

SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2026 Primary Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by 5pm on Friday, February 27th if you wish to be considered for the League's endorsement. Please use this form rather than formatting it into a Word document or PDF. If you have any questions, you can contact us at TheLeagueSF@gmail.com.

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Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I'm running for the San Francisco Board of Education because every child deserves an excellent public education—and no child's future should depend on luck.

When I started kindergarten, I didn't speak English and was mute for the first few years of school. One teacher noticed me and helped me develop confidence and language. Because of that teacher, I became the first person in my family to graduate from college. My older brother did not receive the same support and dropped out of high school.

That experience shaped my life's work.

For more than two decades I have worked to strengthen systems that support children and families—from early childhood education to community health and workforce development. As Director of Advancement, Communications, and Strategy at Wu Yee Children's Services, I helped grow the organization from a \$20 million agency to an \$80 million organization through partnerships with government, philanthropy, and community organizations.

As a parent in SFUSD, I also see firsthand the challenges facing our schools. During the recent UESF strike, I organized parent support at my school and served as a liaison helping families coordinate solidarity efforts. The unity between educators and families was powerful and inspiring.

I'm running to ensure every classroom is fully staffed, every child is supported, and our public schools are funded and governed responsibly.

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

My values are rooted in my family's immigrant journey, my lived experiences in public schools, and my career dedicated to strengthening the institutions that support children and families.

My parents came to the United States as refugees after escaping political persecution. They arrived without speaking English and worked tirelessly to build stability for our family. Education was always central to that dream. When I entered kindergarten, I did not speak English and struggled to communicate. A teacher recognized that I needed additional support and helped create a learning environment where I could find my voice. Because of that early intervention, I eventually became the first person in my family to graduate from college.

My older brother did not receive the same support. Without the interventions he needed, he struggled in school and ultimately dropped out. Seeing those two different paths within the same family shaped my belief that a child's future should never depend on luck. Every student deserves the support they need to succeed.

Those experiences also shaped my understanding that education is both prevention and public health. When we invest in strong schools and early education, we improve long-term outcomes in health, economic opportunity, and community safety.

I am a movement builder whose work has spanned systems of justice, education, and community development. For more than twenty years, I have worked across education, philanthropy, and nonprofit leadership to build coalitions that bring together educators, community organizations, labor advocates, policymakers, and philanthropy to advance systemic change.

I am co-founder of Give a Beat, a nonprofit that develops arts education programs in prisons and juvenile halls that use music and creative expression to disrupt cycles of incarceration and support rehabilitation. That work reinforced my belief that education and opportunity are among the most powerful tools we have for strengthening communities.

My work has increasingly focused on early childhood education and family supports because research consistently shows that the earliest years are foundational to long-term success. At Wu Yee Children's Services, one of the largest Head Start and family services providers in San Francisco, I helped build the coalition that passed Proposition C—also known as Baby Prop C—which created a permanent funding source to strengthen the early childhood workforce and expand support for working families.

Through this work, I have seen how durable change happens when communities organize around shared values. That experience informs how I approach public leadership: lasting solutions require collaboration across educators, families, labor, community organizations, and government to strengthen public institutions and ensure every child has the support they need to thrive.

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

My mother arrived in the United States pregnant and without a home. My parents told me stories about being turned away from rental housing because she was expecting. Those early struggles shaped my family's experience in this country and deeply influenced my values. Because of what my family endured, I dedicated my career and personal life to building more inclusive systems that expand opportunity and support families navigating complex institutions.

I represent communities that have experienced being excluded, marginalized or overlooked—low-income families, immigrants, BIPOC communities, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+, and English Language Learners whose voices are too often minimized or brushed aside in policy decisions.

I also represent students, public school families, educators, working parents, community organizations, and the nonprofit service workforce that supports children and families across San Francisco. These are the people who rely on strong public institutions and who are most affected when those institutions fall short.

