

# School Board | League of Pissed Off Voters

## November 2020 Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. 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

Name

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Campaign Contact Person

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## Office Sought

Board of Education Commissioner (City & County of San Francisco)

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## Website

<https://www.kevineboggess.org/>

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Where is one place in San Francisco you'll want to go celebrate when the pandemic is over?

I look forward to going to one of the neighborhood playgrounds in the Richmond District (or really any SF playground!) with my daughter so she can play on the slides and swings... we have all been missing that time!

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Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

For almost ten years, I've worked at Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth; as Education Policy Director, I have worked to address inequities and disparities in the public schools, and build power for students, families and educators to address those issues. I spend hours each week at school sites engaging with students, families, teachers and staff, and have led policy campaigns alongside our members to transform our school discipline practices, expand academic supports, build the power of students, families and educators in the decision-making process, and prioritize racial equity at every step. I am running to ensure impacted stakeholders (students, families and educators) are at the center of decision-making at SFUSD, to fight for the kind of schools that they want and deserve.

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

I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the League of Pissed Off Voters; truthfully the name of the organization represents how I've felt the majority of my life as a voter. I feel very aligned with this grassroots but ever more influential organization who is channeling that anger into creating change in our political system.

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What are your values and how did you get them?

I would say that my core values are honesty, accountability and respect for people's opinions and experiences. I learned these values from my family, my church, my community, and from growing up in San Francisco, and these are the values I would seek to embody if elected.

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What communities do you represent and how do they hold you accountable?

My communities include the African American community in San Francisco, my church community, and more broadly social justice movement/organizing communities. Working at Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, I would also work hard to stay accountable to that community and the families who are pushing to make a change in their schools. Generally I would say that all of these communities hold me accountable through relationships, my being present and accessible, and working to show up and be "checkable" when folks feel that is needed.

For ten years, issues of racial and economic inequity have been central to my work within the system of education, as I have organized predominantly low income and working class Black and Latinx students and families to advocate for needed changes and resources at their schools. I am dedicated to ensuring marginalized voices are at the center of decision-making in the school district-- and these communities should also hold me accountable to that goal.

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What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I am proud to share that I have been endorsed by the United Educators of San Francisco and Coleman Action Fund for Children, two organizations that represent educators and families in the school district. These are important constituencies for me and represent thousands of impacted people in the school district to whom I want to be accountable and who represent the core of why I'm running.

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

I don't serve currently on any boards but I am on the leadership committee of San Francisco Rising Alliance and Close the Gap, a community-labor alliance focused on addressing the opportunity gap in SFUSD.

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

n/a

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### Local Issues

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

No

Do you support San Francisco purchasing PG&E assets to create public power in San Francisco?

Yes

No

Do you support the closure of 850 Bryant, jails #3 and #4?

Yes

No

Did you support SB 50 (Senator Wiener's Zoning Bill) as written?

Yes

No

If not, are there amendments that would make you support it?

Hard to imagine any amendments that would have redeemed it for me, although I know it's come back in new iterations... I think it's a problem to not allow for local input or allow for directly impacted people to be heard in the planning process. There were no plans to address the displacement of tenants and low income/working class class people in this legislation, or the gentrification that would certainly be fast-tracked.

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Do you support congestion pricing for the downtown core?

Yes

No

Do you support creating a Public Bank in San Francisco?

Yes

No

If Costa Hawkins was repealed at the state level, would you actively support legislation enacting vacancy control in San Francisco?

Yes

No

Do you support a baseline percentage of 40% of affordable housing in developments when negotiating the number of housing units?

Yes

No

Do you support requiring 100% affordable housing on public land?

Yes

No

If not, under what circumstances would you support allowing a percentage or all market-rate housing?

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Have you previously and/or will you in the future accepted donations from any law enforcement officers or associations?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain why.

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What percentage of the SFPD budget do you think should be reallocated towards housing, homeless services, social workers, health, and education?

90

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Would you support legislation to implement the Budget Analyst's recommendation to adopt a more efficient weekly staffing schedule for the SFPD? (Recommendation 2.2 here: [https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BA\\_Report\\_PA\\_of\\_San\\_Francisco\\_Police\\_Department\\_061218.pdf](https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BA_Report_PA_of_San_Francisco_Police_Department_061218.pdf))

Yes

No

November 2020 Election

Who are you supporting for US Representative, District 12?

No position

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Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

Jackie Fielder

Who are you supporting for District 1 Supervisor?

Connie Chan

Who are you supporting for District 3 Supervisor?

Aaron Peskin

Who are you supporting for District 5 Supervisor?

Dean Preston

Who are you supporting for District 7 Supervisor?

Myrna Melgar

Who are you supporting for District 9 Supervisor?

