

College 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.

Email address *

[REDACTED]

Candidate Info

Name

Jeanette Quick

Campaign Contact Person

Alex Karjeker

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

██████████

Office Sought

Community College Board Trustee

Website

<https://votejeanette.com/>

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

I would love to celebrate at the public library, where I spent many Saturdays before the quarantine getting lost amongst the stacks, pulling up a chair at a shared table and reading for many hours. This is one of the rituals I miss the most during quarantine: being surprised by what I end up reading, going down rabbit holes, and losing track of time in the library.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I have been taking classes at City College for the past three years and it has been a critical part of my life here. When CCSF cut 350 of its classes this past semester -- and eliminated the program for 2,000+ Older Adults completely -- as well as let go many teachers overnight, I was shocked. I started looking closer at why CCSF had slashed its budget. I was astounded at the years of financial mismanagement and unstable accreditation. I want to help get CCSF back on the right track. I have a degree in economics and have been working in financial policy for the past 15 years. I am also an attorney. I will work to restore financial stability to the college and to improve the collaboration with the City to understand the parameters of the Free City program. I have a real stake in the program and will advocate to expand its application to classes and tools that will be particularly useful during the pandemic, including expanded online and vocational courses, and laptop grants.

CCSF is a critical pipeline for over 60,000 people in our community, many of them from marginalized communities or people that have daytime jobs and rely on CCSF as their sole opportunity to get an education. We have to ensure that CCSF stays accessible to all, is low cost, and provides well-rounded education to our community. In my experience, the computer labs have barely working computers, classes are difficult to schedule with the clunky website and scheduling system, and the financial aid process is challenging to navigate. I was shocked that the technology that is used at CCSF during classes seems more outdated than what was used when I first went to college in 1999. This is not acceptable in 2020. I want to fight for CCSF to improve its services to students -- and I will do this by cleaning up its processes internally, seeking more funding from the City, and developing new streams of stability by soliciting corporate donations from the tech companies in our backyard that should be paying their fair share towards local education.

I am running for this office as:

A concerned CCSF student that has observed the teachers at CCSF doing the Herculean work required of them to teach with limited resources and paltry salary, and students dealing with 1990s technology and unreliable course offerings.

I am also running as an experienced attorney that has worked tirelessly to advocate for student loan reform and consumer protection, both within government and at a local business that develops tools for small businesses and their employees.

Big change is needed at City College. We have no permanent chancellor, are still in danger of losing accreditation, and continue to have massive budget shortfalls despite the Free City funding and the recent slashing of classes. This college was on the precipice of failure before COVID. As your Trustee, I will build a coalition to completely rethink how we operate remotely, particularly on ensuring that we continue to serve those that may not have regular computer or internet access; increasing representation of women and minorities on both faculty and student bodies; and charting a path to fiscal responsibility.

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

I want the League of Pissed Off Voters' endorsement because I have relied on the League's voter guides for many years and have always appreciated the thoughtful and detailed endorsements. I'm an outsider to the SF political scene and am running because I am a pissed off CCSF student. I want the League's pissed off voters to know that there is much to be pissed off about at CCSF today -- and that I will do my best to change that.

What are your values and how did you get them?

I value equality and opportunity. I grew up as a minority in a majority-white town in southern California. I was constantly harassed and made to feel different. My parents instilled in me the belief that I could achieve my dreams through hard work and diligence, two values that I have carried with me through my life. However, what I have also learned is that hard work and diligence are not enough when the playing field is uneven. I grew up witnessing not just my own harassment, but those of many minorities around me. I know many had it much worse than I did, and have been facing systemic racism and discrimination their whole lives. Thus, the fundamental value I have is that equality and opportunity must take precedence -- that all of the other values cannot do all the work without first starting with these two.