As a single mother with a child in SFUSD, I experience many of the same challenges families face—navigating the enrollment system, securing after-school care, balancing work schedules, and ensuring classrooms are fully staffed with permanent teachers. Those daily realities keep me grounded in the experiences of families across the district.

During the recent UESF strike, I helped coordinate communication between parents and educators at my school. Nearly 140 parents joined a community chat where families organized meals, supplies, and encouragement for teachers on the picket lines. Those conversations also became spaces where parents shared their own challenges navigating school systems and accessing services. That experience reinforced my belief that strong schools depend on strong partnerships between families and educators.

I remain accountable through ongoing engagement with families, educators, and community partners, as well as through my leadership roles in civic and nonprofit organizations across the city. I listen closely to the communities most affected by our policies and work to ensure their voices are reflected in decision-making.

Public leadership requires humility and accountability. The communities I represent hold me accountable by continuing to show up, speak out, and demand that our public institutions work for everyone.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I was so inspired by the recent educators' strike that I decided to run for school board for the second time just last week, so I do not yet have a long list of endorsements for this campaign.

What moved me most during the strike was not only the discipline and solidarity educators demonstrated in fighting for healthcare for their families and stable, fully staffed schools, but also the way our public school families stepped forward in support. Parents across the city organized through WhatsApp and WeChat groups to create layers of mutual aid and solidarity with our teachers, school staff, and afterschool programs. Families brought meals, snacks, water, and encouragement to the picket lines because we understood that educators were fighting not only for themselves, but also for the stability of our children.

The very next week, I was shocked to see Superintendent Maria Su move forward with plans for hundreds of layoffs. That moment made it clear to me that our public schools need school board members who are willing to put forward a positive and long-term vision for funding and strengthening public education. That is why I decided to step forward and run.

In my previous race for school board, where I earned more over 101,000 votes, I was proud to have been endorsed by leaders such as Jenny Lam and Norman Yee, who have spent decades advocating for students, families, and educators in San Francisco.

Jenny Lam demonstrated thoughtful leadership on the San Francisco Board of Education during an incredibly challenging period for the district, and her commitment to students and educators reflects the kind of leadership our schools need.

Norman Yee has been a tireless champion for children and families in San Francisco, both as a member of the Board of Education and later as President of the Board of Supervisors. His work expanding access to early childhood education and supporting working families has had a lasting impact on the city.

I was also honored to receive the endorsement of the League of Pissed Off Voters, which has long played an important role in holding elected officials accountable and elevating the voices of working families and grassroots organizers in San Francisco politics. It was my go-to guide as a young voter new to San Francisco and I'm proud to have earned a place in the guide during my first school board run.

Together, these endorsements reflect the values that guide my work: standing with educators and families, strengthening public institutions, and building a city where every child has access to a strong and stable public education.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and what is your plan for achieving your goals?

1. Fully staffed and fully funded schools

No classroom should ever be without a permanent teacher. Stable, fully staffed schools are the foundation of student success and family trust in public education.

My priorities include:

Ensuring every classroom is fully staffed by streamlining hiring processes, strengthening educator pipelines, and improving retention through competitive compensation, healthcare, and supportive working conditions.

Prioritizing classroom investments in district budgets so resources go first to educators, paraprofessionals, counselors, special education staff, and other frontline roles.

Strengthening parent-educator partnerships so families and teachers work together as partners in a student's educational journey. When families and educators collaborate, students are more likely to succeed academically and socially.

Elevating community voices in decision-making by building stronger feedback loops with parents, educators, students, and community organizations.

Improving transparency and accountability in the use of public dollars. My professional background in advancement has centered on responsible stewardship of funds and ensuring resources are strategically invested to achieve meaningful impact.

Strengthening retention and enrollment strategies so families remain in public schools, which helps stabilize district funding.

Investing in programs that attract and retain families, including strong special education services, dual-language immersion programs, arts and music education, STEM pathways, and community schools.

