

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

Alan Wong

Campaign Contact Person

Holly Wong

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

██████████

Office Sought

Community College Board

Website

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

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

I miss being able to go to my neighborhood restaurants and businesses on Taraval, Irving, and West Portal that are temporarily closed due to COVID-19. I would love to celebrate with friends by eating at one of my neighborhood restaurants.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I am running to ensure that working and immigrant families have access to the opportunity and hope City College provides. My parents are originally from Hong Kong and I was born and raised in San Francisco. My entire family attended City College and all of our lives have all been transformed by it.

After my father immigrated to San Francisco, he was laid off from his factory job. While my father attended City College to learn English, he also enrolled in the College's Chinatown culinary program, which allowed him to become a Local 2 union hotel cook at the Stockton Street Grand Hyatt and the sole provider of my family for two decades. The stable wages and healthcare that my father obtained enabled my family to afford a small in-law unit in the Outer Sunset and to live with dignity in San Francisco.

My mother attended ESL classes that helped her talk to family members, integrate, become more self-confident, and social. The City College classes I took as a teenager with a low-income tuition waiver helped me graduate from UC San Diego when I was 19-years-old.

In my current work as Education Policy Advisor for Supervisor Gordon Mar, I helped draft and advance the 'Free City College' legislation at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to secure a decade of Free City College. In partnership with City College, Sunset nonprofits, and local schools, I also expanded City College into the Sunset District. In Supervisor Mar's office, I also worked with students, AFT Local 2121, City College trustees, administrators, and stakeholders to draft the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund in order to provide job training for workers, promote economic recovery, bolster student wraparound services, and restore City College programs that have been impacted by declining state funding.

Today, my father is laid off again, like many other service sector workers due to COVID-19. City College is an institution that can be a lynchpin in the economic recovery of our City. I am running to ensure that we have a College that can provide hope and opportunity for people like my father and working and immigrant families.

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

I believe we share common goals and values of social justice, equity, and keeping diverse and working families in San Francisco.

What are your values and how did you get them?

My parents are immigrants from Hong Kong that worked hard to survive in a new continent, learning English, working odd jobs, and facing discrimination and institutional barriers. My dad is a Local 2 hotel cook that was locked out in 2004 by his employer for over a month. I was born and raised in SF and am a SFUSD grad. I was a union organizer for 6.5 years for mostly women of color. My upbringing has led me to value inclusivity, diversity, social justice, people over corporations, hard work, coalition building, and integrity.

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

I approach civic involvement as a person with a working class background (father is Local 2), immigrant roots, person of color, API heritage, labor advocate (IFPTE/SEIU), public servant, and citizen of the world. I always seek to be accountable and close to the community by seeking input and feedback from the stakeholders that are impacted by my actions. As a coalition builder, union organizer, and legislative aide, I have practiced this by always checking in with impacted communities and forming stakeholder organizing committees and working groups around common struggles. These communities help guide my own conscience and provide me with direction.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

The American Federation of Teachers Local 2121, the supermajority of the City College Board of Trustees, and the supermajority of the SFUSD Board of Education Commissioners. I am proud of these endorsements because they reflect my experience in successful government leadership, strong ties to the San Francisco educational community, and belief in City College's mission to serve students.

I am also proud to be endorsed by:

California Faculty Association (SFSU Teachers)

Transport Workers Union Local 250-A (Muni Operators)

SF Berniecrats

SF Tenants Union

Bernal Heights Democratic Club

Former State Senator Mark Leno

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Public Defender Mano Raju

President Norman Yee

Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Supervisor Dean Preston

Supervisor Hillary Ronen

Supervisor Matt Haney

Supervisor Gordon Mar

Supervisor Sandra Fewer

Supervisor Shamann Walton

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

Former Supervisor Jane Kim

Former Supervisor Matt Gonzalez

Former Supervisor Eric Mar

Former Supervisor Jake McGoldrick

Former Supervisor John Avalos

City College President Shanell Williams

City College Vice President Tom Temprano

City College Trustee Brigitte Davila

City College Trustee John Rizzo

City College Trustee Thea Selby

School Board President Mark Sanchez

School Board Vice President Gabriela Lopez

School Board Member Faauuga Moliga

School Board Member Alison Collins

School Board Member Jenny Lam

BART Director Bevan Dufty

SF Democratic Party Chair David Campos

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Honey Mahogany

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Carolina Morales

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Peter Gallota

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Keith Baraka

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Gloria Berry

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member Li Miao Lovett

SF Democratic County Central Committee Member AJ Thomas

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

I currently serve on the following leadership panels: Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - San Francisco Chapter, SF Labor Council delegate, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter Leadership Council, and Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs - San Francisco Chapter.

