

LPoV Candidate Questionnaire Nov 2022

General Questions

Candidate Name *

William Walker

Candidate Website

<https://www.ccsfwill.com>

Why are you running for *this* office?

I am a former Student Trustee, a former Student Shared Governance Coordinator, former Student Body President, a former Student Body Vice President of Administration, a former elected Senator, a former Black Student Union president, and former retention program student worker charged with giving campus tours to and recruiting SFUSD high school students to attend CCSF.

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

Yes.

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

My values are pretty based in growing up a child of a single mom who escaped Newark and Elizabeth New Jersey shortly after the 1967 race riots. Opportunities were nil for her. She spent her life in the Bay Area ensuring that her family, and subsequently her children, had access to the best opportunities to make their lives better than hers was prior to arriving in California.

I grew up the second child of a single parent family. I attended mostly public schools but there was a Catholic one for a short time. Miraloma, Stuart Hall for Boys, Herbert Hoover and Raoul Wallenberg. I spent a decade at CCSF before transferring. After being admitted to UC Berkeley in 2003, the college wouldn't let me matriculate until I complete a calculus class. After hiring me for student services at UCB, an advisor informed me about how to petition out of the calculus course 15 years after my admission. I learned quickly that no matter how qualifies or educated I am, as a Black male, institutions are created to make all people that look like me fail.

As a high school teacher, I am only a substitute. But all my students say I'm the best sub they've ever met. I know how to connect with students and people of all backgrounds. I'm proud that the humility that I've gained in life comes from watching my mom. I treat everyone with the same respect o desire no matter how old or young, thick or thin, happy or sad. These simple values have taken me a long way and I'm sure I'll continue to adhere to them.

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

I represent queer or LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, People of Color communities. They hold me accountable through ensuring my values are reflective of someone who understands intersectionality, how systems of power often prevent underrepresented groups from achieving their excellence, and that those who hold positions of power must stand for policies and systems change that are equitable and that advance the position of underrepresented groups.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

SEIU 1021 CCSF Chapter because they are the workers of the college and their membership reflects the diversity of the student body; Margaret Brodtkin, who was my Executive Director at Coleman Advocates where I fought for programs in San Francisco like the Youth Commission, Beacon Centers, Wellness Centers and a Youthline (youth-staffed 12/7/365 crisis intervention and referral line); Lateefah Simon, Mark Sanchez and Jane Kim -- although I am not officially endorsed by these three, they are dear friends and will support what I do because of the values I keep. I also supported their first campaigns.

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

Everyone's top City College concern should be student enrollment growth. Far too many people of color and LGBTQ+ residents continue to be denied access to living wage jobs, causing them to be displaced, further eroding our families. Growing enrollment should be two pronged. Increasing enrollment in credit courses will guarantee growth funding from the State Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. I would grow credit enrollment by:

- Increasing concurrent enrollment through offering college level courses for high school students, prioritizing school sites with the least Advanced Placement Courses
 - Establishing several advisory boards comprised of stakeholders most informed to help grow programs that will increase credit enrollment, focusing on courses that are already impacted, such as:
 - o CCSF's award winning allied health programs that include nursing, respiratory health, community health and radiology (if already disbanded, reinstating these)
 - o Computer science programs that are aligned with working student schedules, delivered like the many CS and data boot camps that are too costly for most working class students
 - Establishing an urban planning program with existing courses in ethnic studies architecture and geography
- I would increase non-credit enrollment through co-locating transitional studies and language acquisition courses at community organizations.

A fast track to the solutions:

Enrollment growth: conduct surveys to see what classes would be popular among San Francisco residents. Begin offering courses based upon survey data, past enrollment data, and identifying gaps in neighboring institution's programs. For example, the State Chancellor's Office has allowed several colleges to offer 4 year degrees. CCSF could lean into its niche as a provider of ethnic studies and unique language courses like Cantonese. 4 year degrees in cultural and ethnic studies with some language acquisition could be a program that allows CCSF to grow enrollment for these types of courses.

Expand existing impacted programs with great job placement rates such as nursing, community health worker, and computer information and data science.