Stable schools retain families. Retaining families stabilizes enrollment. Stable enrollment strengthens the financial sustainability of our public schools.

2. Stabilizing enrollment and addressing chronic absenteeism

Declining enrollment and chronic absenteeism are interconnected challenges that require coordinated solutions across schools, families, and community partners.

My priorities include:

Simplifying and improving the enrollment experience for families so school assignment is more predictable, transparent, and accessible.

Strengthening the early education pipeline by expanding Transitional Kindergarten pathways and partnerships with early childhood providers so families enter SFUSD earlier and remain connected.

Providing family navigation support, particularly for multilingual families, to help parents understand enrollment, special education services, and school programs.

Expanding community schools that integrate health care, mental health services, afterschool programs, and family services to address barriers that keep students from attending school regularly.

Improving transportation and access to afterschool programs, which are essential supports for working families.

Coordinating services across city agencies and community organizations so families can access housing assistance, healthcare, childcare, and workforce support through streamlined service hubs.

When families experience stability and support, students attend school consistently and are more likely to remain in SFUSD.

3. Restoring trust in public education and growing enrollment

Families remain in public schools when they trust that schools will be stable, inclusive, and responsive to their needs.

My priorities include:

Ensuring stable, well-supported classrooms where educators have the resources and staffing they need to support students effectively.

Strengthening special education services so students with disabilities receive the services outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and educators have manageable caseloads.

Investing in high-quality programs that attract families, including dual-language immersion, arts and music education, STEM programs, career technical education, and culturally responsive curricula.

Expanding community schools that support the whole child, integrating academic learning with health services, mental health supports, and family engagement.

Improving communication and transparency so families clearly understand district decisions related to budgeting, school programs, and facilities planning.

Developing responsible facilities strategies that include community input and ensure receiving schools are well supported when consolidation is necessary.

Investing today's dollars in today's students, rather than accelerating cycles of cuts that undermine educational quality and push families out of public schools.

Strong public schools require trust, stability, and partnership between educators, families, and the community.

What local and state commissions or policy bodies have you served on?

I currently serve as an Assembly District 17 Delegate (ADEM) to the California Democratic Party, where I participate in party governance and help shape state party policy positions, endorsements, and platform discussions.

While most of my leadership has been in nonprofit and community institutions rather than formal government commissions, my work has focused on building coalitions that influence public policy at the local and state levels. Through my role at Wu Yee Children's Services, one of the largest Head Start providers in San Francisco, I helped coordinate advocacy efforts across community organizations, labor partners, business leaders, and policymakers to pass Baby Prop C, which created a permanent funding stream for early childhood education and family services.

My work has also included policy engagement across early childhood education, workforce development, and family services systems. These experiences have given me insight into how city agencies, nonprofit providers, and state policy interact to shape outcomes for children and families.

What political organizations are you a member of (e.g., democratic clubs)?

I currently serve as an ADEM Delegate for Assembly District 17 within the California Democratic Party.

I am also actively engaged in civic and political organizing through community, leadership development, and policy organizations including:

League of Minority Voters – California Chapter (Vice President)

Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco (Board Member)

Commonwealth Club World Affairs – Social Impact Forum (Co-Chair)

Milk Club AAPI and BIPOC Caucuses

Education Justice Academy

Emerge CA

API Building Community Leaders

These organizations focus on civic engagement, voter participation, education policy, and strengthening democratic institutions.

My political involvement has largely centered on building coalitions around issues such as education equity, early childhood investment, and expanding access to opportunity for working families.

What for-profit or non-profit boards have you served on, including political organizations?

I currently serve in leadership roles on several nonprofit and civic boards:

Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco – Board Member

Give a Beat Foundation – Co-Founder and Vice President

League of Minority Voters (California Chapter) – Vice President

Through these roles I have worked to expand civic participation, support public education advocacy, and develop programs that strengthen opportunities for young people.

