

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 *

A black rectangular box with a white 'X' drawn across it, indicating that the email address has been redacted.

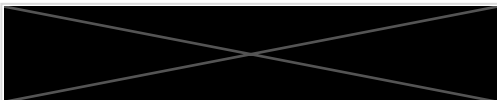
Name

Ruth Ferguson

Campaign Contact

Ruth Ferguson

Phone Number

A black rectangular box with a white 'X' drawn across it, indicating that the phone number has been redacted.

Website

ruthferguson.com

Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I'm running to keep City College accessible and affordable for everyone. I don't have to imagine what's at stake for community college students. I grew up in a struggling rural town where community college was the door that opened everything for my family and me, and it carried me all the way to transfer to a four-year university and earn a master's in public policy from UC Berkeley.

For many San Franciscans, City College is a lifeline to opportunity. It's where you go to change your life, retrain for a better job, or earn a degree without debt. That means protecting Free City, growing enrollment, and running the college with its long-term stability in mind — so cost is never the reason you, your neighbor, or your kid can't get a degree.

Since joining the City College Board of Trustees in January, I've fought to restore funding for Free City, voted for a balanced budget, and have spent these months listening to students, faculty, and staff so their priorities shape what we do next.

I've spent my career fighting for students and workers. I organized classmates to fight for higher education funding amid deep state cuts and I took on the powerful in the CA Capitol to secure real labor accountability reforms after coming forward as a whistleblower. I'm proof of what community college can do, and now I'm proud to be doing that work from a seat on the Board of Trustees. I'm asking voters to elect me to keep it going.

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

Some people say that politics is "just a game." For me, it never has been. I first got involved in local politics in my hometown when white supremacists were wreaking havoc in my hometown community. As a high school student, I was appointed to a city task force to address an associated increase in hate crimes, worked with the local YWCA to bring anti-racism trainings to my high school (and received an award from the YWCA later that year for that work), organized with community to bring that work to neighboring towns and cities, and joined the youth commission, where I served for three years.

This community organizing is what pulled me into politics, and I still largely see politics as the vehicle to create structural change, while the organizing work is how we create social change. I've worked, professionally and in a volunteer capacity, on many issues over the years: ending student homelessness, supporting survivors of sex trafficking, immigrant and refugee rights, labor rights, and much more. These experiences have shaped who I am and how I choose to make change.

My values are generally to be good, do good, and to be curious along the way. You'll see across my endorsements and my responses that I do not cleanly fit into one San Francisco "camp" or another. I think it hurts all of us when politics is a team sport in this way. Instead, I spend my energy getting to know the people in politics, what drives them, and how we can align to create a better future for the people in our city who rely on us most.

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

I think the better question is, how do we hold each other accountable? I have many identities, and I'm not sure it's responsible to say, unilaterally, that I speak for any particular groups. Communities are not a monolith. Instead, I expect earnest engagement and accountability from everyone I work with/am acquainted with, and I regularly solicit feedback from peers to hold myself accountable as well.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

I'm just beginning to gather endorsements, but I'm proud to have the support of my colleagues on the Board of Trustees who are not up for re-election: Aliya Chisti, Heather McCarty, and Luis Zamora.

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

- I will continue to fight for Free City funding. Despite having been on the Board for only a few months, I was proud to lobby members of the Board of Supervisors earlier this year to fully fund Free City. The Mayor's initial proposed budget included cuts to the program, but I was proud to support the full restoration of the program's funding, and I openly communicated with the Mayor's office to lead with transparency. I am very proud of the results we achieved as a coalition.
- I will continue to prioritize budgeting that protects the college's financial stability, while also working with our labor partners to prioritize the health and welfare of our faculty and staff.
- I will continue to work with the Chancellor to grow enrollment by fostering partnerships like dual enrollment with SFUSD, as well as workforce development pipelines like programs we have with Building Trades and city departments like SFFD and SFPD.

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

Member, Battle Ground, WA task force to address hate crimes (2009-2012)
Member, Clark County, WA Youth Commission (2009-2012)
President, Clark College (2011-2012) – Chair of Bylaws Committee, Chair of Executive Council, Student Liaison to the Shared Governance Committee
Member, University of Washington Leaders (2012-2013)
Member, Elections Administration Committee (2013)
Policy analysis on the CA Legislature Workplace Conduct Unit sponsored Senator Connie Leyva (2022)
Policy analysis on methods to increase worker welfare sponsored by Senator Dave Cortese (2023)
Policy Fellow, Center for Civility and Democratic Engagement (2023)

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

CA Working Families Party
SF Young Democrats (SFYD)
SF Women's Political Committee (SFWPC)
CA Women's List
Emerge CA Alumna
District 9 Neighbors for Housing

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

San Francisco Young Democrats Board Member (2024-2025)
Co-founder, Stop Sexual Harassment in Politics (2022-present)
SFWPC (PAC co-chair in 2022)
LifeMoves Next Gen Board (2019-2022)
HIAS, co-chair for a national anti-Muslim Ban rally in 2017
Washington State Leadership Camps counselor (2010-2014)
Many student government committees at Clark College (community college) and the University of Washington

What campaigns have you worked on?