Establish urban studies at CCSF: I came to CCSF in 1997, and found less than a half dozen courses that were directly relevant to my passion: mapping and urban planning. This could be fast tracked by:

- identifying courses that exist (i.e. the GIS 100 series; economics, sociology, architecture and design courses) that could be the framework for a 60 unit degree program in urban studies
 - review previous syllabi of courses that are no longer offered at CCSF that could be reinstated, such as ARCH 28-Intro to City Planning
 - partner with local employers (from the public and private sector) to determine what courses at CCSF would best prepare students for the profession, or courses that would provide continuing education for planning professionals
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What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

I served on the College Board from 2012 to 2013 as a student non-voting Trustee. I currently do not serve on any boards. I have over a decade of board experience as a director at the ACLU of Northern California, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, the KPFA Radio Local Station Board and the Pacifica Foundation Board. I was also an Assembly Delegate to the Democratic Party from 2017 to 2019.

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

I served on the College Board from 2012 to 2013 as the non-voting student trustee. I have also had over a decade of experience serving on student council at CCSF (President, Vice President, Shared Governance Coordinator, Senator, Student Trustee, Executive Board Chair) community advisory councils (OCII-SFRA Mission Bay CAC; SFMTA-SFCTA Balboa Park Station CAC; SFDPH/CHN Special Programs for Youth CAB.

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

At 14, while working my first job at Muni as a planning intern, I did a spring break project with MYEEP helping Coleman Advocates to canvass San Francisco to determine where:

- all city funded youth services were provided
- where programs that served youth were located, whether provided by City workers, nonprofit organization workers, or other private sector providers.

This database became the foundation for the DCYF Youth Serving Agencies database.

In the 1990s:

1. I joined the team that held YouthVOTE in school sites throughout San Francisco. Within two years, we expanded the program from 8 high schools to all 12 comprehensive high schools. Within four or five years, the program had been expanded to all 20 high schools and was done as a partnership between the San Francisco Youth Commission, the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, Coleman Advocates, and the Youth Leadership Institute,

2. We also walked out of Mayor Willie Brown's Youth Summit. This was the first marquee event held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in 1995. I also addressed the entire summit that year after the walkout.

3. We lobbied the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to do the following:

- add youth or the youth commission approval to any decision made regarding the spending of DCYF funding as a condition of the extension of the Children's Fund Charter Amendment Renewal

4. We held weeks of rage to protest the lack of Ethnic Studies courses at SFUSD and CCSF. We held ethnic studies and youth empowerment conferences annually to demand ethnic studies be implemented at SFUSD and CCSF, and that the faculty diversity at CCSF reflect the student population.

5. We created the Third Eye Movement in conjunction with Coleman Advocates, HOMEY, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, the Center for Young Women's Development, and other people of color organizations to protest police brutalization of people of color. We held protests, lobbied the police commission to increase officer oversight and to make the oversight (Office of Citizens Complaints) separate and not beholden to the police chief and the mayor. That department of police accountability is still too tied to the Mayor, but it is much improved from the 1990s. RIP Aaron Williams, Sheila Detoy, Mark Garcia, Idriss Stelley, Oscar Grant, et al I never knew this list would ever grow to what it is today. Our George Floyd moment in San Francisco was Aaron Williams nearly 30 years ago.

6. Youthline and Youth Funding Youth Ideas were a crisis intervention hotline and youth led granting organization respectively, that were conceptualized by Youth Making a Change organizers (Coleman Advocates/Y-MAC) and handed off to CHALK-Bay Area Community Resources to implement.

Other accomplishments:

Demanding discounted MUNI and BART passes as Student Body President and Student Trustee at CCSF

Serving on CCSF Board during accreditation crisis and communicating the happenings on campus to 80,000

students and the larger San Francisco Community using a blog (<https://ccsfwill.blogspot.com>).

Establishing a student equity program at Foothill College that expanded wraparound services for students that could not persist (complete courses from term to term consecutively and satisfactorily with a grade higher than C-).

Reforming student governance at CCSF to ensure at least 80 percent of student seats on participatory governance committees were filled and that student voices were heard at each Board and College Advisory Council meeting.

I also created a wish list at the end of my term in 2012, much of which still needs to be implemented.