Hillary Ronen

Who are you supporting for District 11 Supervisor?

John Avalos

Who are you supporting for Board of Education?

Besides myself: Mark Sanchez, Matt Alexander, Jenny Lam

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Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

I have not finalized endorsements yet for College Board

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Who are you supporting for BART Board, District 9?

Bevan Dufty

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Do you support the charter amendment to create a Workforce Education and Recovery Fund for City College (WERF)?

Yes

No

Do you support "Vote 16" the SF charter amendment that authorizes youths aged 16 and 17 to vote in municipal elections?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment to allow non-citizens to serve on boards, commissions, and advisory bodies?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating the Office of the Public Advocate?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating a Public Works Commission, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Sanitation and Streets Department?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment establishing term limits for City boards, commissions and bodies?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment creating the Sheriff's Department Oversight Board and Inspector General?

Yes

No

Do you support the charter amendment to remove the minimum police staffing requirement and require the Police Department to submit a report and recommendation regarding police staffing levels?

Yes

No

Do you support the ballot measure to increase the gross receipts tax on businesses with a greater than 100:1 ratio of the pay of their highest-paid employee to the median pay of their SF employees?

Yes

No

Do you support the gross receipts ballot measure proposed by the Board of Supervisors (Yee, Haney, Peskin, Fewer) [File No. 200648]?

Yes

No

Do you support the gross receipts ballot measure proposed by Mayor London Breed [File No. 200645]?

Yes

No

Do you support the ballot measure authorizing development of up to 10,000 affordable rental units in the City?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 15, Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 21, Local Rent Control Initiative (Costa-Hawkins changes)?

Yes

No

Do you support California Proposition 22, App-Based Drivers as Contractors and Labor Policies Initiative (AB5 Referendum)?

Yes

No

Do you Support California Proposition 25, Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum (Cash Bail Referendum)?

Yes

No

March 2020 Election

Who did you support for Superior Court Judge?

Carolyn Gold, Maria Evangelina and Michelle Tong

Who did you support for DCCC?

I supported the Social Justice slate.

Did you support March 2020's Prop D, a tax on vacant storefronts?

Yes

No

Did you support March 2020's Prop E, limits on office development?

Yes

No

November 2019 Election

Who did you support for District Attorney?

Chesa Boudin

Who did you support for District 5 Supervisor?

Dean Preston

November 2018 Election

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

Yes

No

#### June 2018 Election

Did you support June 2018's Prop F "Tenant's Right to Counsel"?

Yes

No

Did you support June 2018's Prop H "Arm Police With Tasers"?

Yes

No

#### Past Elections

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

No

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

Yes

No

Board of Education

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

I think the top three issues are:

1) Serious retention issues for both educators and students/families due to economic insecurity and unwelcoming school culture. I am committed to addressing this challenge through ensuring that students, families and educators are centered in decision-making and ongoing evaluation of district policies and working to change the school culture to prevent push-out. I would also work to partner with the City to ensure the expansion of 100% affordable housing for educators and staff on SFUSD and/or publicly owned land.

2) Budget deficit and projects cuts. This is a real threat although we are hopeful that the federal government will come through with more assistance, and very appreciative that the City is stepping up to support. My priorities are to identify and fight for new revenue-- including Schools and Communities First, ERAF funding and hopefully in the future a dedicated local funding stream-- and to protect the classroom from budget cuts.

3) Racial disparities in the educational system. This is what the core of my work has been for years-- working to transform the discipline system, secure additional academic supports, and more. I think there needs to be independent equity audits and a mandate from an outside agency, and I would like to strengthen the voice and influence of Black and Brown young people and parents, such as advisory bodies like African American Parent Advisory Council who often put forth recommendations that are ignored by the district. I also would work to support, as funds become available, the expansion of the ethnic studies program, targeted resources and academic supports for students of color who have historically experienced the greatest inequities; and during a time of budget cuts, I would work to protect the racial equity initiatives that currently exist.

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Do you support painting over the Victor Arnautoff mural, The Life of George Washington, at George Washington High School?

Yes

No

Do you support changing the names of schools that are rooted in colonization, genocide, slavery, or oppression of any marginalized group?

Yes

No

Do you support Resolution 206-23A3 In Support of Black Lives and the Abolition of Armed Law Enforcement in Schools?

Yes

No

Do you support a moratorium on charter school co-location in our public schools?

Yes

No

Do you think that all SF charter schools should join SFUSD?

Yes

No

Have you ever had a role at a charter school in SF (including parent, staff, volunteer or paid organizer)?

Yes

No

Have you received support from San Francisco Parent PAC?

