

SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2026

Questionnaire

Hello candidates! Thank you for filling out the League's questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire **by 5pm on Friday, August 7th** 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.

Email *



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Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I am running for reelection to continue building strong, equitable, and excellent public schools for every child in San Francisco.

Before joining the Board, I spent years advocating for students and families through district committees and working groups. I built coalitions with educators, district leaders, and elected officials to strengthen our schools and improve student outcomes.

As a commissioner, I have focused on academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and rebuilding public trust through collaborative leadership. During my term, our Board has:

- Balanced SFUSD's budget, putting the district on a path to long-term financial stability
- Adopted new curricula in core academic areas
- Modernized outdated financial and HR systems
- Passed a \$790 million bond to modernize schools and build a central kitchen
- Reached multi-year agreements with all labor partners, including historic dependent health care benefits for educators
- Expanded Transitional Kindergarten districtwide

Although SFUSD continues to face challenges, I believe we also have great opportunities to strengthen our schools. I remain committed to ensuring every student has access to rigorous instruction, meaningful support, and the opportunity to thrive. I am running for reelection to continue building on our progress and deliver a high quality public education for every student.

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

My key values are social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, allyship, responsibility, and integrity. My values come from my lived experiences.

One of my core values is respect; I think it's important to honor differences. As Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that makes others want to join you." My dad, a Republican, jokes that he votes to cancel out my mother, a Democrat. They have been married for more than 50 years. As far apart as their political ideology may be, they both center their love for each other and their family above all other differences. I follow this same value in my interactions with my community members, and the spirit I bring into my work as a School Board Commissioner: we must center students in all we do. Progress happens when we listen to one another, stay focused on students, and are willing to work through differences in service of a common goal: improving student outcomes.

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

I am a vocal and passionate ally, particularly to the Black and disability communities. Much of the work I do as a parent, special education advocate, and Board member centers on the intersectionality of the two.

As I white woman, allyship is very important to me. I support and elevate the voices of my fellow parents and community members where I can; As far as representing these voices, I work hard to speak **with** a community, but not **for** a community. I also must be very careful not to make stereotypical assumptions about communities with whom I have no personal experience. For example, I am a parent of Black children. While this has opened a window into the experiences of many BIPOC students in our schools, I recognize that I bring my white privilege into meetings and other school interactions, and still have much to learn.

The SFUSD community at large should hold me accountable to ensuring that we put programs and resources in place to close equity gaps and ensure that all students are reaching their full potential.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

While I launched my campaign later this year than in previous cycles, I am honored to have the endorsement of community organizations such as SF Parents PAC and the early endorsement of the SF Women's Political Committee. I am grateful to have the ongoing support of Supervisors including Myrna Melgar and Shamann Walton. I am continuing to build a broad coalition of supporters and endorsements and will post updated endorsements on my website (www.alidafisher.com) as they are available.

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

My top three issues are equitable resource alignment, increased inclusive practices, and robust community engagement.

We must ensure SFUSD's resources are aligned with student outcomes to close persistent equity gaps. Budgets are moral documents and must reflect our commitment to investing where students need the most support. As we continue implementing new literacy and math curriculum, we must invest in ongoing professional development, instructional coaching, differentiated academic supports (including RTI and MTSS) and behavioral supports, so every educator has the tools to meet students' diverse needs and every student has the opportunity to succeed. Equity requires targeted investments, like inclusive practices, that ensure students with the greatest needs receive the support necessary to thrive.

Strong governance also requires meaningful public engagement, transparent decision-making, and accountability structures (such as a public data dashboard). I advocated for the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Community Engagement, and am proud of the recommendations we brought to the full Board in June. Now, it's time to implement them as the district navigates significant decisions related to enrollment systems, budgeting, and school portfolio planning in the years ahead.

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

I am a current commissioner on the San Francisco School Board and one of SFUSD's delegates to the California School Board Association. I have served on the CSBA Policy Pillar Committee, ensuring that equity remained a core tenant and guiding principle of our work.

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

I am a member of the SF D11 Democratic Club (including past President and current Parliamentarian), Harvey Milk Democratic Club, and SF Women's Political Committee.