Student Trustee William Walker's CCSF Wish List:

I wish:

1. A one-stop service and resource center that provides all that is necessary for a student to succeed at City College of San Francisco: counseling, financial aid, assessment, orientation; access to programs that fill the gap for students, such as the Department of Rehabilitation, Human Services Agency (Food Stamps), and the California Employment Development Department (similar to the existing partnership between the Veterans Center and the Veterans' Administration); and other information that contributes to a student's success.
2. A way for students to utilize public benefit cards on campus, such as EBT general assistance and food stamps.
3. A college that continues to provide an accessible and affordable education to all with programs that give students the skills and competencies relevant to enter into or advance within the local workforce or further their higher education.
4. A college-wide scheduling department that serves the entire college, which includes reserving classroom or auditorium space, the marketing of college-wide activities, and the coordination of interdepartmental college-wide events, such as FRISCO Day, Transfer Day and cultural celebration days.
5. An educational pathway at each educational center that ensures that at least one four class sequence can be offered every semester to better encourage enrollment.
6. Cross-training of every student services specialist and faculty member: for example, an admissions and records employee should be trained in financial aid, matriculation, counseling and assessment. Cross-training will prevent the runaround that students often face at CCSF.
7. A livable student wage that is linked to the minimum wage set by the City and County of San Francisco that increases based on the consumer price index January 1 of each year.
8. A discount MUNI/BART access pass for students and college employees that will help to reduce the carbon footprint of all nine locations where CCSF offers courses.
9. A college that will apply future funding cuts in an equitable manner; recurring pay cuts and forgoing cost-of-living and step increases indefinitely is unsustainable for any employee.
10. An Associated Students organization that is responsive to the needs of all 85,000 students: possibly by creating one unified student council and encouraging the establishment of a second student trustee position, common at other California districts.

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

I marched j several marches in San Francisco and Los Angeles against racist anti immigrant policies of Bush, Clinton, 2nd Bush (shrub), Obama and Trump.

I supported the development of the DREAMSF resource center at CCSF for undocumented students.

I informed students about sanctuary policies in schools where I worked as a student worker, elected student staff, classified SFUSD and Foothill College worker, and now as a public school teacher.

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

I fought to retain affirmative action and did not support Prop 209.

I fight racism by leading as a Black, gay, activist each day.

I stood up against the Governor's Office of Planning and Research placing 12 white people on a racial equity working group after George Floyd's murder. When I spoke up about this I was reassigned to another department and then fired.

I stood up against Black and Latina/e/o/x workers that were not supportive of developing a racial equity action plan to evaluate both internal and external diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging policy practices affecting the San Francisco Controller's Office and the 56 departments that the office is responsible for reviewing. I was pushed out of this job for criticizing staff that did not support equity.

I participated in redistricting efforts at the San Francisco Redistricting Task Force. I created a map that uplifted historically oppressed and underrepresented communities that was not supported by the task force.

I worked for three different agencies in Bayview Hunters Point to develop better transportation projects and transit lines, including the reintroduction of the 15 Third Muni line (now Bayview Express). The line now connects the census tracts most impacted by COVID 19 to jobs in the central business district.

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.

As a San Francisco Pride Board member, I was very aware of how Pride was not a welcoming space for Trans, Lesbian, Bisexual and non cisgender gay men overall. The year I served we moved the Board contingent to the front of the parade and invited anyone who felt excluded from past Pride events to March at the front of the parade.

I took a stance of no police in the parade when serving on the Pride board.

I fought to create the first Queer exclusive place on campus after a hate crime was committed against a queer, asexual student leader at CCSF. That space was upgraded to a full fledged Queer Resource Center.

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?

San Francisco must eliminate its ban on homes that aren't single family west of Castro/Divisadero and south of Chavez. It's not fair. I learned Diamond Heights, where I grew up, was supposed to have skyscrapers. Developers didn't bite. It would've been Hong Kong or Singapore on the Hill. What a loss. As someone who faced homelessness here and in Los Angeles County, and someone who has been fighting my current landlord the past seven years not to evict me, I don't know why those who face eviction due to buy out are not offered the right of first refusal. I don't know why more programs like the DreamkeeperSF Downpayment Assistance Loan program aren't expanded. I don't know why we don't create policies that keep tenants in place no matter what. We need to disincentivize the residential "market." Once shouldn't have to worry if they are going to have a home. Supportive housing services must be offered with dignity and with the hope that a person does not have to shuffle from home to home based on a designation for a particular program.

What is your favorite park, and why?

Glen Canyon Park. Two blocks from my mom's house where I grew up. I truly thought I lived in wilderness growing up until someone told me Glen Park was really a trench for a water main to be built across the city. Dreams crushed. But hearing coyotes there now (didn't hear or see them in the 80s) is just wild.

