? Yes**

**Is there anything else you want to tell us? (3000 character limit)**

As a former foster parent and adoptive parent of African American children, I am particularly passionate about the issues of equity and social justice. Here in San Francisco, we experience many challenges specific to large urban school districts. While San Francisco has the second highest concentration of billionaires in the United States, we also have the highest percentage of homeless youth and young adults. SFUSD's achievement gap is huge. According to our own school climate surveys, 25% of students between 5th and 12th grades report that they don't always feel safe in our schools. While we have much work to do, I'm excited to be raising my children in a city that recognizes the need to address these issues and is actively working towards solutions.

One of the most important solutions to many of our ongoing challenges is providing more professional development opportunities and co-planning time to educators, paraeducators, administrators, and parents. As the daughter and granddaughter of teachers, I watched my how hard our my mother and grandmother worked to support their students, and how personally invested they became in the success of their students. Teachers want to help all students reach their potential. Here in SFUSD, they are asking for more professional development. They deserve to be given the skill set to support and engage all students, regardless of learning style and ability level. And they need time in their schedule to be able to plan and support each student individually and uniquely.

"A rising tide lifts all boats" is a favorite expression of mine. By ensuring that we support our most marginalized students, we support everyone. Teaching all educators to provide differentiated instruction, to recognize the signs of trauma in their students, and to engage students of all backgrounds has been proven to improve outcomes.

I participate in multiple district committees, stakeholder engagement teams, and working groups. I work with families to ensure that our voices are being heard - and our feedback being included - when decisions are made about our children's education. I'm ready to make the

move to the other side of the table: I want to do more than comment in committees and at board meetings. I want to help craft policies surrounding inclusive practices and social emotional learning supports. I want to ensure that we consider and support our most vulnerable students and families in every decision, resolution, and guideline. I want to be the next member of the San Francisco Board of Education.