San Francisco Young Democrats | Local Questionnaire - November 2024

(Mayor, Supervisor, District Attorney, City Attorney, Treasurer, Sheriff, SFUSD, CCSF)

Please answer the following in 300 words or less:

1. Please answer these informational questions:
    a. What is your full name? Min Chang
    b. What will be your age on Election Day? 59
    c. What are your pronouns? She/her
    d. Are you a registered Democrat? No
    e. What office are you running for? School Board
    f. Do you have a campaign website? Voteformin.com

2. Why should the San Francisco Young Democrats endorse you for this race?

    Experience matters on the School Board, and I bring 35 years of experience in solving problems collaboratively and getting things done. This is what I do every day as CEO of a SF healthcare company with 500+ employees. Managing $1B budgets is not foreign to me. In fact, I have worked for Fortune 100 companies in six continents (speak English, French, Chinese), headed up regions and businesses, and collaborated with all types of groups to achieve financial and operational results. Having been CEO multiple times gives me the unique ability to turnaround businesses, which is what is needed given the fiscal crisis at SFUSD. I know how to grow revenues along with reducing costs. I believe strongly in education as a mother and product of public schools myself. I hold two bachelor's degrees from Penn, two master's from MIT and Johns Hopkins and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins. The Board needs the experience I bring to grow our schools, not close them, and bring families back to public schools as well as to push for a stronger curriculum by bringing back core subjects: math, science, languages, and the arts. Join me to make good education a right for our children.

3. How do you personally uplift young people through your work?

    I am the CEO of a healthcare company here in SF and we have a headcount of 600+. We are committed to hiring and staffing people of color, marginalized communities and young people starting out in their careers. We work with New Door and First Place for Youth, for example. We currently do not have any interns on the campaign but if we did, we would like to compensate them for their work.
        a. Do you commit to paying the interns on your campaign? Yes

4. Do you accept campaign contributions from the SF Deputy Sheriff's Association, SF Police Officers' Association, or leaders within those unions? If so, who?

   None.

5. What is one example of a piece of legislation that you supported that came from an office you might not typically agree with?

   I consider myself a fiscal conservative so many of the legislation that helps to optimize taxes and costs so that we can be more fiscally responsible to our taxpayers would be things that I would support, including support for homeowners and keeping roads accessible and parking more affordable.

6. If elected, how would you empower and prioritize the needs of young people in your district, and encourage their participation in the political landscape?

   Absolutely, being a mother of two young ladies (23 and 28), I am a huge proponent of getting young people involved in the community by volunteering not just with campaigning but with delivering on the work that needs to be done in our city. Getting young people to work on improving public schools would be amazing. They can bring a fresh perspective to the needs of students and how we can improve SFUSD; many of them are graduates of SFUSD for example. They can help shape the strategy and help with implementation.

   a. Do you commit to meeting periodically with SFYD to check the progress made on your commitments made in this questionnaire? Yes

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Please go into more detail on the following questions (you may go beyond 300 words):

7. Please share your top three priorities affecting San Francisco, why they are important, and how you plan to use your platform to advocate for them if elected. (see below).

***SFUSD BOE & CCSF BOT ONLY*:**

8. What is your vision of how to best support students, educators, and staff?

- **Bring solutions that address the near-term fiscal crisis and longer-term growth.**
  - Closing schools is not the answer; it will only make things worse and drive more families away from public schools. It will also make the existing schools more

crowded and class sizes even larger; the schools that are targeted for closure are the smaller schools and specialty schools that are much needed in our communities. Closing schools also does not solve the budget deficit.
    - We need to address the fiscal crisis in the next few months and will need to make hard decisions in the near-term so that SFUSD survives; costs will need to be addressed, both direct and indirect costs. The administration's costs have grown exponentially while enrolment has declined drastically over the past several years. We need to reduce the administration's costs and manage the district's assets more effectively.
    - In parallel, we will need to invest in the longer-term growth of enrollment, investing in schools, upgrading of our curriculum, raising performance of educators, and working with our communities to implement change.
    - This is solvable and I know how to do this; I do this everyday as CEO. Balancing the budget, managing multi-billion-dollar budgets and organizations of thousands is not foreign to me. I have the necessary skills and experience; I have turned around organizations many times. We need people like me who can do this and do it on Day 1. Experience matters at this time to solve the near-term fiscal crisis.
- **Increase enrollment and bring families back to SF public schools.**
    - Assess the 125+ schools in our district and really understand their needs. In business we always start with the customer in mind and work backwards to develop the right solutions. The SFUSD "customers" are the families, students, teachers, and schools.
    - Develop the improvement areas for each school with the "customers" and then overlay it with the SFUSD administration needs. This needs to be both a bottoms up and top-down assessment so that the best solutions can be developed. We need to do the hard work of understanding our "customers;" everyone is interested in keeping and making SF public schools the best and keeping our schools open.
    - When we invest in our schools, they will be more competitive in the marketplace and families will come back to public schools; we can look at best practices within the U.S. as well as at models in Europe and Asia.
- **Invest in our schools and move resources from the administration to where it is needed – the schools.**
    - There is plenty of money in the budget (over $1.2 billion) and yet the money does not trickle down to the schools.
    - While enrollment has declined sharply, administration costs and budgets have increased.
    - Look for revenue sources and funding at the federal, state, and local levels; exhaust all options on revenue sources inclusive of grants and bonds.
    - Streamline the administration and implement position control as well as indirect spend management.

