



**Potrero Hill Democratic Club Endorsement Questionnaire
2024 Candidate Questionnaire: City College Board of Trustees**

**Please submit the completed questionnaire as a pdf
to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than Thursday, September 12.**

Name: Leanna Louie

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1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

ANSWER: I am running for San Francisco City College Board of Trustees. Currently, CCSF is in danger of losing its accreditation, operating in financial debt, and suffering from low enrollment levels. I want to help change that. I'm excited to bring my experience in finance, organizational leadership skills, and balancing public budgets to fix these issues. Like many city natives, I attended SF public schools & City College. I'm a proud US Army veteran with 11 years service and also worked as an Administrative Analyst for City of Sacramento for 10 years, where I managed the Sacramento Fire Department Emergency Medical Services billing and budget, resulting in a revenue increase from \$9M to \$15M in my first year.

Everything that affects CCSF matters to my family. My father was a Culinary Arts Instructor at City College 2003-2005. My younger son just started his first semester at CCSF. CCSF needs strong leaders who are willing to make difficult decisions to improve the education system. My commitment to you is to always work toward common sense solutions to fix San Francisco's problems.

2. If elected, what are your top 3 goals for CCSF? Specifically, how do you plan to

accomplish these goals?

ANSWER: My first priority is balancing the budget, second is increasing student enrollment, and third is getting full accreditation for City College. My first action as CCSF Trustee is to work with the Board Members to come up with a balanced budget. It has been repeated over and over again by news outlets and endorsement organizations that the previous Board Members interfered with the Chancellor's work which led to the warning from the ACCJC of taking away CCSF's accreditation. I recognize that the Chancellor is like the CEO, and the Board Members are Advisors to the CEO. It is not in the best interest of CCSF as a whole to work against a Chancellor. Our actions as leaders greatly affect the students, teachers, and administrators. Let's all work together to come up with a plan that works for everyone.

As for my second priority of increasing student enrollment, I would like to use multiple methods to achieve this. 1) I would invite a group of famous CCSF alumni to do a marketing campaign via print, via social media, via public signs, and via video ads to encourage high school students to enroll in CCSF. 2) Work with CCSF academic and career counselors to reach out to SFUSD high school academic and career counselors to coordinate class presentations or presentations at school assemblies or school events on a monthly basis. 3) Work with Labor & Teacher Unions to coordinate events to reach out to SFUSD high school students and over age 50+ population to promote programs available to them at CCSF.

My third priority is getting City College full accreditation, which goes hand-in hand with my first and second priorities. I will work with the Chancellor and the rest of the Board Members to achieve a 3-5 year balanced budget with at least 10% reserves each year. When we can work together to make the first two priorities successful, the third falls in place and will be reflected by future ACCJC inspection reports.

3. What allocations in the current budget are higher/lower than needed and why? Please describe your current or previous experience with budgetary oversight.

ANSWER: From what I can see publicly, it is unclear where the current budget needs to be higher or lower. I see a lot of consulting fees and need to know in more detail what those consulting fees are actually for and what outcomes are expected of the Consultants. There are multiple lines of budget where extra funds are added on later after the initial funds allocated. I would like to see the details of why those were added.

My budgetary oversight experience includes 10 years of experience for the City of Sacramento, particularly when I worked for the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Sacramento Fire Department where I was in charge in managing billing, procurement, and expenditures for firefighter/paramedic equipment, medical devices, oxygen tanks, gurneys, uniform, and vehicles to save lives. I was able to manage the budget and never overspent or asked for additional funds from the original proposals.

In addition, I owned and operated a mom-n-pop Organic Mediterranean Cuisine Restaurant in the Mission/Bernal District in San Francisco 2013-2018. I managed hiring, scheduling, discipline, and termination of personnel and business contracts with vendors. I managed daily procurement of fresh produce, daily operations from receiving orders in person and online, daily cleaning procedures, daily end-of-day accounting, reporting monthly sales taxes, filing annual taxes, and annual renewal of licenses associated with the restaurant business.

4. In addition to what you might have cited in your goals, what is CCSF doing well that needs to be supported and maintained? How would you support these strengths as a trustee?

ANSWER: We have serious decisions to make about the dilapidated buildings that belong to CCSF. Will we as a Board decision to demolish those buildings and rebuild new buildings or should we spend money on renovating? We would need to go out to bid to get estimates of all possibilities so that we can make wise choices that will impact CCSF for many years to come.

5. In addition to what you might have cited in your goals, what is CCSF not doing well and how would you bring about improvement or change as a trustee?

ANSWER: Based on ACCJC's last report, there's a lack of cooperation because the Board Members and the Chancellor, this is something that we need to improve upon. We must work well with each other and have mature discussions in order to solve tough problems.

6. CCSF has had 10 chancellors in 12 years and is now searching for an eleventh. What in your view has caused such frequent turnover and what would you do to mitigate it?

ANSWER: This is a very alarming rate of turnover of Chancellors at CCSF.

Most people quit working when the work environment or climate does not align with either their morals or inner peace. As Board Members, we need to stay focused on the needs of the students and teachers, rather than our own ideology. We must ask ourselves on a constant basis, “What can I do to help the student achieve success? What can I do to make the work environment/climate healthy for the instructors at CCSF?”

7. Please share your personal experience with CCSF.

ANSWER: I was a student at CCSF while simultaneously enrolled in my senior year at Mission High School in 1989-1990. My personal experience was very positive, I took an Introduction to College Course, and a Critical Thinking Course. Both courses stimulated my brain and helped me make big decisions about my life.

8. What else would you like Potrero Hill Democratic Club to know about you? Please include any aspects of your background and experience that have not already been touched upon, or endorsements you are proud to share.

ANSWER: I have lived in San Francisco on and off since 1979 and I consider this beautiful City “my home”. CCSF is an important part of our family as we have already 3 generations connected to CCSF, my father who was a Culinary Arts Instructor, I was a student, and my 18-year-old son is also currently a student. I have the endorsement of California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Retired Judge Quentin Kopp, Advocate and African American Leaders Rex Ridgeway, Former SF DCCC President Mary Jung, SF Deputy Sheriffs’ Association President Ken Lomba, Jewish Community Leader Lilly Rapson, Retired CCSF Instructor Marlene Tran, Irish Community Leader Liam Reidy, Attorney and Latinx Community Leader Karina Velasquez, Former President of Fire Fighters Union Shon Buford, Retired SFPD Garret Tom, Public Safety Advocate Frank Noto, Attorney Stephen Gorski, and over 1000+ individuals who signed my petition to be on the ballot.

Thank you for answering our questions, and thank you for running for office! Please submit the completed questionnaire as a pdf to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than Thursday, September 10.