

# 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](mailto:TheLeagueSF@gmail.com).

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Motivation

### Why are you running for *this* office?

I entered this race because over the last five years of running Mariposa Kids as Executive Director, I've heard parents from our after school program that serves kids from Flynn and Huerta Elementary schools share their love for their schools and frustrations with the system. As Chair of San Francisco's Childcare Planning and Advisory Council, I've been in conversations about how we as a city can best implement universal pre-k, including the expansion of TK in our public schools. And then in February, I stood with teachers during a strike that didn't have to happen. The school district had the money, but didn't negotiate. Now, they want to close schools to fill in budget gaps they say exist without rebuilding trust that we've seen deteriorate over the years. I'm running to rebuild trust with our community.

We need to invest in our schools, not contract them. If our city is going to build thousands of new homes to meet state mandates, our public school system needs to be ready for that. If we're building a city for every family, our schools need to be open for that vision. I've spent the last 15 years of my career advocating for children and families in San Francisco, finding resources when we were told the city didn't have enough. I'm running to bring this experience to our Board of Education.

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

I grew up in a middle class union family. My parents often traded shifts so that we always had an adult home. My dad grew up in a small farming town and my mom grew up in a house where N.O.W. leadership would meet to discuss women's issues. It is with this home life, where my progressive values were created and nurtured. These values include supporting our unions and the power of collectivism, equity for all, peace in the world not a war machine, fighting corporate greed with taxes that support community resources that support everyone, and the democratic principles of our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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

I represent the children and families who walk through the doors of Mariposa Kids every day, including low-income, immigrant, multilingual families that must navigate a school system that was not always built for them. They hold me accountable the most directly: if I am not delivering for the communities I serve, they stop trusting me with their children. That accountability is immediate and personal.

I also represent the broader coalition of children and family workers in San Francisco, including the afterschool providers, early childhood educators, family childcare providers, and community school coordinators who do the work of keeping children safe and supported beyond the school day. Through my role as Chair of the SF Childcare Planning and Advisory Council I hear from these communities regularly and carry their priorities into policy conversations.

And I represent San Francisco's LGBTQ community as a gay man who grew up needing teachers to protect him. I know what it means for a school to be a scary place, but also for the adults within to be the supportive pillars needed. That community holds me accountable to never letting that become a slogan rather than a practice.

Across all of these communities, accountability works the same way: I show up, I listen before I decide, and I report back. The question I will ask before every significant board decision is what have we heard from the people most affected and if the answer is nothing, the decision is not ready.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

- 1. United Educators of San Francisco
- 2. Aaron Peskin
- 3. Connie Chan

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

One: Rebuild trust through honest budgeting and accurate projections. SFUSD has underestimated revenue every year while cutting programs and telling families and educators the money did not exist. I will require the superintendent to present budget projections alongside independent analysis of prior year accuracy, require that any proposed cuts be justified against that analysis, and insist that today's unrestricted reserve dollars be deployed against the student outcome goals we have already committed to and are behind on. A board that cannot trust the numbers it is given cannot govern.

Two: Make every neighborhood school a school families choose. Enrollment reform adopted in 2020 still has not been implemented. I will hold the superintendent to the existing timeline without further delay, push for a proximity-based system with integration goals built in, and require that every school site have the resources to be genuinely worth attending before we close anything. The path to a balanced budget runs through attracting families back to SFUSD, not through contraction. Every family that returns brings thousands of dollars in state attendance funding with them.

Three: Address chronic absenteeism through community schools and wraparound services. SFUSD loses millions annually in attendance funding because students are not showing up, often for reasons outside their control: housing instability, health challenges, disconnection from school community. I will protect and expand community school programs that co-locate health, mental health, and family support at school sites, require the superintendent to report quarterly on absenteeism by school and student group, and treat attendance as the fiscal and educational emergency it is.

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

I am currently the Chair of the SF Childcare Planning & Advisory Council, a state mandated body. I also was a mayoral appointee to the Oversight & Advisory Committee for SF's Department of Children, Youth & Their Families.

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

I belong to the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, and the Bernal Heights Democratic Club.

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

I have served on the non-profit boards of Bay Area organizations that include Tandem - Partners in Early Learning, TECA, Safe & Sound, and 18 Reasons.

What campaigns have you worked on?

I have not worked on any campaigns, though I have been deeply involved in civic advocacy through the SF Childcare Planning & Advisory Council (CPAC), and community organizing around childcare funding. In 2024, as co-chair of the Legislation & Policy Working Group of CPAC, I worked to advocate against Prop D and for Prop E (Commission streamlining measures).

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

I have supported the following financially:

1. Virginia Cheung and Reina Tello for SF School Board
2. Jane Kim for CA Insurance Commissioner
3. Supporting Prop 50 - Election Rigging Response Act

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?

