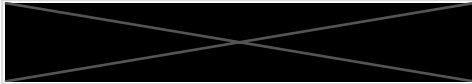


SF League of Pissed Off Voters 2026 Questionnaire

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 *



Name

Elijah Ball

Campaign Contact

Elijah Ball

Phone Number



Website

<https://www.elijahforcitycollege.com/>

Motivation

Why are you running for *this* office?

I'm running for the City College Board because this is where my personal story and professional experience come together.

Higher education changed the direction of my life. I moved to San Francisco at 18 to attend SFSU and became the first person in my family to graduate from college. I know what access to education can make possible, and I want City College to provide that same opportunity for generations of San Franciscans.

I'm also a college campus planner. I have worked with colleges across the country, including three California community college districts, on the same issues City College must address: enrollment, academic programs, facilities, and long-term financial stability. With reaccreditation, a new Master Plan, and serious financial challenges ahead, the next Board will make decisions that shape City College for years.

I'm running to bring a planner's perspective to those decisions, ask hard questions, and help turn a shared vision into a realistic plan. I believe City College's challenges are solvable and that, with a clear vision and plan, it can become one of the best community colleges in the country.

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

My values come from believing in the power of education, listening to people, and taking responsibility for turning what I hear into action.

When my parents could not afford preschool, my grandmother, a retired educator and union member, taught me how to read and write. My mother left high school, but after I was born, she returned to adult school, earned her GED, and secured a union job with the pay and benefits she needed to support our family. From them, I learned that education is not just about earning a diploma. It can give someone stability, open doors, and change the direction of an entire family.

My professional experience has strengthened those values. As a campus planner, I have learned that the best plans begin with listening. Faculty and students often understand an institution's strengths and challenges better than anyone because they experience them every day. My job is to take their experiences seriously, balance different needs, and help turn shared priorities into a plan that a college can realistically carry out.

Together, these experiences taught me that education can transform lives, that people deserve a meaningful voice in decisions that affect them, and that leadership requires listening before acting.

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

I am an openly gay Latinx and the first in my family to graduate from college. My family relied on education to get union jobs, which brought financial stability and opportunity, especially for my parents when they raised me. These experiences help me relate to first-generation students, LGBTQ+ people, Latinx families, working people, and San Franciscans who depend on strong public institutions.

As a campus planner, I feel responsible for the students, faculty, and staff affected by decisions made at the institution every day. I also know that sharing an identity does not mean I can speak for everyone's experiences. If elected, I would work to serve every student and community that City College supports.

These communities keep me accountable through my work with groups like the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club and the Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club, and through listening sessions and public meetings that are key parts of my job. As a Trustee, I would be present on City College's campuses, meet often with students, faculty, staff, labor, and community members, and explain my votes clearly.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

CCSF Trustees Ruth Ferguson, Heather McCarty, and Luis Zamora

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

My top three priorities would be strengthening City College's finances, increasing enrollment and student completion, and creating a responsible plan for its facilities.

1. Strengthen long-term financial stability. I would push for a five-year financial plan that connects enrollment, staffing, compensation, facilities costs, revenue, and reserves. The Board should receive regular public updates comparing actual results with its projections so problems can be addressed early. I would not use OPEB funds or reserves to cover an ongoing deficit. I would also work with our city and state partners to make Free City permanent and advocate for a state funding system that better reflects inflation and San Francisco's high operating costs.

2. Increase enrollment and help more students complete their goals. I would closely track the results of City College's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, including recruitment, retention, certificates, degrees, and transfers. We should expand dual enrollment with SFUSD, strengthen transfer partnerships, and offer more evening, hybrid, and short-term programs for working adults. City College should also build stronger partnerships with employers, labor, and city agencies so its programs lead to good jobs and meet San Francisco's workforce needs.

3. Create a responsible plan for City College's facilities. The upcoming Master Plan should align academic programs, enrollment, buildings, and finances. I would carefully review that plan before approval and make sure students, faculty, staff, and surrounding communities have a meaningful voice in it. For the Downtown Campus, I would explore partnerships and long-term leasing options that could generate revenue and allow the campus to reopen gradually as enrollment and demand grow.

The Board's role is to set clear goals, approve responsible plans and budgets, and hold the Chancellor accountable for results. I would establish measurable expectations, require regular progress reports, and make changes when the College is falling short.