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

I am the daughter of a Vietnamese immigrant and an American with Scandinavian heritage. I most identify with the Asian, mixed-race, and immigrant communities. I also identify with the low-income and working-class communities, as I myself started working when I was 14 years old and spent many nights over the next 10+ years struggling to feed myself and keep myself above water. I am held accountable by these communities very consciously; as I think about the relative stability that I have now, I know that there are many people that are still under threat of submerging and how hard every day can be. I never forget where I came from, the discrimination I experienced, the struggle -- and I know that many people experience worse discrimination and challenges than I ever did or will. The best I can do is listen and fight for everyone to have fair opportunity and a helping hand when they need it.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I only decided to run for this office last week (last week of July), so I am behind other candidates in organizing and obtaining endorsements. I will be the most proud of the League's endorsement if you would do me the honor!

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

I am a Political Partner at the Truman National Security Project, which is a non-profit that organizes progressives on national security and foreign policy. I am also an Eisenhower fellow, a non-profit that facilitates international exchange and lifelong learning among young leaders. I was selected this year to be a United States-Spain Council Young Leader, in which I will travel to Spain (when we are permitted to travel again) as part of an exchange program. Locally, I was previously on the board of the Tenderloin Equitable Development Partnership.

I recently served as Chair of the Consumer Finance Committee of the California Lawyers Association, and am a member of the Banking Law Committee and Consumer Financial Services Committee of the American Bar Association. I completed my three-year term as an appointed member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness. I am a member of the San Francisco Bank Attorneys' Association, the Conference on Consumer Finance Law, the 94104 Exchange, and am an elected member of the Pacific Council on International Policy. I am on the Forbes Finance Council and am a Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Policy New Leader. Finally, I serve as advisor to TipGenie, a startup that is focused on facilitating payments to service workers underserved by traditional financial products.

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

I served on the staff of the United States Senate Banking Committee for five years from 2011 to 2016, and was the lead advisor to Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Tim Johnson (retired) on consumer finance and student loans.

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?

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?

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.

I have not accepted donations from any law enforcement officers or associations in the past. I cannot commit to never accepting any donations from individual law enforcement officers or associations in the future, though I support police reform and reallocation of police budgets towards social causes.

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

25

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)

Yes

No

November 2020 Election

Who are you supporting for US Representative, District 12?

Nancy Pelosi

Who are you supporting for State Senate, District 11?

Undecided

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?

Undecided

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Undecided

Who are you supporting for BART Board, District 9?

Bevan Dufty

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

Who did you support for Superior Court Judge?

Maria Evangelista

Who did you support for DCCC?

John Avelos

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?

Suzy Loftus

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

Community College Board

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

- (1) Balancing the budget by fundraising from private sources and advocating for additional public funding, examining existing expenditures and reallocating to areas that best serve a diverse student body and faculty
- (2) Transitioning City College to a completely remote college, with resources for those that may not have regular computer or internet access and clear communications on how students can continue to progress in their degree programs during the pandemic
- (3) Stabilizing the College's accreditation status by requiring the CCSF management to provide the mid-year accreditation report, buttressing the 5% reserve fund that is needed, and creating accountability goals publicly to ensure progress on the open accreditation issues.

I will implement solutions in a timely manner by setting forth public strategic planning with specific deadlines and benchmarks for measuring success.

Describe your current engagement with the Community College Board. Do you attend meetings (online or in person)? What are the most important items that have been on agendas recently?

I have attended City College Board meetings as a member of the public and student body, particularly as the changes were announced that cut the Older Students program virtually overnight. I have also read the minutes of all of the City College Board meetings from the past several years. The most important items on the agendas recently included the Board's assessment report, the decisions around the former Chancellor and the introduction to the interim Chancellor, the planning around the Balboa Reservoir housing project, and the budget reports.

With a structural budget deficit, how do you envision balancing the budget and keeping vocational and continuing education classes not supported by state funding?

My approach to balancing City College's budget includes a number of different facets: (1) evaluate administrator salaries and cut those salaries that are out of line with market rates; (2) top-to-bottom review of contracted services, with an eye towards cutting those that are outdated or paring back services that are underused; (3) renting out of college facilities; (4) fundraising from private foundations; and (5) increasing enrollment in order to increase state funding eligibility. One outcome that I do not support is the continued slashing of courses and services for students, which will lead to a vicious cycle of City College being ever less attractive to students. City College needs to balance its budget, but not at the expense of compromising its ability to provide students the opportunity to transfer to universities, take practical vocational training, or to learn about liberal arts, humanities, and STEM areas of study.