    - The savings from the above can then be used to invest in our schools.
- **Develop robust curriculum that focuses on the bringing back the basics of education and offering accelerated courses; we need to arm our children to be competitive in the global economy.**
    - Start early with core subjects like math, science, history, and foreign languages in elementary and middle schools; offer accelerated courses and gifted programs; keep the language immersion program.
    - Raise the bar on performance for all schools and ensure that we challenge our students and not hold them back; they can and should accelerate.
    - Ensure that specialty schools that support our communities and our families are resourced.
- **Bring back educators that are good and want to teach; pay them fairly and expect excellence.**
    - Work with the administration and the union to retain and attract good teachers back to the school system; ensure that we expect high performance and strong competencies from our educators.
    - Give educators a career path and leverage them as assets; they have ideas that we should listen to and incorporate.
- **Really engage with parents and community in school improvements; they know the solutions and can help with implementation.**
    - Visit and meet with schools, parents, teachers and especially principals to truly understand their needs and ideas for improvement.
    - Involve them in the assessment of schools, idea generation and implementation; they are our most valued assets, and they can help.

9. Students have advocated for significant investments and improvements to school resources, including, but not limited to mental health services, school safety infrastructure, and academic support. How will you deliver on these priorities?

   With the savings we will create from the above measures, we can invest in better mental health resources, increase school safety, and enhance our curriculum. We should also work closer with the Mayor's office to leverage their assets and resources for safety especially.

10. Do you support school site closures? If so, please explain how you will support affected communities during and after the closures.

    Closing schools is not the answer; it will only make things worse and drive more families away from public schools. It will also make the existing schools more crowded and class sizes even larger; the schools that are targeted for closure are the smaller schools and

specialty schools that are much needed in our communities. Closing schools also does not solve the budget deficit.

11. Disrupted by a pandemic and recalls, SFUSD and CCSF have been in fiscal crisis for years. If elected, how will you ensure SFUSD's/CCSF's financial security for the years to come?

    We need to address the fiscal crisis in the next few months and will need to make hard decisions in the near-term so that SFUSD survives; costs will need to be addressed, both direct and indirect costs. The administration's costs have grown exponentially while enrolment has declined drastically over the past several years. We need to reduce the administration's costs and manage the district's assets more effectively.

    In parallel, we will need to invest in the longer-term growth of enrollment, investing in schools, upgrading of our curriculum, raising performance of educators, and working with our communities to implement change.

    This is solvable and I know how to do this; I do this everyday as CEO. Balancing the budget, managing multi-billion-dollar budgets and organizations of thousands is not foreign to me. I have the necessary skills and experience; I have turned around organizations many times. We need people like me who can do this and do it on Day 1. Experience matters at this time to solve the near-term fiscal crisis.

12. As of today, frictions and disagreements persist between SFUSD's/CCSF's administration and the Board. How will you work to improve collaboration with administration, while also fully holding them accountable for their actions? (see above).

13. (SFUSD only) Lowell High School's merit-based admissions process has been under scrutiny for years, in addition to the lottery system as a whole for SFUSD schools. What is your vision on the best process for students going into high school? Do you believe in lottery, merit, or an alternative?

    I support merit-based admissions as well as accelerated programs and keeping the language immersion programs. The lottery system needs to be revamped so that our kids can attend the schools that are in their communities.

Policy Area-Specific Questions:

In a poll of our members, Housing, Transit, and Homelessness were our top policy priorities.

HOUSING

14. California's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) mandates that San Francisco construct 82,069 new residential units between 2023 and 2031. In 2023, SF approved 1,136 unit permits, falling far short of the 9,118/year needed to meet our housing goals.

    a. What do you perceive to be a bottleneck to the permitting and construction process and what do you propose to accelerate our local permitting process for both affordable and market-rate projects? What are your thoughts on the recent implementation of SB 423 (Wiener, 2023) in San Francisco?

    As part of our work here in the city, our home care staff serve clients in shelters, SROs, and supportive housing units. Therefore, I support housing for Medi-cal recipients and those that are most vulnerable.

    b. Do you support ending the RH-1 zoning designation of single-family homes in favor of establishing sixplex multi-family residential buildings as the city-wide minimum residential density? Do you support the proposed SF Housing Element plan to increase housing density?

