

ON THE RECORD

California's Gubernatorial Candidates on Higher Education



State Treasurer
John Chiang



Lieutenant Governor
Gavin Newsom



Former Mayor of Los Angeles
Antonio Villaraigosa

California's future depends on its investments in educating its residents. To maintain our economic power as the fifth largest economy in the world and preserve the value of college opportunity for all of our fellow Californians, the next Governor of California will have to define a clear vision and agenda for our community colleges and public universities. This includes clear priorities to address college affordability, access and success for our students.

The Campaign for College Opportunity was proud to host [three gubernatorial forums](#) and secure responses to a questionnaire by leading California gubernatorial candidates¹. Both the forums and the questionnaire were designed to inform California voters about the candidates' positions on key higher education issues.

"On the Record: California's Gubernatorial Candidates on Higher Education," presents the responses provided by each gubernatorial candidate without editorial comment, scoring, or editing. However, if the candidate's answer exceeded the 250 word limit they were given, the answer was clipped after the sentence that exceeded the limit. These answers will be marked with an asterisk (*).

The Campaign for College Opportunity's mission has been to ensure that all eligible and motivated students in California have an opportunity to go to college and succeed. The Campaign remains committed to keeping the State of California from breaking its promise of college opportunity to its next generation of young people in order to ensure a strong state for all of us. The Campaign for College Opportunity produces research and advocates for policies that advance college preparation, access, affordability and success in California. Higher education has played a key role in California's economic and social prosperity.

"On the Record" provides Californians with an additional resource to learn about the vision California's next Governor has for higher education. Readers can also learn more about each of the leading candidates' higher education priorities by watching them discuss their ideas in our [Gubernatorial Forums on Higher Education](#). These videos are not an endorsement and are intended to be for educational purposes only.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is recognized as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and, as a result, does not endorse or oppose any candidate for elected public office.

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1. Top Priorities

Please describe your top three priorities for higher education in California.



John Chiang: The California Dream was built upon the foundation of quality, universal public education. We must do everything possible to holistically improve our higher education system so every student has an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

1) One of the major obstacles preventing students from accessing a higher education is affordability. I support two years of free community college for every student. But that's not enough. Every student needs a debt-free option at a public university. Over the next 10 years, I am committed to reducing UC and CSU tuition and fees to their pre-2009 fee hike levels. I'll also work to address underlying factors that make it harder for students to afford college, including textbooks, supplies, food, and housing.

2) Accessibility: We need to increase opportunities for qualified Californians to access our institutions of higher education and create space in our schools for those affected by years of discrimination. During the recession, many UC campuses actively recruited students from outside California to pad their budgets. Our tax dollars are funding these institutions, and they should be supporting California's students. As governor, I'll go back to the Regents and demand Californians are our first priority when it comes to enrollment.

3) Accountability— We must hold our institutions of higher education accountable for improved results, including time to degree, responding to the needs of increasingly diverse student bodies, lowering student debt, and addressing the projected gap between future workforce needs and the number of expected graduates.



Gavin Newsom: The state has been flat-footed in its response to uneven income growth and Sacramento has under-invested in higher education. We can and will change that by reinvesting in public higher education and providing access to every eligible Californian as our foundational goal.

Guarantee two free years of community college tuition, create pathways to quality jobs, and reduce debt for students pursuing a bachelor's degree.

The community colleges, Cal State, and University of California segments operate in their own silos, which is why I will create a new higher education coordinating council to set bold statewide goals and hold institutions accountable to them.



Antonio Villaraigosa: We are in the midst of a fourth industrial revolution—a globalized economy so dynamic that jobs requiring updated or new skills are created almost monthly. A higher education system for the 21st Century must adapt and adjust. As governor, my guiding principles will be: access, affordability, quality and accountability.

First, we will expand and implement new ideas for financing higher education—ideas such as community service for a year's cost in college and look for ways to reform and expand our current state financial aid programs.

Second, we need to increase access by expanding quality on-line education. We must work with our state's higher education systems to increase access by removing barriers, whether providing alternatives to algebra such as statistics or critical academic supports for those students who are the first in their family to attend college.

Third, we need to concentrate on quality—on outcomes, not just inputs, by focusing on graduation rates and time to graduate. To do this, we need greater coordination among our various systems. We need to demand accountability from all stakeholders, including implementing better state-wide data systems.

Finally, we must align our higher education system with workforce demands and address lifelong learning needs so that all Californians can access the skills training needed to adapt to changing economic forces through their

lifetimes.

Our “New Blueprint for Higher Ed” will respond to the needs of students and their families, our state, our economy and our communities.

2. Goal for Degree Attainment

Today, just under half of adults in California have a college degree or credential, yet the demand for a more educated workforce requires that 60% of adults have a degree or credential by 2030.

If elected, will you adopt a 60% attainment goal? If yes, what is your plan for meeting this attainment goal? If no, why not?



John Chiang: Yes, I support the 60% attainment goal and believe California must do a better job not only in making higher education more affordable and accessible, but in ensuring students are able to complete a degree or credential program.

Tackling this issue really starts at the beginning of a student's life, when we're preparing them with the education and skills they need to transition to higher education and the workforce. I support free, universal early childhood education for every student, and believe we need a comprehensive plan that sets goals for students and ensures they are gaining the skills they need all the way through elementary school, high school, and beyond.

We must do better by all our students, but especially on behalf of first-generation college-goers who deserve the same opportunities that generations of Californians have received since the advent of the Master Plan in the 1960's. We need to make sure our higher education budgets provide more support and resources for students, including counseling, advising, and orientation, and create simpler pathways for students to navigate the confusing maze of higher education. We also need to find ways to support non-traditional students, like providing childcare services for students and supporting degree programs that allow flexibility for working students.



Gavin Newsom: The data is clear: we must increase access, affordability, and completion rates to ensure we have an educated workforce that can thrive in today's rapidly evolving economy. That's why when I'm Governor, our K-12 schools will make this fundamental promise: each and every student, regardless of the zip code they live in, is capable and deserving of a higher education. It's a promise that's true to California's tradition of advancing our educational system at critical junctures to give future generations better opportunities to succeed. To prepare

our kids for a quality job and successful career, I believe we have to treat education as a lifelong pursuit. We'll launch college savings accounts for every incoming kindergartener across the state, linking the next generation to the promise of higher education, promote a college-going culture in our K-12 schools, establish a new higher education coordinating council to set bold statewide goals -- including attainment-- and hold institutions accountable to them.



Antonio Villaraigosa: To achieve the goal of 60% of adults having a post-secondary degree or credential by 2030, we need to focus on affordability and access. We need to find ways to reduce the cost of obtaining that education. A recent report prepared for the California Student Aid Commission identifies specific ways in which the current system of California grants could be reformed and consolidated. It recommends including living expenses and not just tuition in calculating the true cost of a college education and making financial aid awards based on those revised calculations. It also recommends changing certain requirements including age restrictions.

I propose the creation of the California Dream Corps—building on the success of AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps. Students would provide a year of community service to California and we, in turn, will help students pay for one year of college, and not just tuition.

We also need to make sure we provide more students with opportunities to prepare for and attend college by having more high schools provide courses in data science and statistics, as well as providing academic supports for those students who are first generation college students and developing high-quality on-line education.

These are all worthy ideas to consider, but we need to understand that making college more affordable and increasing access has to be done in fiscally responsible ways.

Make no mistake, investment in making college more affordable and accessible will grow our economy, increasing the resources we can devote to training the next generation.

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3. Closing Racial Equity Gaps

California's standing as the sixth largest economy in the world depends on producing more college graduates. Nearly 70% of students in college today and 76% of future college students are racially diverse. California cannot produce the workforce needed to meet economic demands without improving college access and success for African-Americans, Latinx and Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders.

If elected, will you set high school graduation, college access, and college completion goals by race/ethnicity? Do you believe California should attempt to close these gaps? If yes, what steps will you take to close racial equity gaps for student outcomes in our colleges and universities? If no, why?



John Chiang: We know there are real disparities in high school and higher education completion based on race and ethnicity. According to California Competes, Latino students graduate from high school at close to the state average (81 percent), but only 47 percent of students completed their college degrees. 73 percent of African Americans graduated from high school in 2016, but only 38 percent of black college students graduated. Even with Asian Americans, who show = the smallest gap between high school and college completion, we know there are wide college achievement gaps, with Indian and Chinese students doing much better than Pacific Islanders.

There are some who'd try to use this data to pit racial and ethnic groups against one another for a seat at the table. We can't let that happen. We need to be using this information to build a bigger table, so everyone can have a seat.

This is about equality and justice. California must take steps to close these racial equity gaps and ensure every California student has equal access and equal opportunities to receive a quality education. We can only do that when we understand the underlying inequities and tackle the unique needs of our communities to ensure the best possible outcomes.



