

# LPoV Candidate Questionnaire Nov 2022

## General Questions

Candidate Name \*

Adolfo Velasquez

Candidate Website

In progress

Why are you running for *this* office?

I am running for CCSF's Board of Trustees since I

If elected, do you commit to completing your entire term?

Yes. In my case, I am running for the 2 yr trustee position, a seat this is currently held by the mayor's appointee. an appointee that came on board after the May 2022 lay-off .

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

That all humans should have access to basic human rights including housing, food, healthcare and education. I got my values from my paternal grandfather who was a medical doctor in Nicaragua in the 1950's and 1960's. My father was a community work for the Latina/o population in the Mission District during the 1970's and 80's. A second value is to educate as many people as I can

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

I represent the Latino, City College, SF State communities. I'm held accountable by my continual work of supporting people/students in reaching their educational goal(s) in

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Though I have many people that support my run for the Board of Trustee, I don't have an official endorsement at this moment but I am in the process of filling out questionnaires and interviewing for endorsements, but at the moment all the decisions on endorsements will be coming in the next two weeks.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

1. Increase enrollment by promoting classes from City College to family/friends and people I don't know by distributing flyers, blasting on social media e.g Facebook and Instagram. Distribute flyers to people 2. Work to restore classes e.g. English and English As a Second Language (ESL) with a focus on neighborhood CCSF centers e.g. Mission and Chinatown, meet with the deans of each center to discuss needs and solution 3. Work with the board members and going through shared governance to ensure that the budget is distributed and used properly. With the budget in place for this year, our big hope now is for the parcel tax measure is approved by the voters in the November election.

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

I do not sit on any for-profit or non-profit board other than the CCSF Critical Middle Eastern Studies Advisory Board

What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?

I have not served on any.

Please describe specific accomplishments in your activism. What did you get done, and what was your role?

1. The most recent activism came by going out there with other CCSF members attending rallies and gather signatures to place the parcel tax measure on the ballot, a measure that was projected to generate \$45 million. 2. In 2018, at the time a counselor before becoming Chair of Educational Opportunities & Programs (EOP&S), the State Chancellor proposed drastic changes to how how (EOP&S) serves it's students with our wrap-around service model, a model that had been in place 50 years, the changes would have dismantled our mission of going "Above and Beyond", myself and the director organized students to write letters, email and send to the State Chancellor. At a Statewide EOP&S conference in June of 2018, it was announced that the proposals were dropped, CCSF was recognized for leading that effort with the most letters and emails.

Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

before retiring from City College in 2021, I was an ally and supporter of undocumented students and in agreement of our college being a sanctuary college.

Please list specific ways you have fought against racism and white supremacy.

As an educator for 20 years and a beneficiary of Ethnic Studies (SF State), I empowered and assisted students in earning their degree so they could go to their communities and this world and make a difference, a difference that includes slowly dismantling the oppressive institutionalized structures in our society. Despite being a beneficiary of Ethnic Studies,

Please give us some examples of situations you've encountered where gender and LGBTQ inequity was evident and what you did or would do to address it.

I have supported gender and LGBTQ inequities for many years, beginning with right to marriage for the LGBTQ communities, having LGBTQ family members, my choice is to accept everyone for who they are and support how I can. For gender inequity, I am a 100% believer/supporter of a woman's right to choose. My daughter recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, when she announced her pregnancy, myself and her mom sat and spoke to her of all options and told her that we would support her with whichever decision she made. Lastly, as an Academic Counselor, I have worked with a very large number of female and LGBTQ students assisting them and empowering them as they strived to reach their academic/career goal(s). While working at SF State in 2010/11, I co-coordinated a grant funded program that financed a cohort of 32 student's (31 female and 1 male) educational cost while earning a BA in Latina/o Studies degree with a minor in Child Development from SF State. The cohort was made up of child development students from CCSF, almost all immigrants from Latin America. They attending classes in the evenings and weekends. The program was a bilingual program called the Dual Language (Soy Bilingue) program. 31 of the 32 students graduated in 2011 and were recognized by the SF Board of Supervisors in June of 2011.

