

Santa Monica Democratic Club  
2022 College Board Candidate Questionnaire

From: Barry A. Snell- Vice Chair SMC Trustees

**General Information:**

- 1) Candidate Name: **Barry A. Snell**
- 2) Email Address: [Snell4smctrustee@gmail.com](mailto:Snell4smctrustee@gmail.com)
- 3) Phone Number: **(310) 410-0119**
- 4) Candidate's Current Occupation: **Certified Public Accountant**
- 5) Candidate's Employer: **The Accounting Offices of Barry A. Snell CPAs**

A) What qualifications do you bring to this office?

**I have worked on public school finance initiatives for the past 16 years. My experience working with our local and state legislators has allowed SMC to stabilize our finances by the implementation of a permanent hold harmless provision of the SCFF. I am a good listener who cares about the resident and students in Santa Monica.**

B) Why are you running?

**The pandemic which required the College to transition to 88% on-line learning widen the educational attainment gap for minorities. That gap is even greater when looking at men who have been historically underrepresented and underserved in postsecondary education. I'm running and running hard to reverse this trend. I believe it's important not only for students to have access to an affordable education but that the instruction in the classroom must come from a place that is culturally responsive. The community college system is the best place to begin to change policies and instruction on this important issue.**

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

- 1) **To increase enrollments back to levels prior to fiscal year 2015-2016.**

**The College has started a new marketing initiative through the use of google search. Through the use of social media, the College has engaged a diverse group of Influencers that can target a particular segment of its current student population.**

- 2) To increase persistence, retention and completion among racially minoritized students.

The affects of the pandemic on SMC students, particularly our racially minoritized students has been highly destructive to their educational progress. We must quickly work to meet their needs while understanding this new modality of teaching. The College has implemented an online communications tool (Call STARFISH) that supports student success by building a community and facilitating connections between students, faculty, and campus services. This tool along with projects like the Vision for Success Trustee Fellowship that the SMC Board and College President have been involved with this past year. The project's goal of equitable course outcomes for Black/African American and Latinx students enrolled in Math 54 + Math54, showed that the success rate for Black/ African American students widen, compared to White students. This decline is troublesome and understanding why and what support services are required to reverse this outcome will be issues that I will be working on.

- D) List of endorsements:

Senator Ben Allen, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, State Board of Equalization Member Tony Vasquez, SM Mayor Sue Himmerich Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, Kristin McCowan, SM Council Member Gleem Davis, SMMUD Board President Maria Vasquez, Louise Jaffee, SMC Trustee Chair, Susan Aminoff, SMC Trustee, Rob Rader, SMC Trustee, Rick Zbur, candidate for the CA 51<sup>st</sup> State Assembly

- E) How long have you lived in Santa Monica?

I have lived in Santa Monica 20 Years. I lived in Atlanta GA. for College and grew up in East Orange NJ.

- F) Will you pledge to serve on the SMC Board for your entire four years term?

No I wont pledge, however it is my intention to serve my entire term on the SMC Board

- G) How long have you been a registered Democrat? Have you been registered as a member of another political party?

I have been a registered as a Democrat since I was 18 years old. I have never been registered anything else but a Democrat.

- H) 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?

I have worked on many local and national campaigns. I have knock on doors for President Clinton and President Obama. I have made phone calls for Tony Vasquez for Santa Monica City Counsel and State Board of Equalization. I am an elected delegate for the AD 50<sup>th</sup> ADEM and have worked on educational issues for the state CDP platform.

I) Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past?

Please list as many as possible.

**Julia Brownlee**  
**Ted Lui**  
**Ben Allen**  
**Richard Bloom**  
**Sheila Kuehl**  
**Tony Vasquez**  
**Maria Vasquez**  
**Rick Zbur**  
**Sue Himmerich**  
**Kristin McCowan**  
**Gleem Davis**  
**Louise Jaffee**  
**Susan Aminoff**  
**Rob Rader**  
**Margaret Quinones-Perez**

J) Have you ever signed for or publicly supported efforts to recall a public official from office? If so, please list the name(s) of the officials and why you felt they should be recalled. **NO**

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

- 1) **California Community College – State Trustee Member**
- 2) **CA 50 AD – Delegate**
- 3) **Santa Monica College - Trustee, Vice Chair**
- 4) **Downtown Santa Monica Board Member, Treasure and Past Chairman**
- 5) **Century Community Charter Middle School- Board Member**
- 6) **Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (County Committee Member)**
- 7) **SM Ed. Foundation, finance and audit committee member**

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.)

**I have read the CDP Platform and support the positions stated. I don't have any platform items that I disagree with.**

## 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:

**YES I pledge not to take contributions from the above organizations.**

## SMC

What kind of approach should SMC be taking in regard to COVID safety at this point in the pandemic?

