



A California Non-Profit PAC

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

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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?**

**I understand the dire straits CCSF faces during these unprecedented times. But we cannot allow these challenges to endanger our enrollment numbers, the funding for City College, and its commitment to keep it tuition-free. The Board must pledge itself to offering the technology and the courses necessary for students to finish their programs, pandemic or no pandemic.**

**These challenges also present the opportunity for the Board to focus on building a strong Workforce Development program. This program would ensure students, especially those that fall into the marginalized, impoverished, and underserved communities, stay enrolled. A sustained program that would offer advanced placement opportunities to complete their certificates. The tools they will utilize in order to become successful industrial and business leaders will be more invaluable as our school and city climb out of the COVID pandemic.**

**I would also ensure the funding from the Prop A bond passed this past March is apportioned effectively. I will conduct an energy/infrastructure audit, and begin steps to institutionalize the energy efficiency required to reach fiscal compliance. The bond funds would be prioritized on sustainable building design and implementing green construction practices, cutting the long-term operating costs of campus operations.**

**I will advocate for permanent funding to ensure access to a tuition-free education in perpetuity, but I would also make sure that only courses that require in-person instruction be cut, such as physical education or dance classes. Resources from cut courses should be redirected to classes that have high enroll rates and waitlists.**

**Ultimately, it is imperative that our experiment in publicly funding post-secondary education succeeds. Too much is at stake. If we fail, it will be perceived as another instance where ‘those people in California’ were smoking too much of their own ‘hash’. When we succeed, it will encourage, provide the model, and shine a beacon of hope for other American cities that wish to follow in our footsteps.**

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

**It is very simple; a community college cannot be a community college without prioritizing its community's input and addressing the community's most pressing needs. An educational institution like CCSF must put our students above all else. We must find ways to support student organizations in order to elevate their voices in the governance of City College.**

**As a former student, I have attended City College Board meetings and the current rule requires participants to complete a card to address the Board. Implementing and striving for equity, transparency, and accountability is one of the pillars of my campaign. And having concerned constituents apply for a card to address the board does not serve equity, transparency, or accountability. I will do everything in my power to effectively change this policy and eliminate these unnecessary cards.**

**The closing of the Fort Mason campus was unfortunate because it highlights another exclusion of student voices. I understand why the Board chose to move out of the campus. But the Trustees' essentially claiming this was a decision where they prioritized students, faculty, and classes over a learning space, without taking into account the input of those same students and faculty, is just another example of the Board exhibiting its chronic lack of transparency. And that's putting it diplomatically.**

**Extending the lease to allow these people to voice their opinions and concerns was the very least the Board should have done. This mismanagement is why the Board needs leadership that is accountable to its students and faculty, involves them in the decision-making process, and is guided by their best interest. It is past overdue.**

**None of us, especially our students and faculty, want to worry about accountability, losing campuses, crumbling infrastructure, financial instability or, most importantly, losing accreditation. With 'Students First' as the guiding principle, we will demand creative solutions to elevate student voices in college governance.**

**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)?**

**As history has shown many times, unions are crucial in empowering communities to effect change. Just like students, unions should have a voice when considering programs and policies that directly affect their members. San Francisco AFT2121 is a powerful tool for CCSF faculty. I would proactively communicate with the union and utilize their collective representation to inform policy decisions.**

**For example, affordable housing is an issue that affects all working-class residents, especially the people that work at City College. City Hall continues to fund innovative policies aimed at addressing this issue. The approach taken by the San Francisco Unified School District to construct housing on a district-owned property is to be promoted. I**

would support similar approaches to offering affordable housing to faculty. I would advocate for an expansion of programs like Teacher Next Door, operated by the Mayor's Office, that will include City College faculty.

As our city combats the COVID pandemic, City College has and should be able to provide vital educational and employment opportunities necessary for economically displaced residents. City College will ultimately face instructional design hardships due to remote learning, but will have to evolve to create an expanded learning pedagogy that will effectively measure and improve student outcomes.

Aside from providing free internet access and laptops to our students and staff, the Board will need to prioritize remote tutoring, student support groups, and virtual unions. One of the budget priorities would focus on also providing technology resources to support instructors in facilitating remote learning, including access to development training and tools to assess student success adequately. Distant learning is an opportunity to work with groups like SF AFT2121 to maintain the faculty's full employment, ensuring students have access to courses they need.

#### **4. What are your views on land use and public lands?**

CCSF needs to take a more vested interest in the urban planning taking place in and around our campuses; many times these plans do not serve the best interest of our school. It is why I am opposed to projects like the Balboa Reservoir Development project.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission basically 'gifted' public property to private developers. Their proposed housing development did not meet the affordable housing standards our students require, did not promote inclusivity, and should not have been approved.

Since many of these deals allow private entities to maximize their profits, I am vehemently opposed to selling public lands or campus properties, especially those intended to be resources for our students and faculty. These developers too often fail to incorporate carbon minimizing designs and wasteful construction practices.

They do not invest in our students' best economic interests and do very little to advance the general well-being of our community. Knowing how difficult paying for student housing can be, we need to prioritize the input of our students, faculty, and the residents that are directly impacted by these projects.

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