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

N/A

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?

Target suburban areas with little public transit that have not been producing their fair share of housing. We must limit the impact on and displacement of low-income communities of color. In addition, options for local community planning must be provided.

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.

No, I will not receive and have not received any donations from any law enforcement unions/associations for my campaign. I have personal relationships with people that are employed in a broad array of professions and have received donations from friends and individuals who work as officers.

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?

Have not made a public endorsement.

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?

At this time Jenny Lam and Mark Sanchez. Have not made a public endorsement for the other two slots. There are some other candidates I like but haven't gotten the chance to talk to them yet.

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Shanell Williams, Tom Temprano, Han Zou

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, Michelle Tong, Rani Singh

Who did you support for DCCC?

Mostly Social Justice Dems Slate with some exceptions.

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. Workforce Development -

Job Centers - I will advocate for Job Centers on campuses by putting underutilized CCSF facilities to use.

Job Pipelines - I will promote partnerships with employers and workforce nonprofits.

2. Student Equity -

Student Support Services - I will be a champion for wraparound services supporting student retention and direct support for basic student needs such as resource centers, tutoring, counseling, childcare, rental assistance, counseling, and transportation.

Diverse Workforce - I will ensure that CCSF has a diverse workforce reflecting the diversity, language, and cultural background of its students.

Bayview-Hunters Point - Our Southeastern neighborhoods have not been prioritized. I will support a needs assessment for Bayview-Hunters Point and allocating needed classes to the neighborhood campuses.

3. Fiscal Oversight and Transparency -

Mandatory Budget Updates - I will require CCSF administration to publicly report and provide budget updates at every regular Trustee meeting. This will ensure no surprise deficits and increase accountability.

Generating Revenue - I will promote the creation of nonprofit and community-serving partnerships to maximize the use of existing CCSF facilities to serve the public and generate revenue that will be reinvested into the classroom.

Independent Oversight - I will support investing in fiscal oversight, such as a Budget Auditor or Controller. Independent fiscal oversight will allow Trustees and the public to have objective information on the fiscal health of the College. The ability to look for mistakes in the past and properly forecast the budget or deficits for the future will allow time for the College and Trustees to take mitigating actions and avoid catastrophic reductions.

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?

Due to the CCSF legislation and programs I am working on, I am constantly engaged with the College Board and communicate with various Trustees, unions, departments, and administrators multiple times each week. Recent projects have included securing Free City College for the next decade, expanding CCSF into the Sunset, working with the ESL Department to create an ESL interpreter certificate to develop a workforce pipeline into Office of Civic Engagement Language Bank, and drafting the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund.

Yes, I have attended in person and online meetings. The most important agenda items recently have been the budget meetings and the endorsement of the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund.

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

1. Meet the College's goal of 32,000 Full-Time Students in order to generate state funding and achieve a balanced budget. The most recent peak of CCSF's enrollment was during the Great Recession. During this downturn, we can draw more students by providing quality workforce development programs. I am advancing this cause by moving the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund forward.

2. SFUSD has been successful at lobbying for money partly because their teachers' union, administration, and board are united. I am trusted and endorsed by AFT Local 2121 and a supermajority of Trustees to lead the College. I have been and will use the trust and the credibility I have to unite college stakeholders to lobby for permanent and sustainable local, state, and federal funding.

3. There used to be budget updates at every single Board of Trustees meeting. I will require CCSF administration to publicly report and provide budget updates at every regular Trustee meeting. This will ensure no surprise deficits and increase accountability.

4. We need to leverage existing resources and facilities to generate revenue and serve the community. For example, we could create Jobs Centers in underutilized spaces by providing space to workforce nonprofits that will serve the community and help the college recruit, enroll, retain, and hire students. We would charge below-market-rate and generate revenue for the college by using otherwise empty locations.

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

In coalition with other stakeholders and under the leadership of Supervisor Mar I have advocated to: secure a decade of funding for Free City College, expand CCSF into the Sunset, work with the ESL Department to secure a planning grant to create an ESL interpreter certificate program, and draft the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund. All of these projects have required a sustained and long-term commitment to the College to achieve success. During the year-long process of drafting and advancing the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund I have participated in countless lobby visits, town halls, stakeholder listening sessions, working groups, and planning meetings. I have also worked to draft advocacy collateral, legislative language, and shepherd legislation.

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?

At the Balboa Reservoir, the College will need to assertively and collaboratively advocate for its interests around the many issues of faculty/classified staff housing, student housing (Upper Reservoir), sustainable transportation, parking, traffic congestion, specification of new streets, improvements to Ocean Avenue, and coordination of parallel construction on the Lower and Upper Reservoir.