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

I have been an active board member at the SF D11 Democratic Club since 2018. I am the former Chair of the SFUSD Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC), a state-mandated advisory group that champions effective programs, advises the District and Board of Education on special education priorities within the local plan area.

What campaigns have you worked on?

I have not been a staffer for any campaigns, but I have supported many campaigns and fellow candidates throughout the years.

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

I supported both Virginia Cheung and Brandee Marckmann financially in the their June 2026 campaigns for Board of Education.

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?

I am always impressed by the thoughtful analysis that the League puts into their endorsements. Particularly on issues that directly affect public school families, educators, and our broader community, finding in-depth analysis can be difficult. Yet the decisions made by the Board of Education have profound and lasting consequences for students, families, educators, and the health of San Francisco as a whole. Strong public schools are important in vibrant cities like San Francisco.

The Board of Education is often considered a “down-ballot” race, but the work is anything but small. Our work deserves more than sound bites or political talking points; it requires careful analysis and a willingness to understand both the immediate and long-term consequences. I appreciate the detailed write ups that come with a touch of snarkiness. Okay maybe more than a touch. But hey, game recognizes game. Mad props to you all.

I have also been honored to be endorsed by the League in both 2020 and 2022, and hope to earn your endorsement again this year.

Board of Education

What was your position on UESF's strike? Did you join the picket lines, and if so, at which school and why? What is your understanding of why UESF went on strike?

The strike was a powerful reminder of how deeply public schools and educators are woven into the fabric of San Francisco. The strike showed the entire state and country that San Francisco loves its public schools and educators and are committed to public education and to the people who make our schools function every day. Our community believes that investing in students, classrooms, and school-based supports is not optional; it is essential.

It also highlighted the importance of protecting the social safety net within schools, including Wellness Centers, social workers, and wraparound supports that many students and families rely upon every day. Our labor partners deserve the dependent healthcare benefits that they fought for, and more! District leaders, including the Board, need to work with city and state leaders to increase pay and benefits to livable SF wages. The way the city collectively lifted and highlighted this work reaffirmed why I continue to live and serve in San Francisco.

While I was proud to stand in solidarity with educators on the Mission High School picket line and to advocate behind the scenes during negotiations and discussions with district leadership, I also recognize the importance of being visible and vocal in support of labor partners in public spaces.

Do you commit to supporting all elements of the [UESF public school pledge](#)? Which part(s) do you think are most important? Are there any parts that give you concern?

Yes, I do. I signed the pledge in 2024 when it was first released by UESF and continue to support it today.

How would you have voted on the Feb 2026 emergency resolution that gave Superintendent Su the power to fire educators for speaking to students about the strike?

As a Board Member, I voted against the resolution. Matt Alexander, Student Delegate Mon, and I were the three dissenting votes.

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

SFUSD is not alone in facing challenges with educator recruitment and retention. To date, we have made many large investments to recruit and retain our valued staff members. We offered historic raises in our previous bargaining cycle. We have built Shirley Chisholm Village, the largest educator workforce housing in California at the time it opened. We will now offer fully funded dependent health care benefits to educators.

Our most successful educator recruitment and retention tools have been our “grow your own” programs such as the Para to Teacher Program and the San Francisco Urban Teacher Residency Program. Historically, 94% of participating teachers returned for a second year, and 84% returned for a third. Approximately 65% to 81% of the program's graduates are educators of color. We must rebuild these critical pipelines.

Special education remains one of our most understaffed areas. We must prioritize the staffing conditions that allow educators and students to thrive. We must reduce the administrative burden placed on special educators and ensure adequate support and release time is in provided to cover all tasks associated with IEP compliance. We must ensure that caseloads of our special educators are tenable and manageable.

But retention involves rebuilding trust and strengthening our partnership with educators. The February 2026 strike demonstrated the consequences when communication and trust break down. Moving forward, the district must engage educators early, communicate transparently, and work collaboratively to resolve challenges before they become crises.

What is your plan to grow our public schools?

