



Aliya Chisti - *Ride the Vote!*

2024 SF Community College Board candidate questionnaire

1. What office are you running for?

Community College Board Trustee

2. What is your name?

Aliya Chisti

3. Do you have a section on your website about public transit, transportation, or mobility? If so, please provide a link.

My campaign platform emphasizes students and their basic needs, including access to public transportation throughout San Francisco, with a focus on ensuring easy travel to and from City College. While I may not have a dedicated section specifically for public transit or mobility on my website, transportation access is a key component of my overall vision for supporting students.

4. How do you usually get around San Francisco? Please tell us when and why you use cars, trains, Muni buses, bikes, walking, wheelchairs, or any other mode you frequently use for transportation.

I primarily use public transit, including Muni buses and trains, as they are the most efficient way to navigate the city while aligning with my commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting San Francisco's Transit First Policy. I use cars occasionally when public transit is not feasible, such as for late-night commutes or when I have multiple stops that are not well-connected by transit. Walking is also a frequent choice for short distances.

5. How often do you ride public transit?

I use public transit at least 3 times a week to commute to work, attend meetings, and participate in community events

6. If elected, what would your top transportation priorities be? This can include priorities related to public transit, active transportation, driving, or any other mode of transportation.

My top transportation priority includes supporting the efforts by former Trustee Thea Selby and students for transit passes and to expand the pilot program for CCSF transit passes. Transit equity is another priority, and I will continue to advocate for increasing investments in transportation infrastructure for historically underserved communities, ensuring improved transit reliability and safety, especially in District 10 and 11.

7. San Francisco's [Transit First Policy](#) applies to all officers, boards, commissions, and departments of the city and county, and states that within San Francisco, travel by public transit, by bicycle and on foot must be an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile. How will you use your position to advance the Transit First Policy for people commuting to and from City College?

To advance the Transit First Policy, I will continue to advocate for expanded and reliable public transit routes directly serving City College campuses. I will also push for improved safety and infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, making biking and walking more attractive and viable options. Additionally, I will continue to advocate for eliminating cost barriers for transportation and exploring options for a shuttle service between campuses.

8. How can City College help make access to campus easier for people who cannot or do not drive?

City College can make access to campus easier for people who cannot or do not drive by implementing a shuttle system that connects key transit hubs to campus, making public transportation more seamless. Additionally, expanding bike-sharing programs and offering more secure bike parking would encourage cycling as a practical option for students and staff. For those with disabilities, increasing accessible transit options and shuttle services would significantly improve campus access, ensuring that all students can reach campus easily and comfortably.

9. Earlier this year, the City College Board of Trustees approved a [Green New Deal for City College](#), which calls for City College to “promote mass transit methods, including free public transit for students,” but sets no specific benchmarks toward achieving that goal. How can public transit help meet City College’s climate goals? Should City College set more specific transportation goals to encourage bus ridership over cars and reduce carbon emissions?

Yes. With the recent hiring of a coordinator to support these efforts, we can now work toward identifying clear, attainable goals that align with the college’s commitment to sustainability.

10. What role do you think law enforcement, fare enforcement, community ambassadors, and private security should play, if any, in patrolling the transit lines that serve City College?

Community ambassadors and private security can play an important role in patrolling transit lines serving City College to enhance safety and provide a welcoming environment for riders without resorting to criminalizing minor infractions. These measures can help maintain a sense of security while promoting fairness and accessibility, ensuring that students and staff feel safe using public transportation without the negative impacts of over-policing.

11. A [1993 ballot measure](#) made it official city policy that all elected city officials must ride Muni or other public transit to work at least twice a week. If elected, how closely will you abide by this policy?

I will continue to fully commit to abiding by this policy. I usually walk to my CCSF Board meetings, but because they end sometimes at 2am, due to safety reasons, I have to consider alternatives.

12. Students are working to get fare free student transit passes for all students at City College. This year, City College [received discretionary funding](#) from Senator Padilla (Dem–CA) to start a transit pass pilot program. To fully fund fare free passes, City College will need to find additional funding. Do you support using the funding remaining from past years of the Free

City funds to offer fare free transit passes for students who live in San Francisco? What other funding pathways should City College pursue to provide transit passes for all students?

Yes, as Chair of Student Success and Policy, I submitted a letter to Senator Padilla to back the student-led effort for transit passes. While I support using the remaining Free City funds to offer fare-free transit passes for San Francisco students, we must be cautious since Free City funding has been reduced.

To fully fund this initiative, I will continue to advocate for administrative support to seek grants from state and federal sustainability and education programs, partner with local businesses and philanthropic organizations, and partner with students to advocate for city and county budget allocations specifically for student transportation.

13. Did you support the SFMTA's [Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project](#), which will remove some curb parking spaces to add pedestrian safety improvements and bike lanes on Frida Kahlo Way and Judson Avenue? Why or why not?

Many of our constituent groups, including students, indicated that SFMTA did not adequately solicit or consider feedback regarding the Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project. While I recognize the importance of pedestrian safety and bike lanes, I support revisiting the discussion to ensure the project better serves the needs of the CCSF community. It's essential that community input is properly integrated into decisions that impact their daily lives.

Note: This Ride the Vote! questionnaire is provided to the public for informational purposes only and does not imply endorsement by San Francisco Transit Riders. San Francisco Transit Riders does not endorse electoral candidates. Responses to this questionnaire are presented as submitted by the candidate unless otherwise noted.



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