

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

Shanell Williams

Campaign Contact Person

Shanell Williams

Email Address

[REDACTED]

Phone Number

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Office Sought

City College Board of Trustees

Website

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

El Rio

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for re-election because I am a former student, current President of the Board of Trustees and have spent the past eight years fighting for City College to be accredited, fiscally solvent and to remain a safety net and affordable pathway to higher education and enrichment for San Francisco. I feel it is critical at this time to have experienced leadership on the board given the many challenges the college is facing.

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

I respect the League tremendously. I know the League does the research, is fair, progressive and honest in assessing candidates and ballot measures. I trust the League as a San Francisco voter and know my friends, colleagues and community do as well. I share the values of the League and I am honored to have received support for my 2016 City College race and race for the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee this past March.

What are your values and how did you get them?

I value equity, compassion, integrity, public service, transparency and justice. I got these values over time growing up in difficult circumstances and living my life as a Black, Bisexual, working class woman in San Francisco. In my teenage years I cycled through the juvenile justice system until I became a ward of the court. I directly understand the impact that drug abuse, violence, trauma, structural racism, economic disinvestment, lack of justice and compassion has on our communities. My lived experience shapes my values. Through mentorship, political education, and healing I grown to deeply understand the value of equity, compassion, integrity, public service, transparency and justice. I know these values can uplift us all and be transformative for our community.

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

As a native San Franciscan I believe I represent the diversity of all of our City. I am a Black, queer, Progressive Democrat, elected official and working professional. In my role at City College I am accountable to all our our college community and San Francisco. As a member of the Social Justice Democrats on the Democratic County Central Committee I am accountable to the Progressive community. I am held accountable through direct contact to express concerns, through the hard questions, through hours of public comment. Because of my values I expect and welcome dialogue in the spirit to of accountability because I am a public servant and a longtime community organizer and advocate.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Tenants Union, Sierra Club, Supervisor Gordon Mar

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

SF Black Residents Association

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

Prop C Oversight Committee, Youth Commission, Juvenile Justice Commission, Student Senate for California Community Colleges, San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP)

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?

More local control, clear plan to not further displace low to moderate income residents

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.

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

50

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?

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?

Alida Fisher, Mark Sanchez, Kevine Boggess, Jenny Lam

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Tom Temprano, Alan Wong, 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

March 2020 Election

Who did you support for Superior Court Judge?

Maria Evangelista

Who did you support for DCCC?

Social Justice Democrats 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?

No endorsement

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?

Loss of revenue due to drop in enrollment over the years and COVID-19: we have been advocating at the local, state and federal level for additional funding in partnership with our labor partners and elected leaders. We also need to make tough decisions to align our expenditures with our revenues.

Stabilizing administrative leadership: we just completed hiring for a very well respected community college leader to serve as interim Chancellor for the next year. This will help City College improve our systems, attract a permanent Chancellor and experienced leadership for our fiscal, facilities and student affairs areas

Preserving programs and classes to ensure we can adequately serve the community during the recession: we need to identify with our college community strategies such as strategic partnerships for preserving what will be in demand programs for students to retrain during this recession such as ESL, Nursing, Fire Science, Biotechnology, etc

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?

Online and as President I chair all of our meetings. The most important items have been the OPEB trust fund (employer only fund) withdrawal to cover current health benefit obligations and maintain 5% reserve, Tentative Budget, hiring of Interim Chancellor, Balboa Reservoir MOU and Easement Agreement, Administrative Reorganization Plan

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

I supported Supervisor Walton's proposal for bridge funding and currently support WERF. We know we are in difficult times in terms of our economy and we hope that the labor community will be united in the fact that City College provides 300 million dollars of economic activity and should have more funding from the City's general fund. Retraining our most vulnerable communities will be the key work of the college during this time.

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

As President and a member of the board, I have:

- Campaigned for the passage of our \$845 million facilities bond which will radically transform our facilities and infrastructure
 - Serving on the Joint Select Committee with representatives from SFUSD and the Board of Supervisors to address funding issues, Dual Enrollment programs expansion and policing on our campuses.
 - Supported the passage of Prop W and secured a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with the City and County of San Francisco for Free City College. I am committed to expanding the Free City program to all workers in San Francisco and ensure this is a cost neutral program.
 - Secured restructuring and reduction of \$24 million debt to the State which was due to documentation issues.
 - Advocating for representation for Community Colleges on the State Workforce Economic Recovery Board.
 - Advocating for Prop 15 "Schools and Communities First".
 - Advocated at the federal level including travel to Washington, DC for dedicated funding for Community Colleges that includes dollars earmarked for job training H.R. 6800 (HEROS ACT) and engaged federal representatives Pelosi, Speier, Feinstein and Harris.
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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?

Serving on the MOU negotiation committee to advocate for our interests with the Balboa Reservoir. This MOU if it meets the needs of our college will be integrated with the City's development agreement to ensure our college community is supported and not negatively impacted.

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

Courage, respect for the Board of Trustees and San Francisco community, deep long term experience with all the community college functions especially fiscal oversight, respect with all constituent groups across the State, honesty and transparency, energy, compassion, strong advocacy and fundraising skills.

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

Our campus police are not armed, not part of the POA and are mostly BIPOC. I believe that they could benefit from additional training like all our employees but we have had very minimal incidents at City College with our campus police.

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

Yes. City College owns the Civic Center Campus and with our bond funds we have the resources for needed seismic and infrastructure upgrades. I lived in the Tenderloin for 7 years and believe the immigrant community deserves a positive resource like City College where they live.

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

Like many academic institutions we are challenged with attracting and retaining diverse faculty. I hope that we can work with Black and Brown faculty, students and administrators to gain a deeper understanding of how to improve this at CCSF. We need to invest in racial equity and unconscious bias training. I also support that due to the ways that Black and Brown communities have been impacted by the K-12 system we need to eliminate remedial courses in Math and English to help POC students access college level courses in an equitable amount of time.

Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I want to make a statement about the hiring of our former permanent Chancellor Dr. Mark Rocha and the ending of our lease at Fort Mason.

The hiring of the Chancellor is a participatory process where students, faculty, staff and administrator representatives screen and interview all the candidates and send their top candidates to the Board. The Board received three candidates and Dr. Rocha was the most qualified out of the three at that time. Six of our seven board members myself included voted to hire him. Before the search process started I traveled to Tucson, Arizona to try to recruit David Doree our former Business Dean who is beloved and talented but was turned down. I believe strongly that we did not have an exceptional pool of candidates in 2016 with the college coming out of the accreditation crisis. I would describe Dr. Rocha's tenure as starting out strong which is a perception by a number of elected and community college leaders across the State. We negotiated a fair multi year contract with AFT2121 that included pay raises and there was a good relationship with the board. It all went downhill with the administrative raises "salary gate" and the class cuts "midnight massacre" which the board was not informed of. When I became President this year I knew my first task was to address our leadership issue in the least chaotic and litigious way possible with my colleagues. This is to ensure we can stabilize the college and attract permanent leadership with experience that will be respected by our college community and across the State.

In terms of Fort Mason we made the decision to end our lease because the apportionment from the state does not cover the cost of maintaining operations at the site. City College has 7 other sites we own where we can offer the same courses not deficit spend by paying rent we can't afford. Given COVID-19 we would not be able to have in person classes there for the foreseeable future. Fort Mason property management refused to provide any pandemic rent relief and additionally we would have to take on the burden of millions of dollars of upgrades to a site we do not own in dire fiscal times.

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