

# 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](mailto:TheLeagueSF@gmail.com).

Email address \*

[REDACTED]

Candidate Info

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

My daughter's house.

Tell us about yourself.

Why are you running for this office?

I'm a grassroots activist from my college days and a retired CCSF teacher (ESL) and college administrator who has never run for political office. I was prompted to run by my peers, students, and teachers who have been organizing around issues facing City College since the unfair 2012 attack on the College's accreditation. My working knowledge, experience, and wisdom acquired by a career devoted to teaching and learning in community colleges will enable me to bring informed insights to the Board. I know how to address the issues at CCSF so that students and community can be better served.

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

I need your endorsement because I'm a political outsider with grassroots support. The voters whose votes I seek look to your voters guide to decide whom to vote for. You are an all-volunteer organization whose values coincide with my own: you love San Francisco and want to keep it diverse, just and healthy. I love City College and want to keep it a community college for the same reasons.

I want your endorsement because I'm needed on the Board, and I'm not a politician. It's difficult to figure out government bureaucracy and the machine politics of endorsements and fund-raising. Four of the other leading candidates are or have been legislative aides; I was an ESL teacher and faculty unionist, Dean of Students, and Vice Chancellor of Instruction. I am an expert on City College, but not an expert on running for office.

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### What are your values and how did you get them?

Access to a good education, quality healthcare, affordable housing are human rights. To paraphrase a union brother, "A society exists to protect its weakest members." Education is a means to a better life. High school friends helped me enroll in the local junior college, my first degree, the first in my family, and my path to three more. I grew up in a two-room house without indoor plumbing; we hand-pumped and heated water outdoors. That was our affordable housing; it was what we could afford. I have good medical insurance, first as an employee benefit now as medicare. Medicare for all.

Systemic racism must be challenged and overcome, an ongoing struggle. I was a student foot soldier in the 1968-69 SF State Strike to establish the School of Ethnic Studies and EOP. My 40-year career devoted to improving student access/success in higher education resulted from that Strike.

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

In my view, as a life-long educator, mostly at City College, I represented all San Franciscans. As a Board member, I would represent San Franciscans; they could recall me or not elect me to a second term, and I appreciate that kind of accountability. More specifically, I would represent the best interests of students and then faculty and staff. I would expect them to let me know if I am not vigorously supporting their needs.

As an individual, I am a Chicana proud of my indigenous roots in the Southwest. My family lets me know when I am not being faithful to the life instructions we share.

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What three endorsements are you most proud of?

AFT 2121: My faculty team campaigned and won representation rights for our union (1970s). I served on the first three or four bargaining teams and was elected president three times. AFT 2121 is an exemplar, winning good contracts, and a pioneer for part-time faculty rights (benefits, pro-rata pay; seniority). AFT 2121 has led the way on campus with Free City College and the Workforce Education Recovery Act.

Jackie Fielder: a young queer Native American Mexicana running for State Senate. I admire her work and energy. Our communities need progressive voices like hers.

Bernal Heights Democratic Club: I respect the club because it is neighborhood-based and not only endorses but also works for those it endorses.

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

None right now, but I served on the San Francisco Bay Area Educators Credit Union (SFBAECU), Jamestown, SF MANA (a national Latina organization), SF LNEC (San Francisco National Education Center - a talent search agency).

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

None right now, but I served on the San Francisco Bay Area Educators Credit Union (SFBAECU), Jamestown, SF MANA (a national Latina organization), SF LNEC (San Francisco National Education Center - a talent search agency).

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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?

It would need language to guarantee that low-income communities of color would not be displaced and that it would ensure mostly or 100% affordable housing, critical to low-income essential workers who currently cannot afford to live in a city but must work in it. I'm afraid, however, that the statewide corporate developer community behind this bill would not make these kinds of amendments.

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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?

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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?

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?

Vilaska Nguyen

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?

Kevin Bogess

Who are you supporting for Community College Board?