Gavin Newsom: As Lieutenant Governor for the past seven years, I have had the privilege of serving on the UC Board of Regents and CSU Board of Trustees, which has afforded me a front-row seat to the impacts of Proposition 209. We talk a good game about "access," but the elimination of affirmative action has undeniably had a devastating toll on the demographic makeup of our student body. This new reality deprives students of the chance to learn among a diverse cohort of peers, robs underserved communities of the opportunity for social mobility, and shatters the economic prosperity of the entire state. As Governor, I will fight back against the inequities in our education system that have been further exacerbated by Prop 209, and my administration will prioritize improving college access for underrepresented and underserved communities and address completion gaps head on.

The current fragmented state of our higher education system has stymied efforts to effectively understand the needs of minority students. We need to end this era of inefficiency by linking early childhood, K-12, higher

education, and workforce data systems, and improving communication channels between institutions, so we can more productively identify what practices are working and where our resources need to be deployed. How many Black young men are struggling to read? How are Latina middle school girls faring with math? These and many other questions are yet to be answered.

As Governor, I am also committed to appointing UC Regents and CSU Trustees that reflect the diversity of the state. Now and as Governor, equity will be the driving criterion in all of my decision-making, whether it be about education or any other issue.



Antonio Villaraigosa: We need all of our students to graduate from high school, take courses that prepare them for college and graduate from college. To close the serious and disturbing racial and ethnic disparities in college attendance and graduation, we need a birth to postsecondary strategy.

It starts with universal quality early care and education available to all children. Given the percentage of California's children who are living in poverty, ranging from 19.7% to almost 22% depending on how you count, and the impact that poverty has on a child's ability to learn, the need for interventions such as quality early care and education is evident.

We need to make sure that our K-12 system is delivering a quality education to every child, which includes a challenging curriculum, well-trained teachers and services when needed to ensure that no child is lost.

We must also do a better job of helping students and families see that education beyond high school is not only possible but necessary. We need outreach programs that are culturally and linguistically sensitive, so that students and their families come to see postsecondary education as a valuable investment. We need to redouble our efforts to create pathways for successful careers and education to prepare all of our students to access education beyond high school, whether technical and trade training, community college or four-year colleges.

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4. Higher Education Investment

Today, California's public universities support more students with less investment per student from the state than in 2008, prior to the recession.

If elected, will you increase investment in public universities in California? If so, how do you propose to do so? If no, why not?



John Chiang: As governor, I will significantly increase the state's investment in higher education, and I will vigorously pursue a dedicated or otherwise reliable source of funding for higher education. We can't continue to subject higher education to the whims of our budget negotiation process. I believe the state budget should reflect our values and priorities, and that means we must restore our promise to our colleges and universities.

I recently signed on in support of Senator Schatz's Debt-Free College Act, which would provide states incentives through matching grants to increase investments in public higher education and provide students with debt-free college. We shouldn't leave any federal money on the table when we're making investments in higher education.

But revenue is only one side of the equation. We also need to be using that money wisely. We need to establish further efficiencies in the ways the CSU and UC systems spend their resources. As state treasurer and previously as state controller, I understand the importance of auditing. We must demand real accountability from the CSU Board of Trustees and the UC Board of Regents, in exchange for our investments to ensure that their plans have the students' best interests at heart.

Finally, we must ensure we're doing everything possible to maximize revenue at our UC system without sacrificing educational quality. We should consider additional entrepreneurial ventures to maximize revenue opportunities, including capitalizing on the UC system's status as the top university system across the country that is granted patents in the United States.



Gavin Newsom: It has been nothing less than devastating to watch the state's disinvestment from public higher education, and with it, stripping a generation of Californians of an opportunity those before them enjoyed. State support was slashed by one third after the great recession. We're just now achieving pre-recession funding levels but we're also educating thousands more students. We must do better than this. Over the past seven years, I'm proud to have voted against every tuition hike and since January of this year, have urged UC to postpone yet another vote on tuition until the Legislature and Governor had time to reach a budget agreement. Particularly at a time when California has achieved a \$6.1 billion budget surplus, the state must invest significantly more in higher education, not place the burden on the backs of students and their families. We have the means to effectively bolster the access, affordability, and quality of our state's educational institutions, and this will be one of my highest priorities as Governor.



