

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

NAME OF CANDIDATE:	Jeanette
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Date of the Election :	November 3, 2020
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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 am committed to continuing Free City. Free City has been critical in expanding access to college for many San Franciscans. Many people that would have been unable to afford college have been able to start their journeys and have benefited from Free City. However, historically marginalized communities, such as Black, Latinx, housing insecure, LGBTQ+, and API

communities continue to struggle to graduate from City College. As Trustee, I will fight to expand Free City to include additional services, such as books, housing, and transit services, as well as increased funding for free laptop borrowing.

I will continue CCSF's negotiations with the Mayor and the Supervisors to ensure that their commitments to keeping City College free and funded for the next ten years by negotiation rather than by ballot measure are respected. I will highlight the stories of the many San Francisco residents that have benefited from Free City -- many of whom would not have been able to go to college without the funding. I will also focus on diversifying CCSF's budget sources, including private sources and foundations, as well as advocate for additional state, local, and federal funding.

Free City has been impacted – and overall enrollment – in that many people that may have taken classes in person are unable to do so online. This may be due to reasons of uneven internet access, laptop access, or lack of interest in taking online courses. Thus, as Trustee, I will ensure that City College improves the quality of its online courses – which I have taken and know that they are not great – and makes them more meaningful to students. I will also take action to provide internet access vouchers and laptops to those that may have not these resources. We have an opportunity to do less with more during the pandemic; more students can be enrolled per class than the in-person environment.

CCSF can assist those recently laid off in many ways. Many San Franciscans still do not know about Free City, or the fact that CCSF can help with job transitions or new skills acquisition in addition to university transfer-type classes. I would work with state and city unemployment agencies to provide information about City College to individuals at the time that they file for unemployment and within the unemployment resource portal, and collaborate with the agencies to be able to target those individuals for mailings or emails. As Trustee, I will evaluate the existing courses we offer to help people transition into new fields, as well as more basic courses like resume and office skills, and ensures these courses and certificate programs are made highly visible to prospective students.

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

I am a current City College student and have been for the past three years. I entered the race because I was so disturbed by what I saw the administrators and Board do to students by slashing classes at the last minute and continually ignoring the needs and concerns of students. As Trustee, I will hold regular office hours to listen to student groups, attend as many of their meetings as I can, and bake into my schedule time to chat with the student organizations and individual students. I also think publishing more information about what the Board is doing and implementing accountable standards and timelines for progress would help with the relationship with students and faculty. Finally, as Trustee, I will advocate to rescind many of the restrictions on Board meetings relating to whom among the public can speak and for how long, and encourage public comment on Board actions. Yesterday I spoke with the CCSF Black Students Union and pledged to always have an open door to listen to their demands, and I will do the same for other student groups or individual 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)?

What City College has done to faculty the past several years is unacceptable. The faculty is at its lowest levels since the 1980s, hundreds of teachers have been laid off (sometimes without warning), and part-time teachers that have worked at CCSF for decades are being eliminated from programs that are highly enrolled (like Creative Writing). This is part of what inspired me to run for Trustee, and what I would prioritize as Trustee. I have sought out the viewpoints of multiple professors at the College to understand their views on what needs to change at City College, and I will continue to seek out and value the input of all workers at City College, including AFT 2121 and SEIU 1021.

Additionally, similar to my approach with students' groups, as Trustee, I will hold regular office hours to listen to workers' groups, attend as many of their meetings as I can, and bake into my schedule time to chat with the labor organizations and individual workers. I also think publishing more information about what the Board is doing and implementing accountable standards and timelines for progress would help with the relationship with students and faculty. Finally, as Trustee, I will advocate to rescind many of the restrictions on Board meetings relating to whom among the public can speak and for how long, and encourage public comment on Board actions. I will fight for workers at City College to have living wages, certainty in benefits and hours, stable working conditions, and resources to transition to an online environment. I also think it is important to continue child care for faculty, provide affordable housing options for faculty, and expand benefits for workers.

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

Public lands should be used for public purposes. I do not support City College's lands being used for private development. I do, however, think it is important for City College to evaluate the most effective and efficient use of its lands and forge partnerships (which can be with private companies) to develop public land for the benefit of students and faculty.

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