

# SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2020 CD12 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Sunday, December 1st if you wish to be considered for the League's 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](mailto:TheLeagueSF@gmail.com).

## Candidate Info

Need to see the other questions before you get started? Just fill this in. It's the only section with required answers.

Name \*

Agatha Bacelar

Campaign Contact \*

[REDACTED]

Email Address \*

[REDACTED]

## Phone Number

[REDACTED]

## Website

<https://www.agathaforcongress.com/>

## Tell Us About You

### Why are you running for this office?

My motivation for running stems from a practice of proximity—from spending time with the people and in the places where justice is most urgently needed. Through all of my work, I've seen first-hand how our government favors those with power and money and how the reality in Congress doesn't match the lived experience of everyday Americans. The majority of Americans want to implement Medicare for All, to get money out of politics, and to pass a Green New Deal. But our current leadership won't deliver this change. Nancy Pelosi represents the way things have been, not the way things need to be in the future. And despite all she's done for the country—and for women—it's time for the next generation to lead.

My family has lived in San Francisco for 30 years. My dad has lived here my entire life and my little sister still goes to high school here. This city has always been a catalyst for change. It has a history of protest politics and technological innovation. And I'd like to combine these histories into a new form of representative governance.

**What are the top three issues you will work on and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?**

The most important quality of life issue I'd like to address at the federal level for San Franciscans is housing and homelessness. This is an intersectional issue that must also fight for Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, getting big money out of politics, reduced military spending, and racial and immigrant justice.

To implement solutions I will build alliances, pass legislation, and gain seats on relevant committees (my top choices would be Oversight, Homeland Security, and Science, Space, and Technology).

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**What three endorsements are you most proud of?**

youngPAC

Josh Krafchin, the co-founder of Swing Left

Former CA-12 congressional candidates Ryan Khojasteh and Stephen Jaffe

(Most endorsement processes are still ongoing.)

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

I have not yet served on a board.

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**What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?**

None

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**House of Representatives**



## What communities do you feel you represent in SF and how do those communities hold you accountable?

I'll point to some communities I feel special resonance with and responsibility to serve, but as a representative I would be inclusive to everyone in the district and encourage any constituent to hold me accountable. I will work to implement open-source, real-time, digital democracy tools like liquid democracy which enable a more transparent political system accountable to the people's will.

Latinx community: I am a Latina immigrant from Brazil and currently live in the Mission. As I meet with people from the Latinx community, I hear time and time again how surprised and delighted they are that "one of us" is running and that politics isn't just for "gringos." The fact that I can talk to people in their language (English, Spanish, or Portuguese) allows me to build trust and understand their concerns directly.

Immigrants: As detailed in another question, I carry immigrant justice at the heart of my campaign.

Youth: San Francisco is one of the youngest districts in the country with 41% of registered voters being under the age of 38. (And many more young people who live here, but haven't registered yet!) I am 27 years old and the only millennial candidate running. Youth movements have been leading the charge in marching for our lives, in striking for the climate, in demanding a pathway to citizenship for undocumented and unafraid youth, etc. I show up to their actions and try to work in solidarity with these groups as much as possible. Our generation has been undercut access to wealth, social benefits, and a thriving planet other generations got to enjoy.

Women: Attaining gender equality is something that would help so many other issues we are facing. Nancy Pelosi is the most powerful woman in politics and I acknowledge that I could not be running as a young woman if not for the path she helped pave. We are seeing women get elected in record numbers, but less than 25% of Members of Congress are women. If we continue at our current rate, we won't reach gender parity for another 90 years. I would like women to hold me accountable in

Tech: A technology policy platform is an absolute necessity for representing San Francisco and its needs. As the only congressional candidate with a STEM background, experience in the tech industry, and a social impact focus, I bring a unique capacity to represent this district with fluency in both technology and the needs of workers. Pro-worker tech regulation is needed to address our status as the disparity capital of the nation. It's also important to consider that these tech behemoths are providing functionally necessary services for most Americans. That

makes them both too complex to simply break up, but too important to not be required to adapt to the needs and rights of the public.

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Name three local campaigns you have supported and describe the extent of your support.

Chesa Boudin: I absolutely adore Chesa. I attended events, did lit drops, donated, and convinced many people to vote for him. I noticed there was some misunderstanding about Chesa, especially in the influencer tech community, and I would engage in conversation and persuade people to see how important it was for him to win.

I did a door-to-door lit drop for Dean Preston's campaign.

During the last presidential race, I volunteered for Bernie in both Nevada and California by going door knocking, hosting phone banks, and attending events.

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Please share your fundraising total to date, the number of donors, and the number of volunteers on your campaign.

60000

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Are you taking corporate or PAC money? Please explain.

I have pledged to reject corporate PAC money and donations from the fossil fuel industry. I would accept a corporate donation (maxed at the same individual limit) if they were fully aligned with my values, but have not asked for nor received any such donation to date.

Big, corporate, and dark money in our political system is the underlying root cause for why policies that make logical sense and that would benefit people and the planet get blocked. I am a member of American Promise, an organization leading the effort for a 28th Constitutional Amendment on campaign finance reform. I supported the recent CA Clean Money Campaign that passed in the Nov 2019 election (I volunteered in Los Angeles and spoke at SF City Hall on behalf of the initiative).

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**Describe one or two specific accomplishments in your political work- what did you get done, what was your role?**

Before the 2018 election I was one of the producers and digital organizers for the Inside Out Vote project. We collaborated with local and national voter registration groups in 20 swing districts to register thousands of people (especially millennials and Latinos) to vote. In each city we would photograph the new people we registered and then paste 5x7 foot prints of their portraits on an exterior wall in the community. Together, the faces would evoke the collective power of a new voting block and stand as a reminder to register to vote.