Antonio Villaraigosa: We need to invest to grow our economy and the middle class --that means investing in education from birth to post-secondary education.

It starts with looking at recommendations for the California Student Aid Commission to move away from a system focused on tuition, to one that takes into account a student's full college expenses, by including living expenses and not just tuition.

We also need to consolidate various Cal Grant programs with differing age restrictions, GPA requirements and time out of high school. If we reform, consolidate and expand the California financial aid programs, we can begin to grow our investment in higher education.

The state's contribution needs to increase even as more students need to go to college. Yet, we need more accountability from our three systems focused on outcomes and not just inputs. The full cost of doing all this plus creating a program like the California Dream Corps needs to be analyzed against revenues collected.

I have the fiscal discipline, as evidenced by the investments we were able to make in Los Angeles while bringing our city budget in line, including making hard decisions with respect to pension obligations. As governor, I will make the important investments we need for our future while adhering to the fiscal discipline our state needs.

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5. Leveraging State Investment

Governor Jerry Brown's January budget proposal includes a new student success funding formula for community colleges that provides funding based on enrollment, Pell Grant eligibility, and improvements in the number of students who graduate overall, the number of students who graduate within three years, and the number of students who earn an Associate Degree for Transfer. Research suggests that incorporating student success measures into how colleges are funded can change institutional behaviors in ways that benefit all students, especially those who are disadvantaged and require higher levels of academic, financial or other support.

If elected, do you believe California should leverage state investments to incentivize California colleges to improve student completion rates? Do you support Governor Brown's community college student success funding proposal? If yes, do you think this should apply to the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems? If no, why not?



John Chiang: Yes, I believe California should leverage the state's investments to incentivize improvements for college completion rates. As an ex-officio member of the CalPERS board, I've used this strategy to demand companies respect California's values, whether it was encouraging diversity on our corporate boards, holding Wells Fargo accountable for ripping off vulnerable Americans, or demanding institutional investors to divest from retail sellers of military-style assault weapons. I also have a strong record of demanding better results from our investments.

For example, I restructured two critical housing programs in the Treasurer's office to use our federal infrastructure funding more effectively and increase the development of housing funded by the programs by 82 percent. As governor, I'll work with California's colleges to ensure we're using our funding in the best way possible to improve completion rates.

When it comes to investing in all three of our public higher education systems, I do support strategic funding by the state that creates incentives for improving time to degree, transfer and graduation. Whether it's through Governor Brown's proposal or some other mechanism, I will be supportive of such efforts as governor.



Gavin Newsom: I support the intent of Governor Brown's community college student success proposal, while also paying close attention to the suggestions being offered by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and various campuses. I do believe that the Governor should be able to leverage state investments to incentivize the continued improvement of our educational institutions. Research shows that linking funding to student performance and graduation rates, as a piece of the overall higher education budget, can be a powerful force in achieving our shared goals.



Antonio Villaraigosa: For too long our three systems of higher education have operated independently of each other and without regard to the needs of all Californians. I believe these first steps in leveraging state investments to improve student outcomes are interesting concepts. Of importance could be increasing the number of college degrees that specifically address projected workforce needs. It is also important to recognize that there is growing awareness that we need not just college degrees (although that needs to be a priority), but we also need certificates which can lead to either careers or the ability to transfer to a four-year institution. Under those circumstances, requiring a performance based incentive appears to make sense.

To be sure, outcome or performance based funding has come under fire in a number of states. The concern is that it will lead to the type of manipulation that accompanied tying teacher pay to student performance, as measured by standardized testing as in No Child Left Behind. Inequities in the system may very well be exacerbated by these types of funding incentives. Colleges with large number of Latino and African-American students may find themselves with less funding over time, which in turn would mean less funding for institutions serving primarily underrepresented groups. We need to experiment but also beware of unintended consequences.

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6. College Preparation

Fewer than half of California's high school graduates complete the courses necessary for admissions to the UC and CSU systems.

Do you believe high schools should see their role as helping students prepare for college and not just helping them earn a high school diploma? If yes, how will you ensure more high school students are college ready? If no, why not?



John Chiang: I want every student to have the option of pursuing higher education. Unfortunately, too many of our kids are being left behind. Not only are less than half of graduates completing the courses they would need to be admitted into the CSU and UC systems, but we know that high schools with less affluent populations are less likely to have a wide range of college preparation courses available for students. We need to do better. We know that student achievement is rooted early in a child's life. Therefore to improve college readiness, we can't just look at high schools preparing students for college, but we need to start with universal pre-early childhood education and work our way up. By the time students are in middle school, we need to make sure our students have the foundations they need to take college prep classes.