Give a Beat Foundation develops arts and music education programs in prisons and juvenile halls to disrupt cycles of incarceration and provide mentorship and career pathways for youth.

Parents for Public Schools works to empower families to advocate for strong public education systems and to strengthen partnerships between families and schools.

What campaigns have you worked on?

My work in campaigns has largely focused on education and social policy measures, particularly efforts that expand access to early education and strengthen supports for working families.

The campaign I am most proud of working on is San Francisco's Baby Prop C, which created a permanent funding stream for early childhood education and family services. Through my role at Wu Yee Children's Services, I helped coordinate advocacy and coalition-building efforts that brought together labor organizations, community nonprofits, policymakers, and business leaders to pass the measure.

I have also been involved in community organizing efforts supporting public education funding, educator workforce issues, and civic engagement initiatives focused on increasing voter participation among underrepresented communities.

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

In recent election cycles, I have made modest contributions to candidates whose work aligns with my values of supporting working families, strengthening public education, and expanding opportunity in San Francisco. This includes contributions to Connie Chan, Michael Nguyen, and Natalie Gee.

Like many working parents, my financial contributions have been relatively small, but I believe it is important to support leaders who are committed to strengthening our public institutions, protecting vulnerable communities, and building a city where working families can live, work, and send their children to public schools.

What is one concrete thing about the League of Pissed Off Voters (for example, something we have done, said, or published) that you appreciate and that would make you proud to have our endorsement?

One thing I deeply appreciate about the League of Pissed Off Voters is its commitment to independent, grassroots accountability in San Francisco politics.

The League's voter guide has helped generations of voters navigate complex local races and ballot measures by cutting through political noise and highlighting issues that matter to working people. The League's willingness to challenge powerful institutions and elevate community voices is an important part of keeping our democracy healthy.

In a political environment where many decisions are influenced by money and insider networks, organizations like the League play a vital role in ensuring everyday voters have access to honest analysis and progressive perspectives.

As someone who has spent my career building coalitions to strengthen public institutions, I share the League's belief that strong democracy depends on informed voters, community accountability, and leaders who are willing to stand up for working families and public education.

Receiving the League's endorsement would be a meaningful signal that my campaign reflects those values.

It's also fun to campaign by bar hopping.

Board of Education

Do/did you support UESF's strike?

Yes, I was proud to support the UESF strike—it is what inspired me to run for school board again.

I was deeply impressed by the solidarity shown by unions and workers across sectors. The strike was about protecting educators and service workers and building a city where working families can live and prosper—where educators can afford to live in the communities where they teach and where families can send their children to school in the same city where they work.

During the strike, I organized picket support at my school and helped coordinate communication between families and educators. Parents mobilized through community networks, including WhatsApp and WeChat groups, to bring food, water, and encouragement to teachers on the picket lines.

The strike demonstrated powerful unity between educators and families and secured important gains, including fully funded healthcare for educators and their families. It also showed that when communities stand together, we can fight for stronger investment in public education across California.

What is your understanding of why UESF went on strike? Do you think the strike was successful? Please elaborate.

My understanding is that UESF went on strike after nearly a year of negotiations because educators believed the district was not adequately addressing the conditions necessary for stable, well-supported schools. The strike was about more than wages—it was about protecting the infrastructure of public education in San Francisco.

Educators raised concerns about the high cost of living driving teachers out of the city, growing special education workloads, healthcare costs for educators' families, and the need to protect vulnerable students, including immigrant students and families experiencing homelessness.

After an 11-month campaign and a four-day strike, UESF members overwhelmingly ratified the 2025–2027 agreement with a 92% yes vote, with 4,192 members participating. The agreement secured major gains including fully funded family healthcare, wage increases, special education workload protections, sanctuary protections, and support for unhoused students.

I believe the strike was successful. It secured meaningful improvements and demonstrated that when educators, families, and communities stand together, we can push institutions to invest in the stable public schools our children deserve.