What I appreciate most about the League is that you show your work. In a city full of endorsing organizations that hand down verdicts without explanation, the Pissed Off Voter Guide tells readers not just who to vote for but why, with the strategic thinking behind every call laid out in plain language. Tens of thousands of San Francisco voters trust the guide precisely because it treats them as people capable of following an argument, not just following orders.

Having the League's endorsement would mean that the organization that has been holding San Francisco's progressive coalition accountable for 25 elections sees this campaign as part of that tradition. That is not something I would take lightly.

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?

I was happy to support our educators during the UESF strike. As Executive Director of Mariposa Kids, an after school program serving kids from SFUSD elementary schools, I opened up our programming to our families on each strike day from 9a-530p so that children had somewhere engaging to be and parents could continue to work. I joined picket lines at Leonard Flynn Elementary, a partner school of Mariposa Kids, and Everett Middle School because I was able to join the line before a Childcare Planning & Advisory Council meeting I was facilitating across the street afterwards.

UESF went on strike because the Board of Education, along with the district, did not negotiate early enough to avoid it. UESF also had an understanding of the finances available that differed from the district's numbers. Months after the strike ended, we found out that district could afford where they landed in agreement after all.

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 have committed to supporting all the elements of the UESF pledge and am proud to be endorsed by UESF. I believe supporting community schools that serve the whole child is a key activity that will advance educational outcomes for kids. It can also help reduce chronic absenteeism which not only helps educational outcomes, but increases our funding which continues to be based on average daily attendance. I also believe making SFUSD the highest paying school district in the Bay Area will not only attract and retain the best teachers, but will value the teachers for the value of the work they do for our community.

No parts give me concern.

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?

I would not have voted for this emergency resolution. Silencing union workers in this way is anti-union, and simply unfair. It also prevents important and healthy conversations that can happen in classrooms. Trust is not built when one uses a threat of termination to silence another's voice in the workplace.

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

Keeping educators in San Francisco requires solving three problems simultaneously: compensation, housing, and working conditions.

On compensation: the 2025 to 2027 UESF contract was a meaningful step, and the board's job is to protect those gains in every budget cycle, not treat them as negotiable when revenues look uncertain. I will hold the line on educator compensation before any other budget decision is made. The goal I am committed to is making SFUSD the highest-paying district in the Bay Area. That requires building assumed wage increases into the district's multi-year budget model as a baseline, not as a variable to be negotiated from scratch each contract cycle.

On housing: SFUSD is the largest landowner in the city. The 550 educator housing unit goal adopted in 2020 has moved too slowly, but also many educators aren’t eligible because they earn too much, so policy changes need to be made to account for this with future educator housing projects.. I will also push for City partnerships to expand educator access to BMR units. I am a BMR recipient myself and I know firsthand both the life-changing impact and the unnecessary complexity of navigating that system.

On working conditions: I will push for professional development during the school day, manageable caseloads for special education staff, and a board culture that treats educator expertise as intelligence to be used rather than obstacles to be managed. Educators also need to be paid on time and correctly. As an executive director of a nonprofit, paying my employees in this manner is top priority not just because it is law, but because it is the right thing to do, and also helps maintain morale.

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## What is your plan to grow our public schools?

Growing SFUSD means reversing the trust deficit that has been driving families away. Every family that chooses a private school or leaves San Francisco is a child we did not serve and thousands of dollars in state attendance funding we did not receive. Growth is not just a values argument. It is a fiscal strategy. My plan has four parts.

First, fix enrollment. The zone-based system adopted in 2020 still has not been implemented. Families are navigating a lottery that generates anxiety, unpredictability, and the perception that some schools are worth wanting and others are not. A simpler, proximity-based system with integration goals built in gives families confidence in their local school before they start looking elsewhere. I will hold the superintendent to the existing timeline without further delay.

Second, guarantee afterschool. Every spring at Mariposa Kids I get calls from parents of rising TK/kindergartners who cannot figure out what their child will do after 2pm. When a private school offers guaranteed enrollment and guaranteed afterschool in one package, working families who can afford it, choose it. SFUSD's Extended Learning Opportunities department must make afterschool access part of the enrollment offer, not an anxiety families navigate separately. I will require the superintendent to report the percentage of incoming TK and kindergarten students with a guaranteed afterschool spot the day they are assigned to a school, not a month after school starts which is so often the case.

Third, address chronic absenteeism. Students who are not in school are not learning, not generating attendance funding, and are not building the connections that keep families invested in SFUSD. Community schools with wraparound health, mental health, and family support services are the most effective tool we have for keeping students present and engaged.