Anita Martinez

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?

MariaEvangelista, Michelle Tong, Carolyn Gold

Who did you support for DCCC?

John Avalos, DavidCampos, Mano Raju, Gloria Berry, Honey Mahogany, Hillary Ronen, Matt Haney

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

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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) State takeover (2012-2017) undermined CCSF's leadership. State appointed chancellors and the last chancellor sought to downsize the college and change its mission. I will work to bring the college back to its community college roots and to help select the next permanent chancellor true to those missions.
  - 2) The budget has a structural deficit it's paying in installments to the State Chancellor's Office for the next 7-8 years; although it is being repaid, it shows as a deficit. The budget was overspent for three years under the past chancellor. I will advocate for a chancellor and a chief budget officer who can get the budget more in balance through inclusive planning. I'm committed to having the Workforce Education and Recovery Fund and Proposition 15 passed to generate more revenue. I will also work to support more wealth taxes.
  - 3) We need to improve student access and success, especially for Black and Brown students by improving the application and registration systems and by better supporting and enhancing academic programs developed by Black and Brown employees.
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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've attended Board and subcommittee meetings both ways.

July 30, 2020 agenda - Administrative Reorganization, pending Board approval: eliminate seven positions; create four new ones consistent with other community colleges:

Vice Chancellor, Finance/Administration (CFO), elevation from an Associate VC,

Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs (CSSO), elevation from an Associate VC,

Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities/Construction/Bond Programs (combines positions)

Director, Media/Government Relations/Marketing.

I wrote Board members several times recommending such reorganization; the new Interim Chancellor just recommended them. The first position is critical to getting the budget under control; the second to improving enrollment and registration. The past structure made no sense with inflated titles and levels; more work is needed.

I have also written and spoken to the Board about class cuts, the near elimination of the Older Adults Program, and decimation of noncredit ESL classes, a loss to the immigrant community, all agenda items.

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

The structural deficit due to attendance over-reporting is being repaid in installments over ten years. A separate problem is three years of over-spending; that should be brought under control by a competent CFO. Vocational education classes sometimes have grants as well as state-funding. WERF (Workforce Education Recovery Fund) approval will provide additional funding. I also support Schools and Communities First, which will bring more revenue to City College.

Continuing education classes pay their own way with student fees, modest because fees pay the teacher's salary and overhead. Sometimes the terms continuing education and noncredit are confused. Noncredit is a state-approved/ funded instructional category; funding has improved so much that other community colleges are now offering it. (Adult Education, part of K-12, is its counterpart; noncredit is the only state-funded adult education in San Francisco.) Most noncredit classes generate more revenue than they cost; excess revenue can be applied to any instructional program, including vocational and credit education.

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

I have supported and voted for Free City College. I supported the Bridge Funding initiative requesting \$2.7 million to pay for Spring 2020 classes cut in Fall 2019. It passed the SF Board but lacked one vote to be veto proof and was killed by Mayor Breed. I am now supporting WERF. I am proud that the first and third efforts were led by AFT 2121, the union I helped build. I am equally proud that the second (secure \$2.7 million) was led by Leslie Simon, my campaign manager.

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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?

On June 25, 2020, the Board voted to establish an adhoc committee of 3 trustees supported by administrative staff to draft a memorandum of understanding for the Balboa Reservoir development to include "points from perviously passed Board Resolutions as well as the Balboa Reservoir CAC principles and parameters..." that they will then negotiate with the Balboa project developer. The team is charged with representing the District's interests. I would hope that includes the development of maximum affordable housing for staff, faculty, and perhaps at-risk students, for example, homeless, exiting the foster care system, or transitioning. Until I am elected, the role I can play is to monitor and advocate, both of which I shall do. Right now, faculty and community are challenging the current development; I hope they are successful. I do not support the Avalon development. I am encouraged that community housing developer Joseph Smooke has outlined how 550 units of 100% more deeply affordable housing can be funded without cross financing by the private developers.