Susan Ellenberg for Santa Clara County Supervisor (2018)

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

In the past year: Gary McCoy, Natalie Gee, Marissa Roy, and some women from the Emerge CA network who are running for office in other parts of the state.

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?

Your take on Tom Steyer was fair, and I think it's good to settle for "progressive enough" when making decisions about who to vote for. That's one of the reasons why I voted for him. The left needs to be pragmatic when working to achieve reform, and we need to win to get there.

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

I am a community college graduate and was the student body president of Clark College from 2011-2012. In this role, I oversaw a \$1.4 million budget, chaired our Executive Committee and Bylaws Committee, and served on the college's Shared Governance Committee. I was also our legislative liaison and organized a lobbying day to bring staff and students to the Capitol and lobby for community college funding during the greatest higher education budget cuts in state history. I expanded what had historically been a week of civic engagement events for students, faculty, and staff into an entire month of events. I partnered with contacts in city and county government to bring in special trainings.

Also, before coming forward as a whistleblower in the California Legislature, I relied on community college to reinvent and stabilize myself. I took statistics and economics courses at Foothill College in the Peninsula while working full-time to take the prerequisites needed to earn an MPP from UC Berkeley.

Community college is not just personal to me, it's also been a resource I've been taught to rely on my whole life. My entire immediate family has attended community college (4/5 of us are graduates), my grandfather utilized it to switch careers from working as a custodian to a 30-yr career as a city electrical inspector, and my dad broke a cycle of poverty through community college. In fact, several years after my dad graduated from Santa Rosa Junior College, he took classes at five additional community colleges to piece together the prerequisites he needed to apply to veterinary school. That education allowed him and my mom to support us through a family-run small business for 31 years.

To me, serving on the City College Board is not a political stepping stone. It's core to who I am, my values, my past, and the future I believe in. I am grateful every day that I get to serve this life-changing institution.

Did you support the City College Parcel Tax on the November 2022 ballot?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Given that many of the policy and funding decisions for City College 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?

As I mentioned in an earlier question, when this came up earlier this year, I was proud to fully support the funding restoration for Free City. I was one of the Board members that was highly engaged in appealing to supervisors and the Mayor's office to restore the funding so we can keep providing the critical resources our students rely on. Now that the funding is stabilized from the city in the short-term, we can work to develop a long-term agreement with the city so we don't find ourselves in the same situation again.

And on the state level, we can be doing much more. I am eager to work with my colleagues on other Bay Area community college boards to advocate for changes to the Student Centered Funding Formula so we can better fund urban community colleges like ours.

What strategies would you support for growing enrollment, the college's main revenue source?

There's a lot we can do, and most of it is not within our jurisdiction as Board members. However, we can work with the Chancellor to do things like deepen our dual enrollment pipeline between SFUSD and CCSF, invest in workforce generators like CityBuild, and take real strides toward building capacity for courses where we know there is high demand.

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

We receive semi-regular reports and data regarding student success for students of color, and I will continue to question and challenge the administration to ensure we are serving students properly. I also speak with students pretty regularly and have worked with some to elevate concerns directly to the administration.

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

I'm not sure this question is relevant in the current election -- it was more of a concern in 2024 when the college had an interim chancellor. Chancellor Messina has been in her position for about a year and has at least three more in her contract.

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

My ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and effectiveness when serving our students, faculty, and staff.

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

No position

Supervisor, District 4

No position

Supervisor, District 6

No position

Supervisor, District 8

Gary McCoy

Supervisor, District 10

No position

SFUSD School Board

No position

Community College Board

Monroe Lace, Elijah Ball, Erwin Tam

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

No position

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

Danny Sauter, Sharon Lai

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

Bilal Mahmood

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

Myrna Melgar

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

Stephen Torres, Jackie Fielder, Roberto Hernandez

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

Cheyenne Chen

November 2024 Mayor

London Breed, Daniel Lurie

November 2024 District Attorney

No position

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

Catherine Stefani

November 2024 School Board

Jaime Huling, John Jersin, Parag Gupta

November 2024 City College Board

Heather McCarty, Luis Zamora

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?

Bernal Heights! Not sure, I'm more of an audio book listener/Dog Eared Books girl. Most recent book I'm listening to is The State Must Provide: Why America's Colleges Have Always Been Unequal - And How to Set Them Right

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Appreciate your consideration

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms