

Santa Monica Democratic Club

2020 College Board Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in the Santa Monica Democratic Club endorsement. Candidates seeking the endorsement of our Club must complete and return the following questionnaire. Note that only registered Democrats are eligible for our consideration. Please send the completed questionnaire to smdemocrats@gmail.com by August 16, 2020. Interview appointment times will be scheduled for August 23 on a first come first served basis as the questionnaires are returned. Submitting this questionnaire constitutes acknowledgment that its contents are now part of the public record and may be reproduced and distributed by the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

General Information

Candidate Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Candidate's Current Occupation:

Candidate's Employer:

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate):

What qualifications do you bring to this office?

Why are you running?

What are the top issues of your campaign? How do you plan to address those issues once elected?

Please list your top individual and/or organizational endorsements.

How long have you lived in Santa Monica? Where else have you lived?

Party / Activism

How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you ever been registered as a member of another political party? If so, which party and why?

What is your experience with political activism? Have you ever volunteered or worked for a political campaign other than your own, and if so, in what capacity were you involved?

Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past? Please list as many as possible.

Please list any organizations with which you are a member, including any leadership position you have held in each organization.

Please confirm that you have read the latest version of the California Democratic Party Platform, as found here: <https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Final-CDP-Platform-2020-2.pdf>

List any items in the CDP Platform with which you disagree. (This is in no way a litmus test for our endorsement; however, because the party delegates have worked so hard on every word of this platform document, we believe it will be a helpful guide to comprehend the policy differences between each candidate.)

Campaign Finance

Please indicate Yes or No to the following statements:

1. I pledge not to take contributions from oil, gas, and coal industry executives, lobbyists, and PACs.
2. I pledge not to take contributions from police or law enforcement unions, lobbyists, and PACs.
3. I pledge not to take contributions from development firms, lobbyists, and PACs.

If you answered No to any of the above contribution questions, please explain here:

City Governance

Do you believe Santa Monica's current Council-Manager system of government is working well, or would you push for changes to the City Charter? If so, what changes would make the city government more democratic?

Do you believe we should keep the current system of seven at-large council districts? What other type of representation would you be interested in exploring?

What is your assessment of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If there was room for improvement, what should have been handled differently?

Do you support the mandatory mask requirement, enforced by fine? Does the current requirement go too far, or not far enough?

SMC

What new or innovative solutions do you propose for generating revenue for SMC to make up for decreased enrollment due to the pandemic?

Why does SMC have a higher ratio of faculty administrators to faculty than other colleges?

How should SMC navigate the balance of tenured vs. adjunct professors?

Should SMC expand its vocational and trade skills programs, and in which fields should it consider expanding into?

In what ways can SMC better collaborate directly with SMMUSD?

Distance Learning

Do you believe that SMC should go to all virtual education for the 2020-2021 school year, or should there be some effort made to resume in-person classes? If we go to all virtual instruction, what new challenges does this present, and what solutions do you suggest?

How can equity and quality of education be maintained for all students during distance learning?

How will you assess the process of safely re-opening the campus once the district is approved?

Social Justice

What is your assessment of the City and SMPD's response to the events that occurred on May 31, 2020? If there was room for improvement, what should have been handled differently?

In what ways can SMC ensure that, in a real, practical sense, Black Lives Matter in our community?

In what ways can SMC best protect the undocumented residents of Santa Monica?

How would you use your position on the College Board to assist BIPOC and other disadvantaged residents of Santa Monica?

What should SMC do to address its homeless student population?

Ballot Measures

Do you support California Proposition 15?

Do you support California Proposition 16?

Do you support California Proposition 21?

Do you support the Reimagine LA County ballot measure?

Do you support the Santa Monica transfer tax ballot measure?

Federal Legislation

What is your position on the proposed HEALS Act in regard to school funding?

Do you support the federal Green New Deal legislation (H.Res 109)?

What steps must Santa Monica take to enact a Green New Deal in our own city, if any?

What are the most significant environmental justice issues in Santa Monica, and what role does the College Board have in addressing them?

Do you support the federal Medicare For All legislation (HR 1384)?

Whether you support that bill or not, how can we ensure universal, single payer health care coverage for all Santa Monicans?

What role do you believe the Santa Monica Democratic Club should have in our City?