    I support measures that help increase housing access for the most vulnerable in the city.

    c. Do you support increasing residential density within ½ mile of major public transit stops or high-quality transit corridors? If so, to what extent?

    I support access to public transportation for our populations that really need it.

15. Do you support converting any of our six public golf courses to be zoned for low-income housing? If so, which golf courses would you convert and how many residential units would you propose building? If not, why? I would need to analyze this.

    I support low-income housing for our most vulnerable populations.

16. Would you modify the existing Rent Ordinance of 1979 which outlines San Francisco's rent control policies? If so, how? If not, why not? *This question can be a yes or no response. If you would like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so.* Yes.

17. Do you support the roadmap outlined in the SF Climate Action Plan (2021) to have the city achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040? If not, why? Yes. Climate

change and environmental measures to help with maintaining (and hopefully decrease) our greenhouse gas emissions are important.

18. The SF Climate Action Plan (2021) states that 35% of San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions come from burning natural gas in building appliances (gas stoves, gas-powered water heaters, and gas-powered centralized heat). *The following questions can be yes or no responses. If you would like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so.*
    a. Do you support decarbonizing / phasing out / banning the use of carbon-emitting appliances from existing buildings? If so, what is your proposed timeline to accomplish this goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2040? Yes.

    b. Do you support adopting a building performance policy requiring large commercial buildings to completely transition to efficient and all electric equipment no later than 2035? Yes.

PUBLIC TRANSIT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

19. What is your primary mode of transportation? Walking.
    a. How often do you take public transit and how often do you ride a bike or other form of micromobility (scooter, skateboard, etc.)? N/A.

    b. If you own a car, how often do you use it? N/A.

    c. What barriers may prevent you from taking public transit or using micromobility more often/at all? N/A.

20. Since the pandemic, both MUNI and BART face structural operational budget deficits due to reduced fare box revenue. Without additional operational funding, BART will be forced to make major service cuts, resulting in significant transit worker layoffs and scenarios including the end of weekend service, termination of an entire BART line, or multiple station closures. MUNI will be forced to gradually end the service equivalent of 15-20 bus lines.
    a. What new funding mechanisms do you propose to alleviate these budget shortfalls in both the short term and the long term? I would have to examine this more closely.

    b. Do you support SB 532 (Wiener, 2023/24), which would temporarily increase Bay Area bridge tolls by $1.50 from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028, in order to prevent major near and medium-term service cuts that agencies around the Bay Area, including but not limited to MUNI and BART, are facing, until

additional long-term, sustainable transit operating revenue sources are identified? No, but I would like to analyze this.

c. Do you support the ComMUNIty Transit Act on the November 2024 ballot? If not, why? Yes, but I would like to analyze this.

d. Did you support Prop L (2022)? If not, why? Yes, but I would like to understand the systemic impacts.

21. Do you support the construction of the Rapid Bus Lanes included in the ongoing Geary Boulevard Improvement Project between Stanyan and 34th Ave? If not, why? Yes.
    a. In the future, would you support the creation of a new Geary and/or 19th Avenue corridor BART or MUNI rail line? Yes, but I would like to analyze this.

22. Do you commit to working alongside the SFMTA to install three additional dedicated bus lanes in your district by the end of your term? If so, for which bus lines? Yes, but I would like to analyze this.

23. Do you commit to working alongside the SFMTA to install three additional protected bike lanes in your district by the end of your term? If so, along which corridors? No, but I would like to analyze this.

24. What was your stance on Prop I in 2022? Do you support the November 2024 ballot measure to transform the Great Highway into a permanent car-free park? I support keeping roads and streets open as much as possible to facilitate traffic and commerce into our city.

25. Do you support expanding the Slow Streets program in your district to include commercial corridors? What streets within your district, whether commercial or residential corridors, would you expand the program to? (see above).

26. SF's BayWheels bike share program has the highest user fees of any bike share program in the United States. Do you support appropriating an additional $5 million dollars from the General Fund General Reserve to the operational budget of the Baywheels bike share program to lower the cost of use for one-time rides and annual memberships? If not, why?
    a. Would you support financing a city owned and operated bike share program (as they have in Montreal) in lieu of a privately owned and privately operated bike share program (as we have in SF today)? I would need to analyze this.

b. Do you support adding additional Baywheels stations in neighborhoods where a network gap currently exists? *This question can be a yes or no response. If you would like to elaborate, we encourage you to do so. I would need to analyze this.*

27. If you were appointed to represent San Francisco on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), would you support an integrated transit fare structure for the Bay Area's 27 different transit agencies as outlined in SB 917 (Becker, 2022)? If so, how? I would support better access to public transportation in the city.
    a. Would you support creating a monthly pass for unlimited 9-county-Bay-Area transit system use, expanding upon the recently instituted Clipper BayPass pilot program? Yes, but would need to analyze this.