Increasing access to college prep classes in high schools is only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to high schools preparing students. We should be striving for college prep classes to be the default option for students as part of their core curriculum. And while we're giving students access to courses, we need to make sure we're providing adequate guidance and support for students to navigate course requirements and ensure they're taking the classes that will put them on the path to readiness.

Finally, as we're designing these classes and curriculums, we need to be doing a better job at the state and local level of ensuring courses are sufficiently rigorous and aligned with the expectations of our colleges and universities.*



Gavin Newsom: Education opens the door to opportunity, yet for many students, a high school diploma is no longer sufficient for obtaining desired employment and upward mobility in California's 21st century economy.

If we want to ensure that more of our high school students graduate college and career-ready, we've got to start at the beginning, because I believe that all students should progress through their academic careers knowing that college is within reach.

That begins with doubling down on the readiness gap by emphasizing prenatal care and the first three years of a child's life when nearly 85% of brain development occurs. We'll provide college savings accounts to every entering kindergartener and foster a college-going culture in our K-12 schools. We'll support K-12 community schools that anchor our neighborhoods with the comprehensive opportunities kids need to stay in school and prepare for higher education, including arts, after school programs and STEM education.

Today, only a quarter of California's high schools offer computer science. And sadly, that disparity is punctuated by striking racial gaps. Computer Science for All is an economic and equity imperative, and as Governor, I will proudly lead the push to provide access to computer science in all California public high schools.

And perhaps most significantly, we will support high schools across the state to equip students with the A-G curriculum they need to be eligible for admission to the UC and CSU systems.



Antonio Villaraigosa: The racial and ethnic disparities in both meeting CSU/UC entrance requirements and college attendance and completion must be addressed given the demographics of our state. With 54% of our K-12 student population Latino, and only 37% of Latino high school graduates (male and female) meeting the eligibility requirements, this issue should concern us all.

Interestingly, new courses in statistics and data science may open up doors to college that have been closed because of the insistence on passing Algebra 2. With the growing interest in other types of courses that teach quantitative literacy, we must not let tradition hold back our students. We should be helping school districts throughout the state to offer courses such as these, given the potential to increase college admission. Another key barrier preventing college graduation is that so many of our high school graduates are the first in their family to attend college. Research has identified unique challenges for college students who are the first-generation college students. Among them is lack of college readiness, financial stability, familial support and lack of self-esteem. Looking at data of those enrolled in California Community Colleges during 2012-2014:

- 61.3% of Latinos were first-generation, compared to 28% who were continuing generation;
- 17.8% of first-generation were White and 41.7% were continuing generation; and
- 10.5% of first-generation were Black and 15.5% were continuing generation.

Programs designed to support first-generation students such as mentorship, academic support, financial advice, networking, and community building need to be supported and expanded.

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7. College Access

California is ranked 49th in the nation in providing direct access to the state's public four-year universities for its residents. The California Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960 reserves seats at the CSU and UC systems for the top 33% of high school students, however, today more students are qualified to attend a CSU and UC resulting in thousands of qualified students being turned away and an overly competitive admissions environment for Californians hoping to attend the UC.

If elected, will you revisit the admissions caps for CSU and UC to increase access for qualified students and, if so, how? If no, why not?



John Chiang: Yes, if California is going to meet our state's economic demand for college graduates, we need to increase access at the CSU and UC campuses for qualified California students. When California originally adopted its Master Plan for Higher Education in 1960, it expressed the intent that higher education "remain accessible, affordable, high-quality and accountable" (Legislative Analyst's Office, 2004). In recent decades, however, the State of California has throttled down its investment in higher education. Higher education's falling share of the state budget has meant that fewer qualified students have access to the system.

As governor, I will significantly increase the state's investment in higher education so we can make investments in the overall capacity of our CSU and UC systems. We also need to help students graduate on time, freeing up more space for new students. Finally, we need to ensure California students are our first priority when it comes to enrollment, rather than out-of-state students who pay higher tuitions. Our tax dollars are funding these institutions, and they should be supporting California's students.