Did you join educators at the UESF picket line during the strike? Which school site did you go to, when and why?

Yes. I joined educators on the picket line at Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, where my son attends, throughout the four-day strike in February. As a parent organizer, I helped coordinate communication between families and educators so parents understood what was happening in negotiations and how we could support our teachers.

Parents mobilized quickly through community networks, including WhatsApp and WeChat groups. At Alice Fong Yu, nearly 140 parents joined a community chat group to organize meals, snacks, water, and supplies for educators on the picket line. Many families also joined the picket lines themselves to show solidarity.

For me, showing up was important because educators play such a vital role in the lives of our children. As a single parent, I rely on a village of support, and our educators are a central part of that village. When teachers spoke about challenges such as rising living costs, understaffed classrooms, and special education workload pressures, parents recognized that these issues directly affect the quality and stability of our children's education.

Being on the picket line also reinforced how much educators care about their students and school communities. The strike created powerful unity between families and educators, and it reminded many of us that strong public schools depend on strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and the broader community.

How would you have voted/did you vote on the emergency resolution that gave Dr. Maria Su the ability to fire educators for speaking to students about the strike?

I would have voted no on the emergency resolution that gave the superintendent the authority to fire educators for speaking with students about the strike.

Educators should not face the threat of termination for discussing issues that directly affect their working conditions and their students' learning environments. Labor actions like strikes are a fundamental part of democratic participation and collective bargaining. Attempting to silence educators during that process undermines trust between teachers, students, families, and district leadership.

Students are often aware when major events like a strike are happening in their schools. Educators should be able to explain the situation in age-appropriate ways without fear of retaliation. These conversations can help students understand civic engagement and how people advocate for fair working conditions.

I am also concerned about the precedent this resolution sets. If left in place, it could grant current or future superintendents overly broad authority and create the potential for administrative overreach that undermines trust in our public schools.

What is your plan for keeping San Francisco's public school educators in the district?

Keeping educators in San Francisco requires addressing the full set of conditions that allow working families to live and thrive in the city.

First, educators must receive competitive wages and benefits that reflect San Francisco's cost of living. This includes fully funded healthcare for educators and their families and long-term retirement security, including strong pension options for both certificated and classified staff.

Second, we must address housing affordability. SFUSD is one of the largest landowners in the city, and the district should explore opportunities to use district land for educator and affordable housing. We should also expand access to pathways to homeownership and Below Market Rate programs that better reflect San Francisco's cost of living.

Third, educators stay when schools are stable and fully staffed. Teachers need manageable workloads, adequate paraprofessional and special education support, safe school environments, and strong collaboration with families and administrators.

Fourth, we must invest in professional development and career pathways that help educators grow and remain in the profession. Strengthening local educator pipelines can help recruit teachers who are deeply connected to San Francisco communities.

Finally, educators should not have to navigate fragmented systems alone. Coordinated services across the city—including healthcare, childcare, housing assistance, and family supports—help educators focus on teaching while knowing their own families are supported.

When educators can afford to live here and work in supported schools, they stay.

What is your plan to grow our public schools?

Growing our public schools starts with restoring trust in the stability and quality of SFUSD. Families stay when they know their children will have fully staffed classrooms, strong special education services, safe and inclusive environments, and predictable school experiences. My first priority is ensuring every classroom has a permanent teacher and that schools have the counselors, paraprofessionals, and support staff students need.

Second, we must provide an exceptional experience for families at every point of interaction with the district. That means simplifying enrollment, offering family navigation and language access support, and conducting strategic outreach so families clearly understand the opportunities available in SFUSD schools.

Third, we should expand high-quality programs that attract and retain families, including dual-language immersion, arts and music education, STEM pathways, career technical education, and community schools.

Finally, we must invest strategically in programs that retain families and educators while strengthening collaboration between schools, City Hall, and community partners to support housing, childcare, and other family needs.