Yes

No

How would you approach the question of reopening schools in the Fall if you were on the Board of Education? (If you are on the Board, how are you approaching it?)

To reopen schools safely, we need key resources in place in every school to ensure that health and safety precautions can be followed. That includes a nurse in every school and smaller class sizes to achieve physical distancing. We need regular COVID-19 testing for educators/staff and students, and PPE or face coverings for educators and students. There must be significantly more focus on health/safety/wellness, and we will have to reexamine the way that we do almost everything. Navigating all of this uncharted territory will require being in constant dialogue with educators about the needed changes in the classroom and the same with students and families, to ensure all parties feel safe returning to school and are not putting their lives or their loved ones in jeopardy.

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## What are your thoughts on the effectiveness of remote education / distance learning?

I think the school district made a solid effort to provide a high quality education remotely and online-- and I was impressed by how quickly educators moved to create meaningful experiences for their students and develop and establish a plan to provide continuity in the midst of chaos. That said, I think distance learning is simply not as effective as in-person learning in the classroom and as always we relied heavily on our teachers to do the heavy lifting, checking on student wellness in addition to providing for academics-- and I recognize how hard it was to pivot and how these new circumstances took a toll on all parties. And the entire system relied heavily on everyone, including young students, students with disabilities, and students without access to WIFI or adequate technology, to be tied to a screen-- a model that is simply not sustainable.

I would have wanted to offer students and their families (and educators) an alternative path to completing the school year through distance learning, considering the incredible challenges and mental health concerns, such as an offering of summer extended learning. I would have ensured that our communication plan was multilingual and efficient from the start, as well as working with our labor partners to ensure staff had input and were informed before final decisions were made and sent out to families and the public. Finally, I would have had the district work harder to include parents, youth and educators in determining the district's response and resources that were to be made available.

I believe that we should strive to create daily opportunities for students to engage with and communicate with their teachers. This is where we recognize the diversity of need and comfortability level and access to tech of our educators and support them where they are. Given our long-recognized digital divide and the diversity of personal pedagogies among teachers, we have to trust that our educators know how best to deliver instruction to the students, whose needs they are most familiar with. I believe it is the job of the district to support those educator decisions and needs as consistently as possible. Depending on their age, I think it's difficult for students who are engaging in distance learning to focus for any longer than an hour or two. This challenge is further compounded by the educator challenge regarding classroom management and engagement via distance learning. Paraeducators are a vital part of the classroom and should be enabled to continue to engage and support the learning that is happening online. But together, all school-site based educators must have time to engage with each other, identify the roles that are helpful for the goals of deep engagement and sustained participation for students during distance learning. Moving forward, it is important to give educators choice and flexibility, while moving resources and creating systems that are responsive and support those choices. This is especially true for all the educators who are also parents of school- age children who need to balance the needs of their own families.

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How do you propose tackling SFUSD's budget crisis? What bold solutions and new funding sources are you willing to consider?

My core priority is to protect the classroom, and make sure our school sites get prioritized over the central office as tough budget decisions are deliberated. Our classrooms must be fully funded; we cannot run a school district on fumes. While I am hopeful that there is some will at the federal level to provide stimulus money to help offset some of the projected budget deficit-- I have been and will continue to do the work of investing in long-term revenue solutions. I support Schools and Communities First, the statewide ballot measure that would raise close to \$900 million for San Francisco, at least 40% of which would come to the public schools. We also need to make sure we have a stable local funding source to help sustain and grow educator salaries; I support the city giving SFUSD access to the full amount of ERAF dollars available. Our kids and their families depend on our schools for so much, and we must sustain the critical academic supports to help them be successful. Finally, I am committing to transform the district's budget process in the interest of transparency and access to information so that our educators, students and families can be at the center of decision-making.

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Describe your current engagement with SFUSD. How often do you participate in BOE meetings (in person or online)? Which school sites are you familiar with?

For almost ten years, I've worked at Coleman Advocates; as Education Policy Director, I work to build the leadership and power of low-income and working class young people and families of color who for decades have been threatened with push out and displacement. Our work on education equity is to ensure that low-income students of color are not left behind, that they have access to a quality education and a pathway to economic security. I have organized predominantly low income and working class Black and Latinx students and families to advocate for needed changes and resources at their schools. I have worked closely with educational partners including SEIU 1021 and United Educators of San Francisco to support common goals and improve the conditions in our schools and across the district.

In that capacity, I participate in or monitor Board of Education at least once a month, and spend hours each week engaging with students, families, educators and staff about what is happening at the school site level and what support they need. I often am there to participate in public comment and support parents/caregivers and students in making their voices heard.