What work have you done to support additional funding from the City or State for City College?

I have worked to raise awareness with individuals that are not typically tuned into city politics and City College -- such as tech workers and local professionals -- and have encouraged many to become involved with attending City College and engaging with their Supervisors for additional funding. I have also made this a central part of my platform in my candidacy for Trustee.

There is a proposed housing project on City-owned land along Balboa Reservoir, adjacent to campus. How do you envision working with the City, the SFPUC who owns the land, the developers, and your colleagues on the Community College Board to support the development of maximum affordable housing for staff and faculty?

I will work with the City, SFPUC, the developers and my Board colleagues to ensure that the facility is as close to 100% affordable housing as possible for staff and faculty. I will do this by working to identify areas of common ground among the stakeholders, create a strategic plan for advancing discussions amongst the working group, and soliciting public feedback on proposed plans to ensure that we are balancing the needs of staff and faculty with the stakeholder interests.

What qualities and experience would you look for in a new permanent chancellor?

I would look for a chancellor that is experienced with budget deficits, particularly in public education. City College is on the brink of failure due to its financial mismanagement, and this must be the number one priority of a permanent chancellor to resolve within their first 18 months of service. I would also look for a chancellor with a strong track record of developing and meeting diversity goals and enhancing student offerings during times of crisis. The chancellor must also be willing to have a strong sense of transparency and accountability, and be willing to be responsive to the Board and the public about their work and the progress made on achieving their stated strategic goals.

What is your opinion of the City College Campus Police, and would you propose any reforms to them?

The City College Campus Police appears to not be complying with federal requirements related to transparency around crime statistics. The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998 requires all colleges and universities to disclose information about crimes reported on campus to be readily available to the community and the public. However, the City College website makes reference to an Annual Security Report, but there is no link or way for a member of the public or student body to access this report. This is clearly against the law and does not serve the public purpose of understanding the crimes that have occurred on campus and how the security force is being deployed at City College. Thus, my first recommendation is to increase transparency and accountability of the Campus Police, likely by first publishing the ASRs for the last several years and surveying the opinions of students and faculty about the effectiveness and appropriateness of Campus Police services and behavior. I would then develop recommendations for further reforms that may be needed to the Campus Police.

Do you support maintaining a campus in the Tenderloin? Please explain your answer.

I believe the Tenderloin campus on Eddy Street should be re-opened as planned after the seismic retrofit, especially in light of City College closing the Market Street location. The Tenderloin -- with its high proportion of immigrants as well as low-income and historically underserved individuals -- needs a campus where people can get job training and workforce development, and leaving its residents with no option will likely foreclose many people from getting any education at all. The Market location rent was way too high considering the number of classes that were taught there; I would recommend renegotiating the lease at Eddy Street, as well as exploring whether there are new commercial real estate opportunities elsewhere in the Tenderloin with falling rents. However, while the pandemic continues to be a threat, I do not support re-opening the Eddy campus until the facilities are safe for in-person classes and this is why I support a fully online City College system for the foreseeable future.

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

Multiple CCSF students have been killed by San Francisco police officers in the past few years. This is not acceptable. I support citywide police reform, including reallocating funds from the police department, publishing public complaints about individual police officers, mandatory bias training, and a public oversight board. I also support specific racial justice policies within CCSF, including ensuring the Campus Police are accountable and transparent in their treatment of Black and Latinx students; reversing the cuts to African-American History classes; prioritizing guaranteed university admissions and guaranteed jobs for minority students; expanding Free City to include books, housing, and computers; hiring of more diverse faculty; and developing curriculum related to racial justice and advocacy, including a new degree program. This is a start. I am certain that I will develop additional policies and ideas when I hear from students and faculty about their experiences and where there are areas for improvement.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Thank you for your consideration!

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