I am also a documentary filmmaker. I believe in the power of an individual's human story to paint a picture of a larger issue in order to move culture and legislation. On one occasion, I made this video about Priscilla, a DACA-recipient and public school teacher, and worked with dozens of immigration organizations on the accompanying social media campaign when the Dream Act was up for a vote in Congress. Dianne Feinstein ended up seeing the video and invited Priscilla to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

<https://vimeo.com/226492394>

I wasn't involved in this specific project, but the non-profit I was a founding member of and did tons of volunteering for (Democracy Earth), did this quadratic voting pilot that I'm quite proud of with the Colorado state legislature:

<https://www.wired.com/story/colorado-quadratic-voting-experiment/>

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Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

Immigration is the topic I am the most emotionally passionate about and have worked on the longest—I have been an advocate with undocumented communities since I was in high school. It's about time we create a pathway to citizenship and stop scapegoating immigrants. Seeing what I've seen has been difficult and traumatizing, but it motivates me everyday to speak truth to what's going on and keep fighting for justice.

A list of highlights (which are sometimes lowlights):

- Instead of taking a corporate tech job after graduating from Stanford with an engineering degree, I worked for Emerson Collective, a leading organization in the immigration space.
- Worked and volunteered inside five immigrant detention centers in California, Florida, Texas, and Mexico doing credible fear interviews, supporting immigration attorneys and advocates, comforting detainees, and documenting the realities there.
- Followed the migrant journey from Guatemala, through Mexico, and to Texas. Learned about and saw first hand the violence people are fleeing from, the reasons for persecution, and the conditions people endure.
- Interviewed dozens of undocumented immigrants, shared their stories (consensually and with discretion, of course), and worked on countless online video and media campaigns.
- Worked on the Inside Out Dreamers project which created public art, demonstrated public support for the Dream Act, and generated local media in 30+ Congressional districts where Representatives were on the fence for how to vote on the Dream Act.
- Marched in vigils and DACA rallies
- Participated in sit-in protests inside Congressional offices on Capitol Hill
- Traveled on a 30-hour bus ride between Miami and DC with organizers from United We Dream
- Attended and promoted various Know Your Rights workshops
- Volunteered as a mentor at College Track, an education non-profit that serves low-income, first-generation, and often undocumented students.
- Supported the work of Carne y Arena in D.C.—a virtual reality experience that viscerally educated legislators and their staff about the realities of migration and immigrant detention.
- wrote this op-ed:

<https://medium.com/@AgathaBacelar/for-the-love-of-dreamers-240471fef817>

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Please list specific ways you have fought against racism and white supremacy.

From first through twelfth grade I studied in a German international program (within the American public school system) where we studied the Holocaust every single year. From a very young age I have grappled with the legacy of discrimination and oppression. I believe the public square of democracy needs to be rooted in civility and inclusivity. Everyone must feel welcome, so I do not tolerate bigotry.

I have even stood up against racism and bigotry to defend another candidate in this Congressional race. On multiple occasions I have heard people say something along the lines of, "San Francisco is not ready to elect a Shahid." The first time I heard that I let it pass—not wanting to assume mal intent in the moment—but it bothered me for weeks afterwards that I didn't say anything against the racist, Islamophobic, and superficial undertones of that comment. Since then I call out and discourage that kind of thinking whenever I hear it.

As part of my work with Emerson Collective I got to work on projects with Muslim Advocates, the NAACP, ACLU, SPLC, Human Rights Campaign, Equal Justice Initiative, Greenlining Institute, and other organizations fighting for racial justice. My favorite long-term project was working with Bryan Stevenson and EJI on their Soil Collection project, Museum from Slavery to Mass Incarceration, and Memorial to Peace and Justice.

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November 2019 Election

## Who did you support for District Attorney?

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Unranked Endorsement
Suzy Loftus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leif Dauth	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nancy Tung	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chesa Boudin	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Who did you Support for D5 Supervisor?

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

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Last questions...we promise.

## What do you for fun in San Francisco?

The most unique thing I do for fun is jump rope. I started jump roping when I was in second grade and have been competing and performing ever since. I competed at nationals and junior olympics, co-founded the Stanford University jump rope team, and was featured in a Red Bull commercial two years ago. Nowadays I bring LED light-up double dutch ropes to Oakland First Fridays nearly every month. It's really fun. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BygOYR6hpqs/> I also live with three amazing women and we tend to enjoy the city and nature together. Every Sunday we host a community potluck dinner for a dozen (mostly non-repeat) people where we have a single table conversation guided by a question to build understanding and deeper connections.

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## Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters' endorsement?

I'm aligned with your values, the community you're building, and how you make civic activities fun. I'm running for office because, like your namesake suggests, I am pissed off and am doing everything I can to challenge our status quo politics today. I respect and trust your process for considering candidates and think your voter guide is one of the most influential in San Francisco. In 2018 I worked as a pollworker in Hayes Valley and observed how many people walked in with your guide. I also took note of the various online voter guide google sheets that were shared around social media and how often there was a column included for your recommendations. Lastly, my little sister goes to high school in SF and she really wants me to get your endorsement! She and all her friends will pound pavement to distribute your guide around.

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## Is there anything else you want to tell us?

The input box about campaign volunteers and donations only accepted a numerical input, so here's a more detailed answer:

Our campaign has raised over \$60,000 from ~700 people. We have had fifteen volunteers as part of our core team (with a defined role, campaign email, and who show up to weekly team meetings). Then we have had about 50 volunteers who have helped do at least one campaign activity. Many more have signed up and expressed interest and now we need to mobilize them!

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