

A California Non-Profit PAC

**PDA-CA CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE for the
SAN FRANCISCO NOV. 2020
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD RACE**

NAME OF CANDIDATE: Anita Martinez

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PDA-CA is non-profit state political action committee formed in 2018 by grassroots progressives active in Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) in California. The primary objective of PDA-CA is to identify highly progressive Democratic Candidates within the state for statewide offices including, but not limited to, Governor, State Assembly and State Senate, and for offices at the county and municipal levels. Candidates may be invited to apply for the Endorsement of PDA-CA. If that occurs, the candidate may enjoy grassroots help from the activists within PDA-CA to include walking precincts, phone banking and other activities, to assist that candidate to win election to the office sought.

We ask that the candidate observe the format of this questionnaire, and have it back to the requestor in PDF by the time designated in the cover letter, in order to be eligible for endorsement.

NOTICE: YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE PDA-CA WEBSITE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AND USE.

1. Are you 100% committed to continuing Free City and how will you accomplish that in light of the budget cuts and COVID?

Absolutely yes. I will lobby anyone and everyone at City Hall. As an individual, I am free to do so because I do not work for the City as a legislative aide or in any other employment capacity. I will also work with AFT 2121 to lobby; AFT endorsed me and, while I was still teaching, elected me its president for three terms. My campaign is largely comprised of City College family (faculty, students, and community) so I will ask for their active participation in such efforts. I did so during other efforts to reach out to City Hall for support for CCSF funding. Together, we will use social and print media to advocate for the continuance of Free City College.

2. How will you respond to and cooperate with student demands and organizing efforts?

I have been engaged in discussions and working with various student groups and student leaders, some of whom have endorsed my campaign including Vick Chung, Student Trustee, and Angelica Campos, Student Chancellor. I was a student activist marching everyday during the 1968-69 student strike at San Francisco State that established the School of Ethnic Studies and the Educational Opportunity Program. (I helped organize the English Department to support the strike.) I shared that experience at an Ethnic Studies Teach-in during Black History Month 2019 at City College at which I announced my candidacy sharing that while not all our demands were met, the two most important ones were. Ethnic Studies is alive and well, and is now being implemented at public schools.

Because of that experience, I fully comprehend and support what is being advocated. While City College may not be able to respond immediately with funding for some of the demands due to its current budget crisis, planning and discussion could lead to a more sound financial position for CCSF that would permit future funding. We could also research and identify external funding possibilities. I pledge to continue to engage with students, something that I did in my 40-year career in higher education, 28 of which were at City College as an ESL teacher, vice chancellor of instruction, and dean of students. My 40-year career was devoted to improving access and success in higher education, especially for Black and Brown students; that cannot be done without actively engaging with students.

3. How will you listen to and support all the workers at City College, including those represented by AFT Local 2121 (faculty and academic staff), and SEIU 1021 (administrators and custodians)?

First of all, I will actually listen and encourage the rest of the Board and the Chancellor to listen. Second, I will advocate cutting all discretionary funding for such things as travel and consultant contracts before cutting jobs (classes) for faculty (teachers, counselors, and librarians), hours or jobs for classified staff (some represented by a chapter of SEIU 1021 and others by various trade unions), for department chairs (represented by the Department Chairs Council). Administrators have an organization but I'm not sure that they enjoy formal recognition as a recognized collective bargaining agent. (As a member of the AFT team that won representation rights for AFT 2121 and drafted and bargained the initial contracts, I am firmly committed to unions and union representation. If elected, I may be the only Board member ever who actually helped build a union from the ground up.)

Budget decisions need to be preceded and be linked transparently to planning so such monetary decisions are made proactively, not reactively as they have been. That's how well-managed community colleges do it. I have not seen much evidence that planning and budget are linked at CCSF.

To further manage the budget, I will encourage the Chancellor to look internally for employees who are qualified and could either be assigned (with appropriate sign-off) to do some of the work performed by consultants or be provided extra compensation (with appropriate sign-off) for the same thing. I would also encourage the Chancellor for opportunities to upgrade current employees for administrative positions for which they qualify. For example, upgrade a department chair to a deanship with the new cost being only the salary difference between the chair's current compensation and the step-one compensation for a new administrator. (The benefits cost remain the same.) A current faculty member assumes the vacant chair position which is

already funded - no additional cost. A part-time faculty, the least expensive of academic employees, takes over the class of the newly upgraded department chair but the revenue generated by student enrollment pays for that part-timer's salary. A new administrator probably costs \$150,000 or more per year; the upgrade might cost \$25,000. Do this with several positions, and the savings mount up. Moreover, no basic training is needed because the upgraded employee already knows the College and its procedures. I also publicly advocated to the Board earlier this year that they consider these two things before the College contemplated further class cuts. (The cuts occurred, but neither of these methods were considered.)

Earlier this year, I also publicly advocated to current Board members that they look at other methods for meeting budget needs by using methods others have used, for example, an across the board percentage cut to all departments that the individual departments or college units would identify. That is what the City of San Francisco did this year, and that is what the San Mateo Community College District did when I worked at Skyline College as Dean of Language Arts. At Skyline, no one wanted to cut but we all did so knowing that we were saving jobs. Or, the College could consider what the California Academy of Sciences and some private employers did: a larger cut for the best compensated tier of employees (e.g., 30%), a moderate cut for the second best compensated tier of employees (e.g., 15- 20%), and a minimal or no cut for the least compensated tier of employees (5-0%).

Finally, the College should be aware of and plan for almost all funding and budget scenarios so it can make the least harmful decisions when cuts must be made. A competent chief financial officer (CFO), a position I advocated for and was finally Board approved on July 30, must be hired to lead financial planning and budget. The College would be in better shape to weather unforeseen challenges, such as the costs related to the current pandemic.

2. What are your views on land use and public lands?

Public lands should be used exclusively for public good. For example, if housing is to be built, it should be 100%. Public assets should not be sold off to developers who will profit from whatever is developed on that land.

Thank you for your time & interest--Shirley Golub, PDA-CA Chair, SF Chapter