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

Other than my BART Board election where I still eeked out an honorable mention, all of my CCSF campaigns received the League of Pissed Off Voters seal of approval. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I seem to get ignored by AFT each time endorsements come around. I am the child of two labor parents: a shop steward with SEIU 790 where my mom was a field representative with the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles; and my absent father, who was president of Local 250A of the Transport Workers Unions and drove coaches, LRVs and cable cars for Muni for more than 30 years. Maybe AFT doesn't see me as a union supporter even though I'm currently a public school teacher in San Mateo County and a member of AFT 1481. I was too afraid to accept my offer from SFUSD after waiting 10 months to be onboarded and feared not receiving a paycheck. I hope to teach there this year. I truly believe in CCSF. I know no matter how strongly the faculty, staff and administrators feel the college is a crown jewel, I know the college doesn't work for everyone. I graduated college at 40. The faculty didn't believe in me at 17 just as they don't believe in me now at 42. There are serious changes needed in how we deliver education. Speaking as an educator, albeit newly minted, my conclusions about how the college is not as equitable as it should be, are no different now that I too am a member of AFT. I hope the league considers me. I am a union supporter, but I also want the college to succeed for all the communities that have abandoned it because it doesn't work for them. Let's get those students back. Let's rethink our college.

College Board

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

As the only former Student Trustee running that served on the college board during its fight for accreditation, I'm very familiar with how to engage the entire City College community to make CCSF the powerhouse it was when I first enrolled and the college boasted a 110,000 student enrollment. I understand how to develop relationships with local employers to identify courses that will make students viable candidates for job opportunities that are available throughout the nine county region. I understand how to align our courses with four year institutions to ensure our students are not only prepared for transfer, but have taken the necessary courses maximizing the articulation of their transfer credits.

I helped Foothill College and UC Berkeley grow high school concurrent enrollment programs that further prepare underrepresented students for the rigor of college courses. I established an Early Alert program for students that didn't persist from term to term.

Finally, as an urban planner, I want to work within my industry and with CCSF leaders to revive the Intro to City Planning course that was retired some years ago. This course can expose students to course work that can help stop the displacement of underrepresented groups from San Francisco, which, in turn will also stabilize and increase student enrollment at CCSF.

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

City College's strength is its ability to bring together every part of San Francisco's community. Unlike the rest of the world that is jealous of our educational system, residents, merchants and leaders all agree that CCSF is the heart of San Francisco. It's walking distance for many San Francisco residents. Until it's recent cuts, one could find a class with a start time each hour from 7am to 9pm at night. It's diverse. It will increase a student's salary after a few terms.

What challenges the college is its leadership vacuum. Board members and Chancellors have failed to take the college on a tour and market it to our City's workers and residents. It lacks programs that bring in high school students. It lacks a clear vision for the 18 to 88 year old educational program. It needs a great team. I hope to be one member of that team.

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?

If you meant to say SFUSD in this question, fully funding transitional studies (continuing education) might require a stronger memorandum of understanding between SFUSD and CCSF so CCSF is not providing adult education at a loss and on behalf of SFUSD. I'm a teacher. I haven't found another district that does this.

If you meant to say SFCCCD (the college district) and not SFUSD (the school district), treating the funding from the two parcel taxes and the new one SF WERCS as a separate funding exercise than the state funding exercise that is translating credit enrollment into funding allocations. Finding ways to use credit funding in accordance with state guidelines and backfilling other positions that are currently funded with state enrollment funds with City funds.

The process of funding the college must also be done in the light of day with a public hearing process where the four constituent groups (students, staff, faculty, administrators) and the City at large can give input. CCSF should post its draft budget at the same time as SFUSD and the Board of Supervisors. Then a more wholesome discussion on all the complementary parts can be had.

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

Creating grants for all student groups impacted by the equity gap. I needed income to graduate. I've worked and gone to school the past 30 years. Stop charging our students for textbooks and materials. Raise the money so students can access the college equitably. Also, continue removing unnecessary prerequisites to courses and provide the support services when students need them rather than when staff would like to work.

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

A person of color hopefully, possibly that graduated from CCSF, who understands how our different systems of education and institutions align or don't align. Someone who can solve the puzzle.

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

Enrollment growth, number of new innovative programs, whether the four constituent groups approved of my performance, whether people at all levels, students, staff, faculty and administrators, will return to CCSF.

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