

General Information

Candidate Name: Sion Roy

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Candidate's Current Occupation: Physician, Santa Monica College Trustee

Candidate's Employer: LA County (Harbor UCLA Hospital)

Campaign Contact Person (if other than candidate): Myself

What qualifications do you bring to this office? I am a current Santa Monica College trustee. Additionally, I have a long history of leadership in the community as a previous co-President of the Santa Monica Democratic Club as well as previous Chair of the SMMUSD Health and Safety District Advisory Committee.

Why are you running? I am running to continue to help SMC's students, faculty, and staff emerge from the pandemic and safely get back on campus. Additionally, I am looking to continue to help SMC develop healthcare related curriculum to benefit both our students, as well as the community to help fill healthcare job shortages, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. I want to continue to help SMC make progress on improving on measures of student equity, as well as continue to help our community members in Santa Monica and Malibu with our various programs, particularly in affiliation with SMMUSD. I also hope that our college takes steps to build housing on campus to help address the needs of our students, faculty, and staff facing housing insecurity. Finally, as our campus in Malibu opens, I hope to help our college make that a vibrant place of learning that benefits our students as well as the surrounding community.

What are the top issues of your campaign? I will continue to focus on and prioritize the issues mentioned in the question above.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished throughout all of the challenges of the past 4 years. As a physician at Harbor UCLA and past President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, healthcare related issues have always been a top priority for me in my career, and this is where I was able to make the biggest impact at SMC over the past 4 years.

When I was first elected four years ago, the college started an Allied Health Taskforce, which I was a part of. This group of advocates from SMC and throughout the region explored ways for SMC to offer more healthcare related curriculum to help prepare for regional employment needs. Spurred by the work of this taskforce, SMC is developing a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) program to complement our other health programs like nursing and respiratory therapy. Our CNA program will not only benefit our students, but help LA County fill critical healthcare employment needs.

Additionally, in the past 4 years, in conjunction with LA County Medical Association and SMC's Black Collegians and Adelante counseling programs, the college has developed an annual lecture series bringing physicians and other healthcare workers of color to speak to our students of color about their experience growing up and getting into healthcare fields. This series

has been immensely rewarding for the mentors who have come to lecture, as well as the mentees who came to see healthcare workers who grew up with similar backgrounds.

Finally, our SMC community has weathered the pandemic with many challenges over the past 3 years. I'm most proud that we have put the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff first while maintaining our programs so that students can continue to learn and achieve their goals.

I hope to continue to make an impact in all the areas discussed above.

How do you plan to address those issues once elected? I will continue to help build coalitions within the college, local community, and region on healthcare related issues aided by my professional network.

Please list all of your individual and/or organizational endorsements. My endorsement list includes Congressman Ted Lieu, State Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern, as well as State Assemblyperson Richard Bloom and the current Democratic nominee for State Assembly Rick Zbur. I am also supported by the entire Santa Monica College Board of Trustees, and Santa Monica mayor Sue Himmelrich among many other local endorsements.

How long have you lived in Santa Monica? My family and I currently live in Malibu for 1 year, and we lived in Santa Monica for the previous 11 years.

Where else have you lived, and why did you live there? Prior to living in this area, I grew up in Arizona where my family still lives. I completed my college and medical education, as well as my internal medicine residency on the east coast in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC before moving here to complete my fellowship in Cardiology at Harbor UCLA (where I continue to work).

Will you pledge to serve on the SMC board for your entire four year term? I intend to serve my entire 4 year term on the SMC board.

Party / Activism

How long have you been a registered Democrat? I've been a registered Democrat since I first registered to vote as a teenager.

Have you ever been registered as a member of another political party, or as Decline To State? If so, which party and why? No

What is your experience with political activism? I have been a longtime Democratic Party leader and activist. Most significantly, I am past co-President of the Santa Monica Democratic Club and has served as a delegate to the California Democratic Party for almost a decade. I also served on California Democratic Party finance committee for 4 years.

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 long supported progressive candidates throughout Southern California in all aspects of their campaigns.

Which political candidates have you endorsed or supported publicly in the past? Please list as many as possible. My political endorsements have almost always been lock step with the endorsements and values on the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

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

Please list any organizations with which you are a member, including any leadership position you have held in each organization. Santa Monica Democratic Club (past co-President), SMRR, Stonewall Democratic Club, delegate to the LA Labor Fed on behalf of my union (Union of American Physicians and Dentists- UAPD). Past President of the LA County Medical Association. Boardmember, California Medical Association. Chair, California Medical Association PAC (CALPAC).

Please confirm that you have read the latest version of the California Democratic Party Platform, as found here: <https://cadem.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CDP-Platform-2022-FINAL-1-1.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.)