Our current enrollment system isn't working. The urgency of our work is reflected in our enrollment trends. Today, only 64.3% of San Francisco's school-aged children attend SFUSD schools. The work around student assignment creates an important opportunity to take a more community-centered approach. Growing our public schools requires creating a system that families can understand, trust, and access equitably. A successful system reduces barriers, increases transparency, strengthens neighborhood community schools, and ensures that every student has access to high-quality educational opportunities throughout the city.

SFUSD must invest in the programs and supports families consistently say they value, including language pathways, STEM opportunities, inclusion models, arts programming, and wraparound supports. We know that when schools are thoughtfully resourced and aligned with community priorities, families are more likely to choose and stay in SFUSD. That's why we are investing in programs that meet demonstrated community needs, including a new Mandarin Immersion school and a county-level special education school. These investments can strengthen our schools, expand educational options, and help retain families in the district.

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

I have worked in community to increase funding for our schools for more than a decade. The work continues.

I pledge to continue my work to increase educator pay. I have stood alongside educators, community members, and city leaders for years working towards the passage of The Living Wage for Educators Act, the Student Success Fund, and many other bond measures and parcel taxes. I pledge to work towards passage of the next version of QTEA. I have advocated alongside UESF and others for many years to demand that the City allocate all ERAF funding to public education. Even after the passage of the Student Success Fund, a mere fraction of ERAF funding is actually allocated to the school district. As an SFUSD delegate to the California School Boards Association (CSBA), I continue to advocate for increased school district budgets by fighting for higher COLA allocations year over year and reinstatement of the money that the governor has stolen from Prop 98 through his budget maneuver. I am working with legislative action committees at the CSBA- and SELPA-level to increase school funding, particularly special education funding, without strings attached. Many of the bills before the State legislature right now that would increase education funding are written as one-time grants or pilot programs that come with restricted funds rather than ongoing increases to public education revenues. We need more funding, and we need the local control and autonomy to spend it on priorities identified by our community.

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

Technology can and should be a tool that enhances teaching and learning, not a substitute for great educators, meaningful relationships, or sound judgment. Every decision about technology in our schools should be guided by two questions: Who benefits? Does it improve student outcomes while promoting equity, safety, and well-being?

While AI presents exciting opportunities, it also comes with huge risks and many uncertainties that require thoughtful governance. AI tools should be evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and used intentionally to support high-quality instruction. They should assist educators, not replace them, and human oversight must remain central to decisions that affect students. Tools must ease administrative burden to educators and administrators, not add to it.

The Board must adopt clear standards for transparency, accountability, privacy protections, and ongoing monitoring so that families and educators understand when and how AI is being used, what data is being collected, and how student information is protected. For example, I have continuously questioned the effectiveness of our AI-based reading screener, Amira. The anecdotal information that has been shared with me by parents and educators makes me question its reliability and impact on student outcomes. I will push for more data around Amira and similar AI instructional tools this school year.

We must regularly assess for bias, evaluate outcomes across student groups, and be willing to adjust or discontinue tools that are not serving students equitably.

Leading up to the USEF strike, it became apparent that SFUSD had been making inaccurate revenue projections, projecting large deficits that didn't come to pass, and building up an enormous reserve fund while making harmful cuts to schools ([see this article for context](#)).

What size budget reserve do you support for SFUSD? When you're on the Board, what will you do to ensure that today's dollars are spent on today's kids?

While fiscal responsibility is essential, we must avoid an austerity mindset that perpetuates a “doom loop narrative” and leads to over-correction at the expense of students. It's important to have reserves to protect us ourselves, especially considering the current federal landscape. For example, in 2025 the Trump Administration tried to strip federal AmeriCorps grants from our district because of our DEI initiatives; we sued and were able to keep the funding. However, as federal programs (and their funds) continue to be cut, we must prevent negative impacts from reaching our students. In some cases, that means having local and state funds to fill the gap. In December 2025, the Board voted to put more than \$111 million into a budget reserve titled Fund 17. This is about 8% of our total budget, and approximately half of what state fiscal experts recommend.