Growing up in San Francisco, I myself attended SFUSD public schools: Lakeshore Elementary School, AP Giannini Middle School, and Thurgood Marshall Academic High School. And for almost a decade, I have had the opportunity to work with students, families, educators and administrators at many SFUSD schools, primary based in the southwest neighborhoods of the city, including: Balboa High School, June Jordan School for Equity, Monroe Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Denman Middle, Thurgood Marshall, Burton High School, Carver Elementary, MLK Jr. Middle, Malcolm X Elementary, Downtown High School, Ida B. Wells High School, Guadalupe Elementary, Aptos Middle, Cobb Elementary, and Visitacion Valley Elementary School (Little Vis).

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How would you modify SFUSD's school assignment policy?

To modify the school assignment policy, I would prioritize equity and have a process of identifying the speciality programs that make particular schools in such high demand, in order to expand access for those types of programs in more schools. But truthfully, I don't think the previous system or current changes address the root of the challenges with our school assignment system, which is that we don't have enough high-performing schools, limited specialty programs (like immersion programs) and few high-demand alternative schools—and these issues are impacted significantly by race, income and geography. Historically, addressing the geographic segregation in San Francisco based on neighborhood has created a dynamic where bussing is required to transport Black and Brown students all over the City, leading to long commutes for those students. My focus is on improving all schools in San Francisco so that southeast schools with majority Black and Latinx student populations do not equate to lesser quality schools.

Now that SFUSD will not renew its MOU with the SFPD, how would you revise SFUSD's District School Safety Plan?

Ultimately, I believe that the police should only be called when someone's life is in danger. But it is urgent that we develop this alternative safety model so that for educators and staff, when a situation feels out of their control, they have non-law enforcement resources and supports to call upon. We have seen too many stories of the police being called to respond to Black kindergarteners and students in elementary school who are acting out-- a totally inappropriate response, rather than having a trauma-informed, student and service-first approach. I do understand that staff, educators and administrators feel like their schools are under-resourced and calling 911 is an easy out. We must provide an alternative to that call. I want to work with stakeholders across the district (with a focus on impacted families and young people) to develop a comprehensive alternative school safety model to train all stakeholders in deescalation and trauma and services focused approach to conflict or crisis.

If you're elected, what racial justice policies will you push for?

My work for many years has been focused on addressing racial disparities and discriminatory policies that negatively impact African American and Latinx students and families. We have passed policy after policy to address racial disparities that have not improved conditions—and while implementation is certainly an issue, so is the fact that the most impacted people are not at the table as decisions are made. Ultimately, I strongly believe that Black, Latinx, Pacific Islander and Native American students and families must be at the center of decision-making at San Francisco Unified School District, to inform decisions and create the kind of schools that they want and deserve. That centering must be reflected at every level, including program evaluation, budget planning, and more.

I think we need several things to happen. First, we need our schools to be trauma-informed, student-centered and racially equitable, which would mean an end to punitive discipline and criminalization that disproportionately targets Black and Latinx students. Educators and staff need more training and staff support in de-escalating conflict at school sites without calling the police. And young people need to feel engaged in their education and have caring adults at schools who they can trust and connect with.

Second, ending the school-to-prison pipeline must be an essential priority for school board members. I have worked with the national Dignity in Schools Campaign towards this goal, and for many years my role at Coleman Advocates has been focused on building power with students, families, educators, and staff at SFUSD to dismantle this system. I am also proud to have led the “Solutions Not Suspensions” campaign alongside students and families at Coleman Advocates in 2014 that eliminated willful defiance as a suspension category, and won an expansion of restorative practices within the district. While we've made some progress, there is clearly so much more work to do to ensure that Black and Brown students are not set up for failure. That means we need major changes to the discipline system that still disproportionately targets Black and Latinx students, and we need equitable learning supports and resources for our underserved students in southeast schools.

We must strengthen the voice and influence of the AAPAC and BSUs within the district, and use these groups to guide reforms and policy implementation to address the opportunity gap. We have passed many policies to address this gap, including A-G/College to Career, Equity Studies and Ethnic Studies, the Safe and Supportive Schools resolution to transform discipline policy, and most recently the resolution in defense of Black Lives-- but we need a concerted effort to implement these policies and realize the systemic change that Black students and their families deserve. We need targeted resources and academic supports for students of color who have historically experienced the greatest inequities; and during a time of budget cuts, I would work to protect the racial equity initiatives that currently exist.

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Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Ultimately, it is my goal in running to lift up students who have historically been left out of the narrative of what student success looks like. And it is my goal to restore faith and trust in the School Board and its ability to serve families. I am running to build power for students, families, educators and staff to participate meaningfully in decisions that impact our schools, and strengthen the critical public institution that is public education. It would be an honor to have the support of the League-- thank you for your consideration!

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