28. The SF Climate Action Plan (2021) states that 47% of San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation (2.20 million mtCO2e). Of these total transportation emissions, 72% come exclusively from gasoline-powered privately owned vehicles (1.58 million mtCO2e).
    a. How do you propose building electric vehicle charging infrastructure for individuals who park their EVs on the street? I would need to analyze this.

    b. Do you support a complete electrification of the City-owned vehicles? If so, what is your proposed timeline? If not, why? I would need to analyze this.

    c. Do you support timing stoplights to prioritize bike and pedestrian use rather than car use? I would need to analyze this.

29. Do you support the removal of the remainder of the Central Freeway stub (the portion of US 101 that diverges from the Bayshore Viaduct near 9th/Van Ness and ends at Market and Octavia Streets) and replacement of the structure with a surface boulevard, transit and active transportation improvements, and increased housing? If not, why? Yes, but I would like to analyze this.

30. Are you in favor of expanding the use of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) for ride- hailing services in San Francisco? If so, under what circumstances? If not, why? No. our current options are sufficient for the city.

HOMELESSNESS

31. Do you believe we need to put additional funding into temporary shelters or permanent supportive housing? Yes.

32. How should the City streamline the construction of new Navigation Centers? I support analyzing this and clearly understanding the ROI.
    a. Do you commit to building a new Navigation Center within your district by the end of your first term? If so, where? I would need to analyze this.

33. Would you support a bill similar to SB 57 (Wiener, 2022) which would authorize the City and County of San Francisco, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Oakland to approve entities to operate overdose prevention programs? If not, why? No, I would like to better understand the outcomes of such a measure and look at the ROI.

34. Did you support Proposition C in 2018? Would you make any amendments to the allocations within the proposition as it was written? Yes, but I will need to analyze this.

35. Do you support SB 43 (Eggman, 2023), which expands state conservatorship laws by lowering the legal standard for the City or the State to implement a conservatorship on an individual experiencing homelessness, by expanding the definition of "gravely disabled"? Yes.

36. Recently, the US Supreme Court decided in *Grants Pass v. Johnson (2024)* that people experiencing homelessness can be criminalized if sleeping outside, even if there are no shelter or housing alternatives available. Should SFPD be able to clear encampments of people experiencing homelessness? If so, under what circumstances? Yes, but we should look at each situation and determine the best action.

37. Do you support reforming or repealing the Ellis Act (1985) and the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act (1995)? If so, how would you modify these laws? I would like to better understand the implications of this.

38. San Francisco's COVID-19 residential eviction moratorium for non-payment of rent ended on August 29, 2023. Do you support the end of this moratorium? If not, why? I would like to analyze this.
    a. Should any additional services be provided for affected individuals who are evicted because of the end of the moratorium? Yes, but I would like to analyze this.

EXISTENTIAL

39. If you were to modify the existing SF City Charter (effective as of July 1996 and written by Supervisor Barbara Koffman's committee which re-established district-based

Supervisorial elections) in any way, how would you do so? *SFYD does not have any specific policy proposals we advocate for on this topic, but we are curious how you perceive the efficacy of our local systems and their strengths and shortcomings.*

a. Do you believe the Board of Supervisors would benefit from more or fewer districts? The current system works.

b. Do you believe the Board of Supervisors would benefit from any at-large Supervisorial districts? If so, why? I think the BOS should be district specific.

c. Would you further empower the Executive Branch (Mayor) or further empower the Legislative Branch (Board of Supervisors)? Neither our balance of power should be maintained between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

d. There will be two competing measures to enact citywide commission reform in November. The first is to drastically cut city commissions and is proposed by TogetherSF Action, and the second is to create a task force and public process to increase efficiency and reduce the number of commissions by Supervisor Peskin. Which of these do you support? Why or why not? I support analyzing and understanding the objectives and outcomes of each commission and then determining if commissions can be reduced and/or consolidated.

e. Do you think our existing system for ballot initiatives (also known as "Props") works well or would you choose to reform it? If so, how? No. the props are singular and do not account for the systemic impacts of each measure. I would like to see the process to account for all impacts detailed for each measure.

f. Do you think the Boards of SFUSD and CCSF should remain elected offices? If not, why? Yes. It is important for the SFUSD board to be elected by the people.

g. Do you think the maximum campaign donation should be lowered or raised from $500? If so, to what amount? I think $500 is appropriate.

h. Do you support lowering the minimum voting age to 16 for municipal elections? If not, why? No. I think 18 should be the minimum voting age.