What changes will you fight for at state and local levels to increase investment in our public schools?

At the state level, we must modernize California's school funding system by reforming Proposition 13 corporate loopholes, strengthening LCFF funding formulas, and advocating to raise the base for Proposition 98.

I support the Raise the Base campaign for Proposition 98 because California's current education funding floor does not reflect the real cost of educating students today. Raising the base would create more stable and predictable funding for public schools, allowing districts to fully staff classrooms, strengthen special education services, and invest in the supports students need to succeed.

At the local level, San Francisco must address outdated policies that prevent the district from reaching basic aid status so schools can retain more local property tax revenue.

Equally important is transparency in how resources are managed, including clear communication about budget tradeoffs and the use of reserves, and advocating for excess ERAF to support education.

What role do you see AI playing in our public schools?

AI can support teaching and learning, but it should never replace educators.
Technology should help teachers reduce administrative burdens and support students who need additional assistance while maintaining strong safeguards around privacy and equitable access.
The relationship between students and educators will always remain the heart of education.

Endorsements and Support - June 2026

Who will you support in the June 2026 election?

US Congress, District 11

Connie Chan

Supervisor, District 2

SFUSD School Board

Virginia Cheung

SF Superior Court, Seat 16

Governor

Betty Yee

Attorney General

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Insurance Commisioner

Jane Kim

.....

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Nichelle Henderson

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Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

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Supervisor, District 4

Natalie Gee

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Supervisor, District 6

.....

Supervisor, District 8

Michael Nguyen / Gary McCoy

Supervisor, District 10

DJ Brookter

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

Connie Chan

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

Sharon Lai

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

Dean Preston

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

Myrna Melgar

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

Jackie Fielder/Roberto Hernandez

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

Chyanne Chen/EJ Jones

November 2024 Mayor

Peskin/Breed

November 2024 District Attorney

Ryan Khojasteh

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

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November 2024 School Board

Virginia Cheung

November 2024 City College Board

Aliya Chisti, Alan Wong

March 2024 US Senator, Primary

Barbara Lee

March 2024 Superior Court Judge, Seat 1

March 2024 Superior Court Judge, Seat 13

November 2022 School Board

Alida Fisher, Gabriela Lopez, Karen Fleshman

November 2022 City College Board

Anita Martinez, Vick Chung, Susan Solomon

November 2022 Supervisor, District 2

November 2022 Supervisor, District 4

Gordon Mar

November 2022 Supervisor, District 6

Honey Mahogany

November 2022 Supervisor, District 8

Rafael Mandelman

November 2022 Supervisor, District 10

Shamann Walton

Past Props

How did you vote on specific ballot measures in past elections?

Nov 2024 Prop C: Inspector General

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop D: Mayoral Commission Reform

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 32: Raise Minimum Wage

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 33: Allow Local Rent Control / Repeal Costa Hawkins

Yes

No

Nov 2024 Prop 36: Treat Misdemeanors as Felonies

Yes

No

Mar 2024 Prop E: Surveillance Tools for Police

Yes

No

Mar 2024 Prop F: Forced Drug Screening for the Poor

Yes

No

Nov 2022 Prop M: Empty Homes Tax

Yes

No

Jun 2022 Prop H: Recall District Attorney Chesa Boudin

Yes

No

Upcoming Measures

How will you vote on upcoming ballot measures?

Nov 2026 Statewide CEO Billionaire Tax

Yes

No

Jun 2026 Increase CEO Salary Tax

- Yes
- No

Jun 2026 Impose Lifetime Term Limits

- Yes
- No

Jun 2026 CA Public Financing of Elections

- Yes
- No

In Closing

What is your favorite San Francisco restaurant and what would you order there?

Farmhouse Thai Kitchen Hat Yai Fried Chicken

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Vote for Virginia Cheung for 2026 School Board

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