



Candidate Questionnaire November 7, 2006 General Election

Deadline for Submission of Questionnaire: Thursday, August 31, 2006

Submit electronically, with resume and photo, to sfyd.issues.action@gmail.com

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot:

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Bob (Robert)	(Mitchell)	Twomey

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

San Francisco Board of Education

3. Are you the incumbent? Yes **No**

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Campaign Name:	Bob Twomey for School Board
Address:	1032 Irving St, #101
City, State, Zip:	San Francisco, CA 94122
Campaign Phone:	415-793-5344
Campaign Fax:	415-664-2103
Campaign E-mail	Bob2mey@bobtwomey.com
Campaign Website:	www.bobtwomey.com

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices which you have held. Include positions on appointive Boards or Commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run

QUESTIONS

1) Are you currently a member of the San Francisco Young Democrats in good standing? **NO**

2) Why are you running, and what makes you qualified for this position?

I have direct experience with each of our community stakeholders and can better relate to their concerns and needs. My top and all encompassing priority is to achieve a balance within the Board so that the dignity of each person involved in the school district (students, paid staff and their representatives, parents, elected board members and all community partners) is acknowledged, respected and protected. Our kids deserve this and it will better prepare them to become productive members of our communities.

I am a union member for nearly 28 years and the only candidate with extensive family, educational and professional experience with the public school and their union partners: SEIU, the AFL-CIO and the Building Trades.

I am a 5th generation Irish-Catholic San Franciscan and 4th generation SEIU. My wife Cynthia is a Filipino immigrant who still speaks Visayan (dialect) with our four

children and granddaughter. Although we both received a Catholic education and are active in our parish community, we chose to send our children to public schools. Our eldest daughter, who attended Mark Twain Alternative High School, now works as a labor rep for SEIU.

I've worked with kids for the past 25 years as a volunteer, a coach and a mentor, served on the school-site councils at John Swett (Eastside) and Lawton Alternative (Westside), as PTA parliamentarian and as the delegate to the citywide GATE Advisory Committee. I developed after-school sports and educational programs in Hayes Valley and at the United Irish Cultural Center.

For the past 10 years, I worked on wage and hour issues, investigating complaints at the local and state levels. I served as Assistant to the Director of the CA Department of Industrial Relations during the Davis Administration and understand the difficulties surrounding budgets, staffing and programs.

- 3) What are the main challenges facing the city of San Francisco in the context of this position and how will you address those issues, if elected? If you are the incumbent, please list three accomplishments while in office.

The Board must find a solid administrator with a positive track record in a like sized school district; one who has a firm understanding of the financial issues facing this district, a dedication to building and maintaining effective labor-management relationships and a solid background in class room education. The Board should be very involved in the formulation of policy, along with our other partners, and must monitor the implementation to ensure the agreed upon methods are adhered to.

A steady stream of increased funding must be found through the channels we have at the State level, i.e. leveraged by elected Assembly and Senate members, School Board Members, Union Partners etc..

Official inter-agency partnerships must be established with City departments such as Rec & Park, the Public Libraries and the Health System to improve the quality and quantity of our wrap around services. By working better together, duplication of services is lessened, conduit for staff funding flows more efficiently and our staff and sites citywide are more fully utilized.

In the 1960's, some unions worked with the government to develop co-op housing developments where union members were able to participate and ultimately purchase a piece of their development as corporate shareholders. St. Francis Co-op in the Western Addition is a great example of this and many families of SFUSD educators and staff still reside there. Land in SF is at such a premium that the government, in this case the SFUSD, might be in a good position to facilitate something similar.

San Francisco is an ethnically diverse city but all too often schools in disadvantaged areas are not offering the types programs to help our students

thrive. A dedicated effort to improve program offerings at all schools, including wrap around programs for the entire family involving multiple city departments, will draw families back to the district. The best schools have the most active parent communities...we need to make more services available for families at the school sites (health, language, employment), thereby demonstrating to these families the value of their presence and involvement at the sites.

- 4) Identify two challenges to San Francisco's young people in the context of the position you seek. What specific commitment will you make to address these issues if elected? If you are the incumbent, how have you addressed these challenges while in office?

I recently read that education, the economy and gas prices are top issues concerning young people. Energy independence through an active campaign for sustainable alternate sources must be at the top of every elected officials' priority list. Educational outlets such as the SFUSD can serve a huge role in preparing our kids, who then help to educate their families.

Creating and maintaining varied programs in our schools to promote real employment opportunities, including careers in the trades, must be fully integrated to better prepare our young folks for all types of career choices.

- 5) If (re-)elected, how, specifically, would you work with SFYD to engage more of San Francisco's young people in the political process?