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

I co-authored with Leslie Simon an opinion piece published in 48 Hills:

<https://48hills.org/2020/05/the-next-chancellor-an-open-letter-to-the-city-college-trustees/>

It says, in part, that a chancellor should

- have leadership experience in an urban comprehensive community college, being committed to noncredit instruction;
  - be committed to work for initiatives such as WERF and Prop 15;
  - be a truth teller, especially when times are bad;
  - be a problem solver who solicits advice but is up to making the final decision and being accountable;
  - have demonstrated commitment to working with faculty and staff;
  - be a healer to heal divisions, work towards resolving differences, and promote respect for all employees;
  - restore confidence;
  - build a responsive, ethical Facilities team to manage the bond;
  - be a strategic thinker while promoting positive relationships with Sacramento to reform the new state funding formula that is unfriendly to large urban district.
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What is your opinion of the City College Campus Police, and would you propose any reforms to them?

While Dean of Students at City College with student discipline responsibilities, I worked with Campus Police. They worked like SROs, school safety officers, and were unarmed. They were respectful of students working to resolve disputes with words, not weapons. When truly disruptive students were observed threatening students or staff, they summoned me to suspend the student while I looked into the matter. They had been trained in de-escalation strategies.

On other occasions, they called me to intervene instead of calling SFPD. The first was a campus dance where several participants flashed gang signs on our neutral campus. They called me to intervene when students sat in at the Chancellor's Office; I and other student services staff intervened to resolve the issue. Anyone on campus could call 911; I was glad we could call Campus Police instead of SFPD because they worked with people to settle matters. Not knowing how Campus Police functions now, I have no reforms to propose, but I am pleased they remain unarmed.

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

Yes, I do. The Civic Center campus should be renovated and classes scheduled. It has a long history of providing noncredit ESL classes to immigrants and helping those who wished to transition to credit ESL and other credit classes at other campuses. It is a convenient location to neighboring communities with good access to transit. Perhaps the communities should be surveyed to determine what other classes or programs might be good.

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

We need better outcomes for Black and Brown students. Programs that faculty from the same communities have established (e.g., African American Scholars, Puente) are not as well supported as they should be. Working with faculty and student groups, CCSF should identify how to expand the programs to serve more students. I am interested in a move to support an endowment for the African American Studies Department to create a community college research center for African American students. City College's stellar "Introduction to Ethnic Studies" course is offered to SFUSD students and can expand in the other direction to SFSU students. I support the Land Acknowledgement Initiative that is making its way through constituent bodies at City College. I support restorative and transformative justice policies and practices and would promote an ongoing commitment to them.

When Prop 16 is passed, the Board needs to direct the Chancellor to re-establish an affirmative action plan to diversify the college. The Board needs to monitor those efforts. Ethnic Studies and Social Justice Studies need to have more fulltime faculty; these programs cannot grow without faculty to nourish them.

I would like the college to develop student jobs on campus and in community organizations. Students can work as outreach workers, peer mentors, and tutors; both sets of students benefit.

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Last Question

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I have worked 40 years in higher education, 28 years at CCSF: teacher, faculty leader (AFT 2121 President), dean, and vice chancellor. I was Language Arts Dean, Skyline College, and Vice President of Student Learning, College of Marin. I can read and balance budgets; I'm experienced in policy proposal/approval; I've participated in the selection of chancellors. These are the three primary responsibilities of the Board: monitor and balance the budget; propose and approve policy; and hire, supervise, and fire a chancellor. My associate's degree is from San Joaquin Delta College. My family was rich in love but not much else; my AA was the key to the rest of my education. Everyone should have the same opportunity, especially essential workers for whom a degree may lead to a job with better income and the possibility of sheltering at home during a pandemic.

See my website for more information: [anitamartinezforcollegeboard.com](http://anitamartinezforcollegeboard.com)

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