San Francisco Building & Construction Trades Council’s Official Endorsements

California Primary

CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL & STATE OFFICE
- U.S. Representative, CA Congressional District 11: Nancy Pelosi
- CA Assemblymember, State Assembly District 17: Matt Haney
- CA Assemblymember, State Assembly District 19: Catherine Stefani

SF CITY/COUNTY QUALIFIED MEASURES
- SUPPORT Proposition A: Affordable Housing Bond
- SUPPORT Proposition B: Minimum Police Staffing

If you’re returning your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked on or before March 5, 2024. You can return your ballot in-person to your county elections office or any polling or ballot drop-off location in California by 8 p.m. on March 5. To locate an early voting or ballot drop-off location near you, visit CAEarlyVoting.sos.ca.gov or contact your county elections office.

POLLs ARE OPEN ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

LOCATE YOUR LOCAL POLLING PLACE

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DCCC ELECTION

VIEW THIS ENDORSEMENTS PAGE ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) Election

This election is open only to voters who are registered as Democrats. District 17 voters can choose up to 14 committee member candidates, and District 19 voters can choose up to 10. Learn more about this race by scanning the third QR code from left below.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANDIDATES, STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 17 (SF EAST)
- Patrick Bell (UA Local 38)
- Vick Chung (SEIU Local 1000)
- Peter Gallotta (IFPTE Local 21)
- Kristin Hardy (SEIU Local 1021)
- Anita Martínez (AFT Local 2127, retired)
- Joshua Rudy Ochoa (SEIU Local 1021)
- Sal Rosselli (NUHW)
- Sydney Simpson (CNA)
- Adolfo Velasquez (CFT)

COMMITTEE MEMBER CANDIDATES, STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 19 (SF WEST)
- Queena Chen (SEIU Local 1021)
- Natalie Gee (IFPTE Local 21)
- Greg Hardeman (UEC Local 8)
- Frances Hsieh (IFPTE Local 21)
- Hene Kelly (CFT/UESF, retired)
- Gordon Mar (NUHW)

Building the Trades

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already-frustrated electorate by attacking judges and running challengers. I believe it to be misleading, irresponsible, and, at worst, dangerous.

Yes, things are off-track in SF, but I would argue that it’s lazy and wrong to blame crime on the judiciary. Those who are frustrated with the outcomes of criminal justice reform in this state and city ought to take those complaints to the legislature and the voters who approved those laws. Judges exist to enforce without prejudice such laws on the books.

As for their qualifications, governor-appointed judges and their families submit to a rigorous independent vetting process and comprehensive background checks. They undergo extensive interviews and are given a formal rating by the state Commission on Judicial Nominations. Only if they pass muster do they become eligible for appointment. Then, they’re subject to re-election every six years, if challenged.

What about the challengers’ qualifications? They must only be licensed to practice law in California. That’s it. No vetting, no background checks, no interviews. Meanwhile, state ethics laws forbid sitting judges from publicly defending their record when challenged.

Neither Judge Thompson nor Judge Begert has been subject to investigation by the state judicial council, which is charged with investigating allegations of bias, misconduct, and other performance issues and can even remove a judge, if necessary. Neither is able to campaign with the aggressive, unhinged rhetoric that their challengers can.

We all know how election campaigning lends itself to commitments made for endorsements and positions and rhetoric to get people to vote in an otherwise obscure and rarely publicized race. I believe that voting for new and untested criminal court judges who are perceived as somehow tougher on crime — and backed by a shady PAC entity — is a short-sighted misstep, especially at a time when emotions are running so high in the City.

Instead, we have to look through what appears to me to be a right-wing political smokescreen and call it what it is: an attempted attack on our independent and ethical judiciary by an angry mob. Don’t fall for it. 

We call it artificial intelligence and say it will give us everything we wish for.