



Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
Trustee, San Francisco Community College Board
General Election, November 6, 2012

*Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than **Tuesday, September 4**, to confirm your speaking slot at the September 11 endorsement meeting.*

Candidate name: Chris Jackson
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Please write a brief response (≤150 words) to each question, unless otherwise specified. We will make these questionnaires available to the public before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running for office?

I'm running for re-election to ensure that even with our fiscal and accreditation issues that City College will continue to be an institution that connects with all communities though out San Francisco. I want City College to be a resource for students graduating from SFUSD and for workers who are looking for additional skills to become more competitive in the job market.

I am most proud of our Bridge to Success initiative. Through this partnership with SFUSD, City College and the City we have been able to guarantee priority

registration for all SFUSD graduates (60%), concurrent enrollment agreements and our Gateway to College Program which has helped over 300 former high school dropout get the high school diploma and there AA degree.

2. What are your qualifications for this position? If you are an incumbent, describe your major accomplishments while in office.

As I mentioned earlier, I have been successful in helping the implementation of our Bridge to Success Initiative. In addition to our Gateway to College Program, through our policy work, we offer every graduate of SFUSD first priority registration and have FRISCO Day which helps over 1,500 students to early apply for financial aid, classes and see our academic counselors.

I ran 4 years ago because I felt that City College needed to do more to connect with underserved communities in the City. Through my work, we've grown the Mission Campus so that it is now the second largest campus in the district. The Southeast campus has grown from a campus of 135 students to a campus with 1,100 students.

3. The Accrediting Commission has detailed the following concerns for San Francisco City College: deficit spending; too much of budget going to salaries and benefits; too few administrators for size of school; failure to conduct financial audits. If elected, what solutions to these problems would you as Trustee pursue? (Please answer in ≤300 words)

6 years ago in 2006, the accreditation team put forth 8 findings that the college needed to address. Those findings were not addressed, and this year, we have been given 4 additional fiscally related findings.

I agree that we must make the tough decisions to keep our accreditation, but these tough decisions should not disproportionately impact low-income students.

Over the last 4 years, City College has been cut by over \$53 million. This is at a time that more and more people are attending classes due to the economic recession. Our challenge is to continue to keep City College as a high quality, affordable educational option for all communities in San Francisco.

In terms of funding, I believe that the business community should step up a work with City College to fund our Career and Technical education classes. City College educations much of San Francisco's workforce.

We currently have 14 work groups that are crafting City College's response to the Accreditation Commission. As the Board, we must continue to break from the past and provide real oversight for this accreditation process.

4. Do you support or oppose the following Propositions on the November ballot? Please give your reason (≤50 words) for each position.

Proposition 30 support ___oppose

Reason: If Prop 30 doesn't pass, City College will loss an addition \$13-14 million next year. This will cause grave harm to City College and the State-wide Community College system.

Proposition 31 support ___oppose

Reason: I believe a 2 year budget cycle can work along as there is space to make mid-term adjustments based on revenue.

Proposition 32 support oppose

Reason: This proposition is very deceiving and on the face of it, the proposition pretends to limit money from corporation and unions, but one you read further, the measure only restricts unions from spending on political issues. I believe that money and a lack of transparency is a huge problem in politics, but restricting one side and empowering another side does not fix our system, it just makes it more imbalanced.

Thank you for your time, and your commitment to education. We look forward to seeing you on September 11th.