Fourth, tell the story better. SFUSD has extraordinary schools, dedicated educators, and vibrant communities that are invisible in the public narrative about this district. I will mobilize the board's public platform alongside city partners to actively promote what is working and compete for the families we are losing to perception, not reality.

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

The single most important state-level change I will fight for is reforming California's attendance-based funding formula. SFUSD loses millions of dollars annually because the state funds schools based on average daily attendance rather than enrollment. This means every absence driven by housing instability, health challenges, or family hardship costs the district real money. It punishes the districts serving the highest-need students for the very challenges they are working to solve. Enrollment-based funding, weighted for student need, would stabilize district revenues and remove the perverse incentive that makes chronic absenteeism a fiscal emergency on top of an educational one.

I will use the board's platform and relationships to build a coalition for this reform alongside other urban districts, labor, and city officials who share this interest. SFUSD cannot win this fight alone but it can lead it.

At the local level I will fight on three fronts.

First, align city and district resources through Prop J. The coordination mandate between SFUSD and DCYF exists on paper but is not yet fully activated. As someone who has worked inside both systems through my CPAC and DCYF OAC roles, I know how outcomes can improve with coordination between systems. With city dollars flowing through the Department of Early Childhood, the Children and Youth Fund, and the Student Success Fund being coordinated and SFUSD upholding its role, we can see stronger outcomes for children and families across SF.

Second, protect early childhood funding. I have spent years fighting to get the city's half a billion dollars in early childhood funds moving into actual services for families which we finally saw success with in January 2026 the expansion of subsidies to more families for childcare. Balancing city budgets by pulling funds from the Department of Early Childhood is something I have opposed publicly and will continue to oppose. Children who arrive at kindergarten ready to learn cost the district less and achieve more. That investment pays for itself.

Third, use the reserve responsibly to bridge to sustainable funding. Today's reserve, deployed strategically over four years, can fund the fully staffed schools and programs that attract families back to SFUSD, increasing enrollment and the revenue that follows it. Investment now creates the conditions for sustainable funding later.

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

AI is being used in classrooms whether or not we have a policy about it. The board needs to get ahead of this with a framework that distinguishes between AI as a learning tool and AI as a shortcut around learning, while ensuring that educators are trained and supported rather than left to navigate it alone. AI cannot replace our educators.

Students need to learn how to use AI thoughtfully and carefully, and educators need professional development on how to best use it for stronger lesson planning and improved student outcomes. As AI policy is developed for SFSUD, data privacy for students must always be recognized, and our corporate ed-tech contracts need to acknowledge these protections.

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?

California law requires SFUSD to maintain a 2% reserve for a district of its size. I support a reserve of approximately 5% – just over double the state minimum – enough to provide genuine stability against revenue volatility without hoarding public dollars that belong in classrooms. As a board member I will require the superintendent to present budget projections alongside independent analysis of prior year accuracy. If the district has been systematically underestimating revenue, the board needs to know that before it approves cuts or adds to reserves.

More urgently, we have Vision, Values, Goals and Guardrails we are behind on – 70% third grade literacy, algebra access, closing the opportunity gap for Black, Pacific Islander, English learner, and IEP students. These goals will not be met through austerity. They require investment. Today's unrestricted dollars should be deployed strategically against the outcomes we have already committed to, with the board requiring the superintendent to demonstrate how every budget decision advances those goals. The February strike happened in part because families and educators were told the district could not afford fair wages while hundreds of millions sat untouched. That cannot happen again.

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

I'll align my support with UESF.

Supervisor, District 4

I'll align my support with UESF.

Supervisor, District 6

I'll align my support with UESF.

Supervisor, District 8

Gary McCoy

Supervisor, District 10

I'll align my support with UESF.

SFUSD School Board

Myself, Reina Tello & Virginia Cheung

City College Board of Trustees

I'll align my support with UESF.

## Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

Connie Chan

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

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

Chyanne Chen

November 2024 Mayor

Aaron Peskin

November 2024 District Attorney

Ryan Khojasteh

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

November 2024 School Board

Matt Alexander, Virginia Cheung

November 2024 City College Board

Do not recall

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?

The SF Main Library is my favorite branch mostly because of its proximity to my home being in D6. I also really enjoy the quiet study rooms that are great for working in, and the large separate sections for children's and youth books are helpful for supporting programming at Mariposa Kids. If I'm not at the Main Library, I'm usually at the Castro branch because of the vast LGBTQ section. The last book I checked out was "John of John" by Douglas Stuart.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I am running as part of a progressive slate with Virginia Cheung and Reina Tello, both of whom I am proud to be aligned with. Together we represent a community-rooted alternative to the school closure and austerity agenda being pushed by candidates backed by the same political machine that's been working to privatize our public systems and that the League has been fighting for 25 years.

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