A bigger issue for SFUSD fiscal health, in my opinion, is the practices that lead to huge fund balances. The staffing cuts and service reductions implemented based on bad budgeting practices results in the loss of programs and supports that students rely on. As we improve our financial systems and practices through tools like Frontline, Red Rover, and stronger position control processes, we have an opportunity to move toward greater predictability while minimizing harm to students and school communities. Internal contracting process must be streamlined as well to allow school administrators to more effectively spend their budgets, and further reduce the budget-to-actuals variances. We owe our community greater transparency and accountability, as these are public dollars in action.

I consistently raise concerns about the long-term costs of contracting out key services, particularly in special education. SFUSD continues to spend significant resources on outside contractors and non-public school placements because we have not invested in recruiting and retaining the credentialed staff needed to provide those services in-house. Fully staffing our schools is not only better for students and families; it is also a more sustainable fiscal strategy. I remain committed to working with district leadership to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts and reduce our dependence on costly outside providers.

It became clear in February that San Francisco values don't include the austerity mindset; we as a community believe that today's dollars should be spent on today's students. In fact, closing the opportunity gap demands it.

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

I have not yet had conversations with any supervisor candidates in this district.

Supervisor, District 4

I have not yet had conversations with any supervisor candidates in this district.

Supervisor, District 6

I have not yet had conversations with any supervisor candidates in this district.

Supervisor, District 8

I am supporting Gary McCoy (#1) and Michael Nguyen (#2).

Supervisor, District 10

I have not yet endorsed any candidates for this district.

SFUSD School Board

I have previously endorsed and supported Virginia Cheung (2024 and 2026) and Phil Kim (June 2026). I am honored to have worked in other capacities with many of the other candidates on the ballot.

City College Board of Trustees

I have endorsed Leah LaCroix, but have not had conversations with any other CCSF Trustee candidates about endorsements or support.

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

Connie Chan

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

I did not endorse a candidate in this race.

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

Dean Preston

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

Myrna Melgar

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

Jackie Fielder

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

I was a proud participant and active coordinator for the unity work done in District 11 for EJ Jones (#1) and Chyanne Chen (#2).

November 2024 Mayor

Aaron Peskin (#1) and London Breed (#2)

November 2024 District Attorney

Ryan Khojasteh

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

I did not endorse or support a candidate in this race.

November 2024 School Board

Matt Alexander, Virginia Cheung, Jaime Huling, and Parag Gupta

November 2024 City College Board

Alan Wong and Aliya Chisti

Past Props

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

June 2026 Prop D: Increase Business Tax

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

In Closing

What is your favorite branch of the SF Public Library and what is the last thing you checked out from there?

My three favorite branches are the Oceanview, Excelsior, and Ingleside branches of the library. We are lucky to have supportive staff that really engage with the community. I updated and renewed my library card this summer, but haven't yet checked out any books. This is a great reminder to get back into my library!

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I am running for reelection because, now more than ever, I believe my lived experience and professional skillset is necessary on the Board.

I am a policy wonk and a data-driven leader with more than a decade of service on District-level committees. As the former Chair of the SFUSD Community Advisory Committee for Special Education and a member of numerous advisory boards, committees, and working groups, I have built a reputation as a collaborative partner and coalition builder. I work alongside educators, district leaders, families, community organizations, and city officials to strengthen our schools, secure resources, and improve student outcomes. At a time when our district faces both significant opportunities and complex challenges, we need Board members who know how to bring people together to solve problems on behalf of students.

As a special education advocate, I understand and continue to highlight and reinforce the importance of early intervention, inclusive practices, wraparound supports, and recruiting and retaining excellent educators. My experience has also given me firsthand insight into how operational decisions, staffing models, enrollment policies, and budget choices affect students who have historically been underserved. Strong governance means listening to families, understanding how district systems function in practice, and ensuring every decision is informed by both data and lived experience.

My experience as a foster parent has also given me a unique perspective on the challenges many families face as they navigate multiple public systems. It has reinforced my belief that SFUSD should be more than another bureaucratic institution families must navigate; instead, they need us to be a trusted partner. While I am proud of the dedication and compassion shown by so many of our educators and staff, there is still important work to do to remove barriers, improve access to services, and ensure every family feels welcomed, supported, and empowered to help their children succeed.

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