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

N/A

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

I am a member of and serve in leadership roles with:

Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club, Board Member and District 3 Director
Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club, Board Member

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

I haven't served on any for-profit corporate boards. However, I currently serve on the following nonprofit, political, and advisory bodies:

Board Member and District 3 Director, Eastern Neighborhoods Democratic Club

Board Member, Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club

Board Member, Lower Nob Hill Neighborhood Alliance

Advisory Council Member, Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture

District 3 Appointee, San Francisco Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

What campaigns have you worked on?

Gary McCoy for D8 Supervisor 2026. Danny Sauter for D3 Supervisor 2024

What recent candidates and ballot measures have you supported financially?

Since June 2024, I have financially supported, Chyanne Chen, Matt Dorsey, Theo Ellington, Fiona Ma, Gary McCoy, Danny Sauter, Joe Sangirardi, Lateefah Simon, Stephen Sherrill, Scott Wiener, and Alan Wong.

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 concrete thing I appreciated was the League's support for Proposition D, the Overpaid CEO Salary Tax, in the June 2026 election. I was an early supporter of the measure and attended its campaign kickoff because I believe large corporations with extreme executive-to-worker pay gaps should contribute more toward protecting essential public services.

College Board

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

My experience with community colleges comes primarily from my professional work as a campus planner. I have worked with three California community college districts on facilities planning and state capital funding proposals.

As part of a planning team, I served as the dedicated campus planner for Folsom Lake College's 2025 Facilities Master Plan update within the Los Rios Community College District. I also supported the planning and development of a state funding proposal for a Pasadena City College workforce-training facility with 12 instructional labs, as well as a proposal for an academic replacement building at Long Beach City College.

This work has required me to analyze enrollment trends, academic programs, space needs, and facility conditions. I have also brought administrators, faculty, staff, students, architects, engineers, and other technical experts together to identify needs and set long-term priorities. Through that process, I have seen how decisions about enrollment, programs, facilities, and finances are all connected.

I have spent time learning about City College's budget, enrollment challenges, Board policies, accreditation history, and upcoming Master Plan. I have also spoken with current and former trustees, former student trustees, full-time and part-time faculty, representatives of AFT 2121, current and former students, and elected officials about the College's strengths and challenges. These conversations are ongoing, and I would continue them as a Trustee. I would bring both this local understanding and my professional community college experience to the Board.

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?

My vision is for City College to have stable, ongoing funding that reflects the real cost of serving San Francisco. Full funding should mean offering the courses students need, properly staffing counseling and support services, fairly compensating employees, and maintaining our campuses without relying on one-time funds or reserves to cover ongoing costs.

The state is where most of City College's funding comes from, so the Board has to show up and fight for CCSF in Sacramento. Right now, our funding floor is locked to 2024–25 levels and doesn't automatically keep up with inflation, which puts us behind every year. The Board should set a clear legislative agenda and actively partner with students, labor, other community colleges, and our state representatives to push for yearly cost-of-living increases and a funding formula that reflects San Francisco's higher costs and the needs of the older adults and working students we serve.

In 2026, I participated in March in March in Sacramento alongside students, faculty, labor, and community members advocating for public higher education. As a Trustee, I would continue participating every year and use the position to bring greater attention to City College's funding needs.

At the local level, the Board should work with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to make Free City permanent and establish reliable, multi-year funding. City College must also clearly demonstrate the program's impact on enrollment, retention, and student success so that local funding decisions are supported by transparent results.

The Board must also make full use of the resources already available to the College. That means holding the Chancellor accountable for increasing enrollment, retention, completion, and transfer; expanding dual enrollment and flexible programs for working adults; pursuing state and federal grants; and building partnerships with labor, employers, and four-year institutions. Partnerships or leasing opportunities at the Downtown Campus could provide additional revenue.

The Board cannot fully fund City College by itself, but it can advocate, set clear goals, and build public trust through responsible financial management.

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

I strongly support putting City College's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan into action. Growing enrollment means more than attracting new students. It also means keeping our current students, helping them complete their goals, and creating clear pathways into the College.

For recruitment, City College should expand SFUSD dual enrollment and make a real effort to reach student parents, people working full-time, immigrants, older adults, and people looking to change careers. This means offering more evening, weekend, online, and hybrid classes, along with predictable schedules and short-term certificates that lead to real opportunities. Outreach should also be coordinated with community groups, labor, employers, and city agencies.