The College Board has formed a Committee consisting of three trustees to negotiate an MOU with Reservoir Community Partners. The Committee and MOU will be critical in ensuring that the interests of the College and objectives for faculty/classified staff housing are advanced. I envision utilizing the Committee as a bully pulpit and organizing CCSF stakeholders (students, teachers, classified staff, administrators, and trustees) to collaboratively advocate and lobby for the interests of and best outcome for the College.

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

Fiscal Oversight - The new Chancellor will need to maintain a balanced budget and prioritize competing interests during a period of financial challenges and loss of revenue.

Inclusivity - As a public institution, the people of San Francisco expect CCSF to uphold democratic values and norms. The new Chancellor will need to value the principle of shared governance and include students, teachers, administrators, support staff, unions, and trustees in shaping the future of the college.

Transparency - At a time when public confidence in the leadership of the college is low, the new Chancellor will need to be transparent about the state of the college and its challenges.

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

Currently, campus police are not armed with guns and are represented by SEIU Local 1021. I will advocate that our campus police reflect San Francisco and CCSF's culture and values of nonviolence. We need to support and prioritize non-police responses when no criminal statutes have been broken. We need to support and fund social workers, mental health workers, and counselors to serve CCSF students and the community.

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

Yes, we need to maintain a CCSF presence in the Tenderloin area that is accessible to the immigrant and low-income communities of color. CCSF administration's current plan, while we are waiting for 750 Eddy, is to continue with the lease at 1170 Market that expires in February and relocate existing programs to other campuses. I believe we should explore the following options to maintain a presence in the Tenderloin:

1. Propose to the building owner to reduce or eliminate the rent when the building is not utilized during COVID-19.
 2. Faculty at the facility have proposed and told me that it could be possible to consolidate the classes to occupy some of the floors at 1170 Market instead of the entire building and ask for a rent reduction.
 3. Utilize the City College Sunset model. In Supervisor Mar's office, I worked to expand CCSF into the Sunset District rent-free by partnering up with schools and community nonprofits that have mutual benefit and synergy with CCSF. At City College Sunset, we placed ESL, Older Adult, and Child Development courses at a preschool facility. We also placed American Sign Language, Ethnic Studies, and College Success classes that high school students can enroll in at Lincoln High School. We should look for mutually beneficial community-based partnerships and propose to base CCSF classes at a Civic Center / Tenderloin school and/or nonprofit rent-free by providing direct and tangible benefits to their community.
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If you're elected, what racial justice policies will you push for?

1. I will push for the support and protection of African American Studies and Ethnic Studies programs. I worked to draft language in the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund to include support for African American Studies and other Ethnic Studies programs in order to support and protect independent and separate social justice programs.

2. I will focus on closing the achievement gap for our Black and Brown students to ensure the success of all students at the college. For far too long many Black and Brown students have been stuck in remedial classes.

Assembly Bill 705 now requires that students must have the opportunity to attend the classes that they actually need, but that means that we need to provide holistic support systems to boost the success of those students. I will be a champion for wraparound services supporting student retention and direct support for basic student needs such as resource centers, tutoring, counseling, childcare, rental assistance, counseling, and transportation.

4. I will support a needs assessment for Bayview-Hunters Point and allocating needed classes to neighborhood campuses.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

As a Legislative Aide in Supervisor Mar's office, I have experience creating a satellite campus site and expanding City College into a geographically underserved neighborhood. I worked with local nonprofits, AFT Local 2121, City College, and SFUSD to expand City College into the Sunset.

Under the leadership of Supervisor Mar, I conducted a needs assessment and town hall that resulted in hundreds of surveys from students, seniors, workers, and community members providing feedback on Sunset community needs. Based on the feedback, I worked with City College, local schools, and nonprofits to finalize classes, find facilities, and locate City College classes into the Sunset rent-free.

Once classes were finalized, I also helped enroll over one-hundred students into City College Sunset by organizing enrollment fairs and conducting outreach into the community. My experience expanding a City College satellite location into the Sunset gives me the experience to ensure that all our communities are equitably provided City College services. Going forward I will advocate for conducting similar work in the Southeast sector of the City and support our Black and Brown communities. We must not overlook marginalized communities and start meeting unaddressed needs to break the cycle of social and economic inequity.

To date, City College Sunset has served over 250 students taking ESL, Child Development, American Sign Language, College Success, Ethnic Studies, Older Adult, and high school dual-enrollment classes transferable to college.

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