Working closely with students, recent graduates, young families, young workers and young community members is required. A transparent and cooperative process generally produces fair and acceptable results. There are many examples as to how true partnerships are successful and my experience in these very areas translates into a better education for our children. Including SFUSD students, recent graduates, young families, young workers and young community members is vital to moving the process forward of providing a solid education for all of our children. Who knows better than those that have most recently benefited or suffered from the choices made?

- 6) Have you collaborated with young people in your work in the past (list specific examples)? What value did you experience in working with young people? How are young people involved in your campaign?

I have spent my entire adult life working with young people in various capacities:

As an Analyst at SFO, I was responsible for the Intern Program in our Prevailing Wage Compliance Unit (our focus was wage and hour issues). I expanded the program to include both high school and college interns. Many interns were bilingual women interested in finding a specific area of professional expertise where they could utilize their language skills. I saw the trend in wage and hour enforcement moving away from simply requiring the compliance and/or enforcement personnel to possess an understanding of the specific craft work and into a language specific area of communicators. I realized these women represented an important resource that must be cultivated for government compliance and enforcement jobs.

When I later ran a similar program for the Bricklayers, I hired young bilingual women to train as field reps. I rec'd significant push back because these women did not come from the crafts...my reasoning is smart young women with language skills can learn the laws and better communicate with today's workers. One of those women was able to take over my position when I left.

Young folks are attracted to this campaign...many of the young union and community activists I work with are excited about my candidacy and are volunteering their personnel time, even though they already work long hours. I hope to continue mentoring them into becoming active in politics as candidates and campaign advisors.

I am a close friend of Fiona Ma and during the Fiona Ma for Supervisor Campaign (2002), my children and their friends all volunteered in the office and walked precincts. My son and daughter became active in student government at their schools as a result of Fiona's energy and message. Now, my and children and many of their friends are stepping forward to help me as older young adults.

One of the kids I coached 20 years ago has recently come back into my life and is excited to volunteer on my campaign as well. Michelle works for Goldman Sachs in a high level position but has remained an active volunteer with youth for the past 9 years. During coffee the other day she shared with me that I made the difference in her life, beginning when she was 9 years old...and was a big part in why she is so committed to volunteering her time with kids.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. Please explain how your experience would make you an effective advocate for young people as an office holder.

I am truly reluctant to pick any one experience...but here goes...

Having run a collaborative after school program in Hayes Valley, I know the importance of keeping the kids engaged...bringing in community partners to improve and increase programs is in the best interest of all. Keeping it District sponsored and controlled allows for better integration into the overall education of the child.

Hayes Valley Vipers After school Program

After our son D'Artagnan entered kindergarten at John Swett Alternative ES, I was informed by Principal Dr. Joyce Coble that there were no youth sports available through the schools in Hayes Valley/ Western Addition. We started with

soccer and expanded to include older female siblings who had no interest in soccer but wanted a basketball team..

- ✓ Created and operated the HVV while working fulltime as Assistant Property Manager at a nearby condominium complex
- ✓ Met w/ administrators and teachers from 5 Hayes Valley/ Western Addition schools for permission and buy-in for recruiting children (ages 5-14) onsite.
- ✓ Recruited boys and girls from neighborhood including posting fliers and door-to-door visits to the housing developments along Turk Street and Golden Gate Ave.
- ✓ Recruited coaches from the schools (parents and teachers), USF and SF Seals Professional Soccer Club.
- ✓ Formed soccer (U6 & U10 Mixed, U8 & U10 Boys, U8 Girls) and girls basketball (U15 & U13) teams, intermingling students from various schools.
- ✓ Negotiated unlimited use of playing fields from local City Recreation Directors.
- ✓ Negotiated use of YMCA gymnasiums (Buchanan and Central Tenderloin) for practices during rainy days at no cost.
- ✓ Negotiated access to YMCA Learning Center to encourage academic achievement.
- ✓ Solicited from PAL uniform tops
- ✓ Arranged various SFPD community programs for the kids and families.
- ✓ Solicited equipment donations (shinguards, shorts, socks) from Sunset Soccer Supply (SSS).
- ✓ Partnered w/ SSS and Viking Soccer Club to establish a community donation program at two sites (SSS Store and Vikings Office) for individual players to donate used cleats for use by the HVV.
- ✓ Established regular coverage of games in the Western Edition, a monthly community newspaper.

These partner programs and suppliers (SFUSD, Rec & Park, PAL, YMCA, Sunset Soccer Supply, Viking Soccer Club, USF Soccer Team, SF Seals Professional Soccer Club, Western Edition Newspaper) traditionally operate independent of each other. Through a dedicated and strategic community organizing effort covering several SFUSD School sites (John Swett, John Muir, Raphael Weill, Benjamin Franklin, New Traditions, Golden Gate, Spring Valley) the HVV brought these valuable resources together and serviced local high risk youth while they were still at an impressionable age.

Please include the following when you submit your candidate survey: a resume and a photo.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2006

SUBMIT VIA E-MAIL TO sfyd.issues.action@gmail.com