Another major opportunity is among students already enrolled at City College. The SEMP notes that many Asian and Latinx students are in noncredit programs, especially ESL. City College should offer multilingual, culturally responsive counseling to Chinese-speaking, Latinx, and other ESL students so they understand the educational and career pathways available to them.

ESL classes are a vital part of City College's mission and can also open doors to further opportunities. We should make the connections between ESL, workforce programs, and credit courses easier to understand. With clear information and supportive counseling, students can choose the next step that best matches their goals.

The Board should hold the Chancellor accountable for implementing the SEMP through annual targets and regular public reports on enrollment, retention, completion, transfer, and FTES. Since the current SEMP covers 2024 through 2026, the next Board will also need to review its results and help shape an updated plan. That process should include students, faculty, staff, labor, and community partners, with clear responsibilities, timelines, and measurable goals.

As a campus planner, I consider how enrollment, programs, scheduling, facilities, and budgets work together. The Downtown Campus closure showed a long-term mismatch between student enrollment and how space was being used. The updated SEMP should be coordinated with the College's Master Plan and long-term financial planning so City College can identify changes early and plan responsibly.

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

As a first-generation Latinx college graduate, I understand that getting accepted is only the beginning. Students need real support and to feel safe so they can stay in school and reach their goals. City College is both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, and that should shape how we show up for students and define success.

As a Trustee, I would work to put the Student Equity Plan into practice and support counseling, tutoring, mentoring, multilingual services, and programs like Umoja and Puente that reflect students' cultures. I would also protect City DREAM and ensure immigrant and undocumented students can access legal help, emergency alerts, and strong privacy protections. Every student should feel safe and confident while getting their education.

As a Trustee, I would make sure these promises are part of City College's budget, policies, and priorities, even when resources are tight.

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

I'd look for a steady, experienced leader who really understands community colleges and is ready to commit long-term to City College. The next Chancellor should have a solid track record in financial management, growing enrollment, supporting student success, and maintaining accreditation. City College needs someone who gets how academics, staffing, facilities, and budgets all connect. They need to respect shared governance and see students, faculty, staff, and labor as real partners. They should listen before making big decisions, be clear about tradeoffs, and actually follow through.

I'd also want someone who's genuinely committed to equity and can advocate for City College in City Hall and Sacramento. They should be able to build strong relationships with labor, employers, community groups, and four-year schools. I wouldn't expect a new Chancellor to have the answer to everything on day one. I would expect honesty, transparency, and the ability to turn a shared vision into a realistic plan.

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

I would measure my success in three main areas: First is fiscal stability. Under Board Policy 8.01, I would want to see balanced budgets backed by realistic long-term projections, strong reserves, and no ongoing use of reserves or OPEB funds to cover regular expenses. Second is effective oversight. Board Policy 1.24 requires an annual evaluation of the Chancellor. For me, success means setting clear expectations and following through on them, especially around enrollment, accreditation, student success, and financial health. Third is student progress. I would look at enrollment, retention, degrees and certificates earned, transfers, and opportunity gaps. If the Board adopts my proposed change to Board Policy 5.10, I would also track how many students pursuing a degree, certificate, or transfer receive annual counseling or education plan reviews, and whether those check-ins help more students complete their goals.

At the end of the day, I would judge my success by whether City College is more financially stable, more transparent, and more effective at helping students succeed than when I joined the Board.

Endorsements and Support - November 2026

Who will you support in the November 2026 election?

Supervisor, District 2

Stephen Sherrill

Supervisor, District 4

Alan Wong

Supervisor, District 6

Matt Dorsey

Supervisor, District 8

Gary McCoy (1) Darshini Patel (2)

Supervisor, District 10

Theo Ellington

SFUSD School Board

Phil Kim

Community College Board

Elijah Ball (myself), Monroe Lace, Erwin Tam

Past Endorsements

What candidates have you supported in past elections?

November 2024 Supervisor, District 1

November 2024 Supervisor, District 3

Danny Sauter

November 2024 Supervisor, District 5

November 2024 Supervisor, District 7

November 2024 Supervisor, District 9

November 2024 Supervisor, District 11

Chyanne Chen

November 2024 Mayor

Lurie

November 2024 District Attorney

Brooke Jenkins

November 2024 State Assembly, District 19

November 2024 School Board

Supryia Ray ,Jaime Huling, Parag Gupta

November 2024 City College Board

Heather McCarty, Luis Zamora, Ruth Ferguson

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?

Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library. It's a short stroll from where I live. The Art and Science of Connection by Kasley Killam

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

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