
Board of Education | League of Pissed Off Voters November 2019 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by midnight on Friday, July 19th if you wish to be considered for a League endorsement. Please use THIS FORM rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

Candidate Info

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Board of Education

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When did you first fall in love with San Francisco?

In 1998, when I moved back home to the Bay Area after college and living in Washington D.C. I loved my first tiny apartment, working for a non profit organization in Chinatown.

Priorities

Please list the 3 endorsements you are most proud of

All of my colleagues on the School Board 2. Mayor London Breed 3. Supervisors (and former School Board Members) Sandra Lee Fewer, Matt Haney and Shamann Walton

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

As a Board of Education Commissioner, my priorities target improvement of academic achievement at all of the District's schools, through measures including (1) Support for teacher training, collaboration, and retention (including by continuing to improve teacher compensation) to advance innovative and high quality instruction; (2) expanding early interventions for reading, writing, and math, paired with social emotional supportive services, and (3) strengthening science, math, arts, technology, and language opportunities in our schools and striving to make access to these programs more equitable and widespread. We need to ensure that all of our students graduate with life skills that prepares them for the future –every student can access and thrive in higher education and the workforce.

I bring a unique perspective as a parent who has long been active at my children's schools and in SFUSD overall including through leadership of the Public Education and Enrichment Fund Committee and the Quality Teacher and Education Act Committee. Bringing that combination of experiences and a life devoted to education and equity will help me implement solutions to the challenging problems our District faces.

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

I currently do not serve on any non-profit boards including political organizations. I previously served as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Parks Alliance and Board Member of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum.

Besides serving on non-profit boards, I have also dedicated my professional life to public service and social justice including by working for organizations such as OASES (Oakland Asian Students Educational Services), the civil rights organization Chinese for Affirmative Action, and CARAL (former CA Abortion and Reproductive Action League)

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

I previously served as a member and then co-chair of two San Francisco Unified School District committees: the Public Education and Enrichment Fund (PEEF) Committee and the Quality Teacher and Education Act (QTEA) Committee. PEEF was first authorized by San Francisco voters in 2004, and provides critical funding for early childhood education, sports, libraries, arts, music, wellness centers, and student support. Like PEEF, the QTEA was a voter initiative, adopted in 2008, which provided funding for improving teacher salaries, professional development for teachers, incentives for teachers to teach at high-turnover schools and in hard-to-fill subject areas like special education and bilingual education, greater accountability through the peer and assistance review program, research and development to improve academic innovation, and technology upgrades. Through my involvement in both committees, I worked to make sure that parents, especially those traditionally excluded from decision-making, had a voice in the process, and to ensure that we engaged in equitable and effective decision making in our funding decisions.

My service on the 2010 San Francisco Redistricting Commission is another relevant example of the principles and values that guide my orientation towards representative government. I believe that inclusive and democratic processes, particularly those that lead to increased participation and leadership of historically underrepresented groups, are necessary for more equitable representation in policy-making and to address institutionalized inequities in schools and their governance.

Local Issues

Some of the things pissed-off voters are watching right now!

Do you support the closure of Juvenile Hall?

Yes

No

Do you support renaming schools that are named after slaveholders?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Did you support the decision to cover the George Washington High School mural?

I support the Board's decision that directed district staff to research the costs, timeline and other legally mandated processes (e.g., CEQA) so that the board can quickly and legally move to cover the murals as soon as possible. I was compelled by the arguments that leaving the murals as they are contributes to a hostile environment that normalizes violence and impedes the equal educational and social opportunities of Black and Native students in particular.

Pending an administrative staffing ratio audit, what would be your plan to allocate resources toward the classroom?

It's important to understand why SFUSD spends less, as a percentage of its budget, on instruction than the statewide average (41% v. 61%, according to Ed-Data), an issue that has been raised in the press but not fully answered. As a SFUSD parent, advocate, and engaged community member over many years, I have served a steward of public investments in the school district, including through voter-approved initiatives like QTEA and PEEF. I will bring that same fiscal focus and accountability to this issue in order to prioritize the allocation of district resources in ways that provides the greatest impact for students. Further, I support examining and revising the district's student weighted formula with the goal of increasing funding for focal students.

Describe your relationships with charter school advocates like Innovate Public Schools, the KIPP Foundation, One Promise, and others.

My relationship with charter school advocates is similar to my relationship with other constituents: I have an open door policy and welcome the opportunity to engage with members of our San Francisco community about how to improve educational opportunities for the students who attend San Francisco's public schools, whether district-run schools or charters.

I am proud of the extensive school choices that SFUSD is able to offer student and families, most of which are part of our traditional school district schools. This includes extensive multilingual programs (over 60 language programs covering seven languages, including Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, and Italian), career academies, arts programs, strong neighborhood schools, and magnet schools such as Lowell High School and School of the Arts. Charter schools are a relatively small part of SFUSD's choice ecosystem, representing just 14 of the district's 126 public schools. Many are long-standing programs that have been able to meet a particular need, whether re-engaging high-risk students in school through project-based learning and workforce development, or serving students with disabilities.

In order for the district to continue to reauthorize our existing charters, we need to hold charters accountable for achieving strong outcomes for their students, serving a student population that reflects the diversity of San Francisco Unified School District as a whole, and serving students and families and equitably (including with respect to school admission and discipline procedures). I see this as part of my job as a member of the Board of Education.

What do you think needs to happen for SFUSD to close the opportunity gap for Black, Pacific Islander, Native, Latinx immigrant and other students of color, especially those with disabilities?

