



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: <i>Steve Ngo</i>
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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?

As the son of a family transformed by education, a reformer and a Board Member, my work has been guided by a core belief that everyone deserves a fair chance to a quality education, and that our City and economy's potential can only be as strong as our schools and colleges.

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

My commitment to the education and civil rights is rooted from my family's refugee experience. Their struggle for a better life has motivated me to continually fight to ensure the American Dream remains vibrant and within reach for all of our citizens. I have

focused on improving college completion opportunities for all students, improving programs for English Language Learners, pressing for greater efficiencies in the financial aid office, expanding district-wide work study programs, and created a revolving fund for veterans, which provides temporary aid for housing, books, and fees.

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)

The sole mission of any trustee will be to ensure that the college remains accredited. In seeking to remain accredited, the Accrediting Commission has outlined a clear path to fixing long-standing problems that should have been addressed since the 1990s. From the moment I took office just over three years ago, I fought for basic fiscal safeguards, systemic reform, and the exact changes we are now called upon to make – improving operations, ensuring greater accountability and smarter spending.

Specifically, the major challenges are (1) addressing entrenched internal governance structures (2) administrative restructuring and (3) spending our money better – whether it be addressing our \$180 million plus retiree health obligation, use of reassign or other non-instructional time, or smarter enrollment management, for example.

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: Prop 30 would allocate temporary tax revenues 89 percent to K-12 schools and 11 percent to community colleges

Proposition 31 support oppose

Reason: Prop 31 would establish two-year state budget cycle and prohibits Legislature from creating expenditures of more than \$25M unless offsetting revenues or spending cuts are identified.

Proposition 32 support oppose

Reason: Prop 32 would restrict union political fundraising by prohibiting use of payroll-deducted funds for political purposes.

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