



**Candidate questionnaire for
San Francisco City College Board of Trustees
General Election, November 4, 2014**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Saturday, August 30**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the September 9th forum. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Wendy Aragon
Contact person: Wendy Aragon
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Phone number: (415)350-4765
Web site:

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

I have broad leadership experience working with the diverse communities of San Francisco, elected officials, community leaders and city agencies. I currently serve as President of the Richmond District Democratic Club, Chair of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Citizens Advisory Committee and on the local board for Girl Scouts of Northern California. I have been in public service in the Bay Area for over 20 years and have been put in this position of leadership because of my ability to help move processes forward. In my profession as a Construction Consultant working with Department of Building Inspection and a number of other stakeholders, I help parties form consensus on a daily basis.

I decided to run for a seat on the Board of Trustees after registering for classes last fall, during the apex of the current enrollment crisis. I wanted to earn a certificate in Geographic Information Systems to supplement my career in the construction industry. I already believed that City College was a vital of the fabric of San Francisco, but I was deeply affected by being able walk in the shoes of the 80,000 other students who rely on the quality of education that City College provides them in order to create a brighter future for themselves. These students, of all ages, skill sets, and backgrounds reminded me of what I had once gone through, and I realized that I

could play a role in making sure that future generations would have City College to open those doors for them.

2. What are the top three issues facing CCSF, and what will you do about those issues?

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Voters have time and time again put funds toward supporting City College. I want to ensure that voter approved bonds are used as intended for technology, campus and classroom maintenance, hiring adequate levels of faculty and classified staff and student support services. The Prop A parcel tax dollars passed in 2012 were meant to go towards these issues. Instead, the Special Trustee used that money to give administrators a 20% raise. That's not the way money should be spent.
- **Restore Accreditation, Morale and Integrity:** CCSF has served hundreds of thousands of students for almost 80 years without sanction and with excellent academic quality. The institution touches 1 in 3 San Franciscans, accreditation has to be restored and protect students from being displaced by closure. But we must also work to overcome the divisiveness that has kept the college split into factions that refuse to come together.
- **Clear Pathways to Jobs:** I want to strengthen our capacity to sustain employment partners. This includes our nursing, fire science, culinary, fashion, construction management and trades programs. I also want to develop and strengthen new employment pathways such as taxi driver training and Tech SF. Business has to be a good neighbor, I want to help cultivate a win win for the business community and for students. We need to make sure that our community campuses are not only able to stay open, but are also reevaluated for how we can best keep classrooms filled, such as designating them as areas of study, for an example, a vocational campus, a professional development campus, and so on.

3. How do you envision your role as Trustee if the board you serve on doesn't meet?

I understand the issues that City College students, faculty and staff are I am running for this seat because I actually want to be of service to the entire college community. I have seen that too many times individuals seeking a higher political office will use the City College Board of Trustees as a springboard. During this time of crisis City College needs board members that understand the issues and are willing to be focused and advocate for what is right for the college. This means using the Proposition A funds as intended, restoring enrollment and accreditation and making sure that workers and students are being treated fairly.

4. Why did you choose to run for a 4-year term and not a 2-year term?

There is a lot of work to be done on the college board, and even though there is a path to restore the board that needs to put into by November, I do not feel that I would be able to make as great of an impact in two year term as I would in the four year term.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. We look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on September 9th.

Please see my list of endorsements:

Elected & Appointed Officials

Supervisor Eric Mar

Supervisor David Campos

Supervisor John Avalos

Art Agnos, Former Mayor

Jack McGoldrick, Former Supervisor

Aaron Peskin, Former President of the Board of Supervisors and Democratic County Central Committee Chair

Jane Morrison, Former Democratic County Central Committee Chair

Matt Dorsey, Democratic County Central Committee Member

Kelly Dwyer, Democratic County Central Committee Member

Hene Kelly, Democratic County Central Committee Member

Petra DeJesus, Democratic County Central Committee Member and San Francisco Police Commissioner*

Kim-Shree Maufas, San Francisco School Board Commissioner*

Cynthia Crews, Local Agency Formation Commissioner*

Edwin Lindo, Local Agency Formation Commissioner*

Gladys Soto, Democratic Party Delegate- Assembly District 17*

Glendon Anna Conda-Hyde, San Francisco Entertainment Commissioner*

Rafael Mandelman, City College Trustee*

Shanell Williams, City College Student Trustee*

Community Leaders

Andy Blue, Mission District Neighborhood Activist

Beth Byrne, Livable City*

Lt. Dan Choi, LGBT Activist

Todd David, Parent PAC*

Jonathan Foerster, Richmond District Democratic Club Vice President

Dr. Espanola Jackson, Bayview-Hunters Point Community Leader & Activist

Tony Kelly, Potrero Hill Community Leader

Dr. Justin V. Morgan, Community Health Advocate

Sara Shortt, Executive Director - Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco*

Tom Temprano, Small Business Owner - Virgil's Sea Room

Jamie Rafaela Wolfe, Co-Chair, San Francisco Trans March*

Organized Labor

American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Local 2121 (City College of San Francisco Faculty)

San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council

San Francisco Labor Council

Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1021 (City College of San Francisco Chapter, Classified Staff)

Community Organizations

San Francisco Tenants Union

Political Organizations

Central City Democrats

District 5 Democratic Club

District 8 Democrats

District 11 Democratic Club (*PAC Recommendation Only*)

FDR Democratic Club of San Francisco

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

New Avenues Democratic Club (*Early Endorsement*)

Noe Valley Democratic Club (*PAC Recommendation Only*)

Richmond District Democratic Club

San Francisco Green Party

San Francisco Latino Democratic Club

San Francisco Women's Political Committee

**Title or organization for identification purposes only*