Given the essential role that strong teachers and principals play in advancing students' learning, I will prioritize investments in hiring, supporting, and retaining a strong and diverse educator workforce across the school district, with a particular focus in schools serving high proportions of low-income Black and Brown students and that have historically struggled to attract and retain a stable and well-prepared workforce. This includes continuing to champion a living wage for SFUSD educators, including additional stipends for educators serving in the highest-need schools and retention bonuses to incentive teachers to remain in the district. I will prioritize innovative partnerships with teacher preparation programs that provide strong clinical training within our local district context, such as the San Francisco Teacher Residency Program; programs that seek to train paraprofessionals, after school staff, and substitutes, who are already working in and committed to our district; and programs offering a pipeline into the profession through high school pathway programs, such as the program at Lincoln High School. These types of pathways have been effective in recruiting, preparing, and retaining teachers of color for service in SFUSD schools, whom research shows can be particularly effective in increasing achievement and outcomes for all students, but particularly students of color. And I will ensure that our most capable and collaborative school leaders are incentivized to lead in our highest-need schools and provided the support and time to succeed there. Too often, we see high-rates of principal turnover in our highest-need schools, which research shows often results in a pause or reset on positive school improvement efforts that are underway.

I will prioritize expansion of language pathway programs. SFUSD has learned a lot in recent years about how to best support strong outcomes for our English learners, including recent immigrants, and research suggests that continued prioritization of two-way dual immersion programs is a strategic investment in their success.

A recent study by Stanford researchers of SFUSD's pathway programs for English learners found that, while students in English immersion programs perform better in the short term, over the long term students in classrooms taught in two languages not only catch up to their English immersion counterparts, but they eventually surpass them, both academically and linguistically. By late elementary or middle school, ELs who spend their elementary school years in two-language programs have test scores, English proficiency levels, and reclassification rates that are, on average, as high as or higher than similar students who were in English immersion classrooms. This study looked at SFUSD's English learner students and followed their progress over 10 years. Given these strong outcomes, I will continue to prioritize investment in two-way immersion programs in order to better serve the district's EL students. For these programs to be successful, we also need to ensure an adequate supply of qualified

bilingual teachers to teach in these programs. SFUSD's teacher residency program and Classified Staff Teacher Training program is an important source of well-prepared bilingual teachers.

I will also work to increase access to safe, caring, supportive schools, which is critical to supporting strong academic and social and emotional growth for our highest-need students. I will increase access to counselors and mental health supports, especially in the critical middle school years; expand high-quality before and after school programming; and promote the development of community schools so that students and families can get the supports they need and fully leverage the tremendous assets, including rich ecosystem of community-based organizations, that the city of San Francisco has to offer.

November 2019 Election

Do you support the Juul ballot measure that would override the vapor products ban ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors and add restrictions on the sale?

Yes

No

Other:

Do you support the ballot measure "Sunlight on Dark Monday Initiative"?

Yes

No

Do you support the proposed tax on net rider fares of TNCs, autonomous vehicles and private transit services vehicles?

Yes

No

Do you support the proposed additional tax on businesses with disproportionate executive pay?

Yes

No

Who are you supporting for Mayor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
London Breed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Robert Jordan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wilma Pang	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paul Y. Robertson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Joel Ventresca	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ellen Lee Zhou	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for D5 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Vallie Brown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ryan Lam	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nomvula O'Meara	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dean Preston	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for City Attorney?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Dennis Herrera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for District Attorney?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Chesa Boudin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leif Dautch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Suzy Loftus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Nancy H. Tung	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for Public Defender?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Manohar Raju	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for Sheriff?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Paul Miyamoto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ronald Terry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for Treasurer?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
José M. Cisneros	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
William Carduner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jenny Lam	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Yi Quan Guo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ivy Lee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Past Elections

Did you support 2018's Prop C "Our City, Our Home" tax on gross receipts of businesses to fund homeless services?

Yes

No

Who did you support for Mayor in June 2018?

	1st	2nd	3rd
Angela Alioto	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michelle Bravo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
London Breed	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Richie Greenburg	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jane Kim	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mark Leno	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amy Farrah Weiss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ellen Lee Zhou	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who did you support for D2 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Catherine Stefani	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nick Josefowitz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Schuyler Hudak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
John Dennis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who did you support for D4 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Gordon Mar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jessica Ho	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trevor McNeil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arthur Tom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lou Ann Bassan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mike Murphy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tuan Nguyen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adam Kim	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who did you support for D6 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Matt Haney	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Christine Johnson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonja Trauss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who did you support for D8 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Rafael Mandelman	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Lawrence "Stark" Dagesse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Who did you support for D10 Supervisor?

	1st	2nd	3rd	Unranked endorsement
Shamann Walton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tony Kelly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theo Ellington	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uzuri Pease-Greene	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gloria Berry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asale Chandler	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Final Question

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

Quality education is the right of all children. We must put learning first, build pathways to success and excellence, and develop our students contribute towards improving a better society for everyone. Public education is fundamental to a strong democracy.

I am running for School Board because I have a deep connection with public education. I am a daughter of immigrants. My parents immigrated to Oakland the year I was born with few resources. I was an English learner--my first language is Cantonese/Chinese and learned to speak English the day I started Kindergarten. I am a proud product of K-12 public schools and am the first in my family to attend college – University of California, Santa Barbara.

Public education is what gave me and my family the opportunity for economic and social mobility. I've dedicated my professional life to public service and social justice including working for nonprofit organizations most notably OASES (Oakland Asian Students Educational Services) and the civil rights organization, Chinese for Affirmative Action in San Francisco.

I have lived in San Francisco for twenty years, raising two children who currently attend San Francisco public schools. Being involved in our schools and SFUSD for ten years, I have directly experienced many exceptional educational practices in our public schools. But I have also witnessed various school challenges in my work with immigrant and limited-English-proficient parents in Chinatown and southeast neighborhoods.

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