



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: Rafael Mandelman
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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?

City College, one of San Francisco's true civic treasures, serving approximately 100,000 students each year and providing pathways to opportunity for people of all ages, is in crisis. After five years of devastating budget cuts from the State of California, City College now faces the threats of de-accreditation and closure. I believe that I bring the right combination of political experience, demonstrated commitment to San Francisco and the mission of City College, and ability to work collaboratively with the various College constituencies that may differ on many things but agree on the importance of the College and the necessity of saving and strengthening it.

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

For more than ten years I have worked as a lawyer representing local governments and affordable housing developers. In my free time I have participated extensively in San Francisco civic and political life. I have been active in local politics, as president of the Harvey Milk, Noe Valley and District 8 Democratic Clubs and as a member of the Democratic County Central Committee. I have served on San Francisco's Board of Appeals and Building Inspection Commission, and I have served on the boards of community organizations like Livable City (the sponsors of Sunday Streets), the Jewish Community Relations Council and the LGBT Community Center, as well as the Public Policy Advisory Committee for Jewish Vocational Services.

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)

Although not all of City College's problems can be attributed to the recent economic crisis and the diminution in State funding for education, I believe much of the current crisis at the College is a function of the institution simply not being given the resources to do the job we want it to do. Indeed, each of the concerns identified above can arguably be attributed at least in part to the dramatic reductions in State funding over the last few years.

The College needs reform, and WASC will require that the College pursue far-reaching reform as it addresses the issues identified in the Accreditation Report. However, I also believe the broader San Francisco community needs to step up where the State has failed. We must pass a parcel tax to support the College, the City should look for ways to support the College as it does K-12 education under Prop H, and everyone who has benefitted from the College or who values its work should be tapped to contribute to its survival. I will be an advocate for the College in the larger community to try to identify and secure the additional resources the College needs.

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

Proposition 30 X support ___ oppose

Reason: California's public educational institutions, including its community colleges, have suffered through five years of devastating budget cuts. Proposition 30 will generate \$6-9 billion annually, which will begin to restore some of the funding that has been cut from our schools.

Proposition 31 ___ support X oppose

Reason: The last thing Sacramento needs is additional voter-imposed budget requirements and constraints.

Proposition 32 ___support Xoppose

Reason: Proposition 32 is misleading, purporting to treat labor unions and corporations similarly when in fact it would cripple the ability of unions to participate in the political process while leaving corporations unimpacted.

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