Amid a homelessness crisis, how can the City and County of San Francisco improve the effectiveness of our city's homelessness and supportive housing services?

I'm aware that the SF board of supervisors approved a measure in June 2022 that the city will develop a plan to offer safe housing to all of the homeless population. I cautiously yet optimistically await for the detailed plan. to me the space is their to fill, its matter of having the resources and people to do it, though it won't be easy.

What is your favorite park, and why?

Dolores Park. Born and raised in San Francisco, my grandchildren mark the 5th generation attending and enjoying the park. Living near the park, I go there often.

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

I've spoken to several voters who use your endorsements and recommendations to influence their votes. That said, your opinion is a valued one and would feel honored to have our endorsement.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

for this election it appears that I am the only opposing Mayor London Breed's CCSF Board of Trustee appointee. As a native San Franciscan with a 20 year history with City College as a student, counselor and chair I bring insider knowledge of City College that the board could use in making sound decisions as CCSF moves forward. Your endorsement will help me sit at the table with the other board members.

## College Board

What experience do you have with City College or Community Colleges in general?

In total, I have a 20 year history with CCSF as student, Counselor and Chair before retiring in June of 2021. I earned my first degree at CCSF in 1991 as a reentry student, I earned my most recent degree while retired fall of 2021 in Critical Middle Eastern Studies, a 30 year span. I am City College! within the 30 years, I returned to CCSF as part-time counselor for 9 years before becoming a full-time tenured Counselor in 2015. I became chair of the EOP&S in 2019 and retired in 2021. It is with that insider knowledge and insight that qualifies me in becoming a Board of trustee member.

What do you see as City College's greatest strengths and challenges?

CCSF as an educational institution is a power house, student are prepared whether its for a terminal degree at CCSF or as they prepare for transfer to a 4 yr. school. CCSF has offered so much in terms of programs, degrees, certificates, it was ranked at one point as the best and largest community college in the country. However, fiscal mismanagement has plagued the school for years, then there was the threat of having their accreditation. At risk for CCSF is with the huge loss of enrollment over the years from 100k students to some 20k, is of it becoming a Junior college as opposed to a Community College that it's been for many many years. We need a board that will challenge the chancellor when making decisions on budget and lay-offs.

Do you support the City College Parcel Tax slated for the November 2022 ballot?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Given that many of the policy and funding decisions for SFUSD are made by other entities, what is your vision for fully funding City College, and what actions can the Board of Trustees take to that end?

With the budget already approved for this upcoming school year, the hope is that voters will pass the parcel tax in November that is projected to generate \$45 million annually for workforce development, classes, faculty and wrap-around services. Equally important, the oversight committee, should the tax pass, which the Board of Trustees should be a part of, needs to ensure that the money will be used as earmarked to rebuild the school, increase enrollment in order to retain our academic excellency. Additionally, the student success funding formula needs revisiting. I don't believe that money should be attached to students achievement of degree and certificates. I would join the group that challenges that formula.

How do you plan to close the opportunity gap for students of color?

Continue to support wrap-around services, in my 9 years I working with EOP&S, a program for low income, disadvantaged and marginalized students, with a majority being students of color. The EOP& S model is successful with a caseload approach and required three meetings per semester with a counselor, a reason it is been around for over 50 years now helping to close opportunity gaps.

What specific qualities would you look for in a new chancellor?

The chancellor needs to have a history with City College and understand it's history, communities and different cultures that make up CCSF, in other words, they need to be invested in CCSF with a long term vision while respecting the shared governance process. A chancellor will not survive coming in to simply clean house.

What metrics would you use to determine your success as Board Trustee?

When enrollment starts to increase, when classes/sections get added to the schedule, when faculty and classified workers are rehired or hired, when you have a registration system that is user friendly, when the remaining faculty and classified workers moral increases, when the media puts out stories of success rather than stories of failures, at is at that point that I'll think that my being on the board is a success.

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