CONFIRMED

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.**
Yes
- 2. I pledge not to take contributions from police or law enforcement unions, lobbyists, and PACs.** Yes
- 3. I pledge not to take contributions from development firms, lobbyists, and PACs.** Yes

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

SMC

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

I'm proud that SMC's approach to the pandemic has always place the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff as the number one priority. The pandemic has impacted access to education in many ways. Just like we did during the past 2.5 years with escalating precautions to reflect the data showing the threat of COVID19, we are now objectively reacting to the data and taking action to scale back those precautions as we transition back to traditional in person classes that the majority of our community want to get back to. As we emerge from the pandemic, I hope that the college continues to 1. Prioritize the health and safety of our college community and 2. Objectively react to the data to optimize access to education going forward.

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

I discussed this at length above.

What can SMC do to reduce the achievement gap and increase completion rates? Since I've been on the board, one of the things I've focused on is improving the way we gather and analyze data as we focus on closing the achievement gap. We've made big strides in the past couple of years of the usefulness of the data we accumulate.

Moving forward, we must continue to increase engagement with our students of color to help them acquire the skills and achievements to achieve their dreams.

This goal is the reason that in the past 4 years, in conjunction with LA County Medical Association and SMC's Black Collegians and Adelante counseling programs, the college has developed an annual lecture series bringing physicians and other healthcare workers of color to speak to our students of color about their experience growing up and getting into healthcare fields. This series has been immensely rewarding for the mentors who have come to lecture, as well as the mentees who came to see healthcare workers who grew up with similar backgrounds. Being part of this program has been my proudest achievement during my time on the SMC Board.

What are the most important technological investments that SMC must make in order to keep up with hybrid instruction, if any? The biggest controversy during the pandemic has been the use of the testing supervision software Proctorio, and its different detection algorithms to detect possible cheating. Continually assessing and reassessing use of products like Proctorio for testing purposes to make sure that hybrid testing conditions are as fair as possible for as many students as possible is the biggest issue in this realm going forward.

What should SMC do to address its unhoused student population? I am a big proponent of SMC building housing on campus to help address the needs of our unhoused student population (and potentially addressing the needs of faculty and staff with housing insecurity). I am optimistic that this will happen in the near term, as this bond contains significant money earmarked to look into housing feasibility.

Do you support SMC building affordable housing for unhoused students or students at risk of becoming unhoused? See answer above

In what ways can SMC better collaborate directly with SMMUSD? The partnership with SMMUSD is critical for SMC. I was proud that our campus is able to accommodate displaced students effected by the flood at John Muir elementary school. Additionally, I have long been a proponent for more coordinated counseling between SMC and SMMUSD to target high school students early who know they will be coming to SMC early on in their high school career so that they show up on campus ready to succeed. Finally, we should to strengthen the dual enrollment curriculum that is offered to current SMMUSD students.

What are some other opportunities for SMC community partnerships that could be expanded upon? SMC should continue to explore and expand curriculum in growing sectors like healthcare and technology to provide students with curriculum that connect them directly to regional job needs.

Social Justice

In what ways can SMC ensure that, in a real, practical sense, Black Lives Matter in our college community? We must make sure that our students first and foremost understand that Black Lives Matter at our college. This comes with deliberate education and conversations on the subject, constantly transparently working on our campus culture, as well supporting programs like the Black Collegians program.

In what ways can SMC best protect the undocumented residents of Santa Monica? SMC and the community colleges of California as a whole have prioritized providing undocumented residents with affordable access to quality education including but not limited to the California Dream Act. There continue to be enrollment and achievement gaps with undocumented residents, and we must continue to emphasize addressing their complex needs.

I have a wealth of experience advocating for the needs of undocumented residents, as a cardiologist at Harbor UCLA, where about a third of our patient population is undocumented. I have spent my life advocating for the healthcare and educational access for this community.

How would you use your position on the College Board to assist BIPOC and other disadvantaged residents of Santa Monica? In addition to what I've already discussed, I think its important to support BIPOC members of the community for positions of leadership both in Santa Monica/Malibu, as well as on campus at SMC. As I consider my endorsements of other political candidates, its something I strongly consider.

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 Boardmembers or members of the public? I will not hesitate to call out anyone that I think is acting with microaggressions towards marginalized or minority communities. Depending on the situation, I may discuss this positively in private with an individual, or address in public if appropriate and constructive.

What is your experience in dealing with these situations? I have been boards in the past where micro (and macro) aggressions have occurred. I have never been hesitant to stand up and do the right thing in these situation.

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 this is a much needed and fair tax to help increase access to affordable housing and quality public education to all Santa Monicans.

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. I support the citizens initiative which specifically earmarks the revenue to affordable housing and public education.

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. This is bond is much needed to improve the college's campus and infrastructure that has still not been fully rebuilt since the 1994 earthquake. We want to continue to make SMC a campus that the community is proud of and can use with ease.

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? I spent almost a decade on this executive committee, and I'm so proud of the work the club has done since I left. The club membership is larger and more diverse, and the club has an impact on elections at all levels of government. It is truly a powerhouse in Santa Monica, and I the club should continue to strive to be the

#1 influencer of local elections, because the club's progressive values reflect the values on the majority of Santa Monicans.

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? Yes. I am a coalition builder, and I will work with the club and other organizations on positive public policy goals.