**The College's focused on keeping the college community safe, with the hope of also contributing to safety in the communities where students and colleagues live has been the right approach. We are slowly moving back to on-ground operations with 51% of our class offerings. The College has just suspended the booster requirement for those enrolled in on-ground classes.**

What are your top priorities for SMC which you plan to address in this four-year term?

- 1) **Increasing enrollment and our dual enrollment partnership agreements with our feeder high schools**
- 2) **Reducing racial equity gaps in course success for the College's Gateway Courses**
- 3) **Increase training and recruitment of professional staff with a clear understanding of meeting the teaching goals of a diverse student population.**
- 4) **Development of student housing and upgrading our classrooms for hybrid instruction.**

What can SMC do to reduce the achievement gap and increase completion rates?

**SMC must continue to find ways to provide students safe nets while maintaining a vigorous academic standard. That's not easy. That is wide constant training for faculty and staff along with new technology.**

What are the most important technological investments that SMC must make in order to keep up with hybrid instruction, if any?

**SMC has invested approximately \$93,000 in an early alert system, call Starfish. The goal with this technology is to increase persistence, retention and completion among racially minoritized students. The technology provides a platform for increased collaboration across campus to improve overall student success**

What should SMC do to address its unhoused student population? Do you support SMC building affordable housing for unhoused students or students at risk of becoming unhoused?

**SMC is putting a bond on this November election to address our unhoused student population. I am a strong supporter of affordable housing for unhoused students or students at risk of becoming unhoused. I also support priority housing for Santa Monica and Malibu students that meet the same criterion. I would also like to begin a discussion on housing for our faculty.**

In what ways can SMC better collaborate directly with SMMUSD?

**I believe that SMC and SMMUSD collaborate quite well. We support each other and our concurrent enrollment program during the pandemic has been strong. Just recently SMC and SMMUSD collaborated on The Pico Classroom Complex. SMC will house Olympic High School and Project Learning Program on SMC's main campus for two years.**

What are some other opportunities for SMC community partnerships that could be expanded upon?

**SMC continues to expand its work force development programs, which has allowed our students that want to take a path of going into the work force right out of college. SMC should look at opportunities to expand our relationship with businesses in our community for part-time work and job training opportunities.**

## **Social Justice**

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

**SMC must continue to promote, support and challenge our college community to understand that uplifting Black Lives uplifts all lives. We all must practice a believe that a marginalized population in our society affects all of us negatively.**

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

**Supporting our undocumented student residents by providing food during the pandemic and legal information on support services available. Finding financial aid for undocumented student residents is always a challenge. We must find grants and angel funding that can assist in providing basic needs.**

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

**I can use my position on the College Board to educate the community and our State of the challenges and disadvantages for our Black, Indigenous and People Of Color. I will focus on**

**learning more about the issues and look to the College community to put on discussions that pertain to this resident population.**

How do you plan to (in the moment) counteract any and all observed possible acts of microaggressions towards Women, African Americans, Hispanics, LGBTQ and others of marginalized communities from your fellow Board members or members of the public? What is your experience in dealing with these situations?

**I will publicly speak out against any acts of microaggressions from my fellow Board members or members of the community. Yes, I have recently dealt with acts of microaggressions from some of our property owners on the Promenade that want to bring in the LA County Sheriffs to our downtown to move the unhoused residents. While I was chair of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. I had an email from one business that had racial remarks about blacks. I did not let that scare me from pushing against bring any kind of armed security other than our police department to our downtown.**

## **Ballot Measures**

Do you support California Proposition 1? **YES**

Do you support the citizens' initiative ballot measure which would tax real estate transactions over \$8M and provide revenue for affordable housing, rent subsidy, and SMMUSD? Why/why not?

**Yes! The measure provides the needed funding for affordable housing and our public schools in Santa Monica. I also like the fact that the citizens oversight of the funds will be made up of a wide diverse group of residents in Santa Monica**

Do you support the competing council-approved ballot measure which would tax real estate transactions over \$8M and provide revenue into the general fund? Why/why not?

**No! It does not generate the needed revenue to support the communities housing needs. Also leaving the responsibility of allocating funds to only our city council I have some concerns with.**

Do you support the rent control ballot measure which would permanently lower the rent control General Adjustment cap from 6% down to 3%? **YES**

Do you support the SMC bond measure? **YES**

Do you support the 1% transient occupancy tax ballot measure? **YES**

Do you support the cannabis business tax ballot measure? **YES**

## **Additional Questions**

What role do you believe the Santa Monica Democratic Club should have in our City? If elected, how would you attempt to interact with the Santa Monica Democratic Club and other political organizations to ensure community buy-in on new proposals

**The Santa Monica Democratic Club should continue to advocate for those individuals and residents that have limited ability to advocate for themselves. The Club must push their public leaders to be vocal in demanding that we be a community that is Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive. I will continue to do my part as an educational leader to promote values and policies that help those residents that are marginalized and less fortunate than myself.**