Gavin Newsom: The vision laid out in the California Master Plan for Higher Education was one of the smartest investments our state ever made. A degree from a public college or university is not just about securing a job. It's about building lasting relationships, an exchange of ideas, exposing young people to the world around them, and opening their minds to realize there are no limitations to their own possibility. However, things have changed, and the impact of withering state funding for higher education has rendered the initial goals set almost 60 years ago untenable in 2018. As Governor, I will immediately work to reverse this unfortunate development by significantly increasing funding for public higher education to increase access and affordability, and working with the segments to ensure no eligible student is turned away.



Antonio Villaraigosa: Increasing high school graduation rates, while a good thing has also meant increased competition for limited college and university slots. Many students who otherwise would be eligible under the existing Master Plan are being denied admission.

For example, in 2011-2016 there was a 5% increase in high school graduation, yet a 22% increase in graduates applying to CSU's and 24% more applied to the UC system. Thus, the Master Plan which had as its goal providing higher education opportunities for all of California's students no longer meets its goal and hasn't for quite some time.

Addressing the lack of spaces requires us to look at the admissions caps for CSU and UC. But let's be clear, we already have many students complaining that they can't take the classes they need because there is no room for them whether at CSU or UC. So yes, we need to invest in higher education, but we also must harness technology to address this shortfall— we need quality on-line education. Both strategies must be explored if we are to address the shortfall of spaces for students graduating from high school.

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8. Clearing Pathways

Only 40% of California's Community College students earn a degree, certificate or transfer after six years. Many of the barriers students face, which preclude them from reaching their college goals, are put in place by the colleges themselves. A broken remedial education system, a confusing transfer maze, a lack of structured major pathways, and limited student supports are largely responsible for low completion rates.

If elected, what priorities do you have for improving pathways through community college? How do you plan to support colleges to improve their pathways?



John Chiang: If California is to keep its place as the sixth largest economy in the world, we need to be training Californians to fill the jobs of tomorrow. Unfortunately, California is lagging behind. Some experts predict California will fall about 1.1 million college graduates short of economic demand by 2030, if current trends persist. Now is the time to renew our promise to California's students and restore the original goals of the Master Plan.

California cannot meet this demand unless we significantly increase the number of community college students transferring to colleges and universities.

As governor, I will increase state funding for higher education so we can make college more affordable and allow more students to directly enroll in our CSU and UC systems. I support expanding guided pathways in our education system, providing our community college students with more structured educational roadmaps, including specific course sequences, milestones, and learning outcomes, so we can make it easier for students to navigate higher education. And I will continue to support and work to strengthen our Associate Degree to Transfer (ADT) pathway to give priority admission for our community college students to our CSU and UC system schools.



Gavin Newsom: I'm passionate about community colleges, and believe they are the backbone of our economy and one of our most effective tools for upward mobility. That's why my California Promise initiative will guarantee two free years of community college tuition, create pathways to quality jobs and reduce debt for students pursuing a bachelor's degree. The sad reality is that many students leave college with debt levels that would finance a home mortgage. Many don't finish college at all because of the cost our education system puts in front of them. The California Promise will help the next generation to become college-ready and bolster efforts to improve our educational institutions, because enrolling students is only half the challenge: graduating is the key.

I applaud the leadership of Chancellor Oakley, Chancellor White and President Napolitano who have all committed to the important work of streamlining the transfer process. I am a firm supporter of the Associate Degree for Transfer, which the Campaign championed, and look forward to partnering with the CSU and UC systems to build upon that work. I have also publicly supported the reforms Chancellor White pushed at CSU to eliminate unfair remedial education requirements, which disproportionately impacted completion rates for Black and Latino students. As Governor, I will embrace these kinds of pragmatic, equity driven solutions that improve student pathways and tear down unnecessary barriers to success for California's students.



Antonio Villaraigosa: Since the majority of California high school graduates who go on to college start at community college, improving pathways for both transfer to four-year institutions and careers is essential. In 2016, PPIC reported that 80% of students entering community colleges had to enroll in at least one developmental (remedial) course based upon testing or other measurements. Even worse, only 16% of students who were placed in remedial courses earned a certificate or AA in six years.

Under Community College Chancellor Ortiz Oakley's leadership a focus on graduation and tangible progress has become a key focus for the entire community college system. We need to adopt promising practices such as combining basic skill proficiency with college-level courses, as this shows acquisition of the basics skills with mastery of knowledge. We also need to do more to use technology to target student needs.

Lastly, aligning workforce needs with post-secondary education must be an integrated process that involves not just the public sector but also the private sector. The "Doing What Matters for Jobs and Economy" initiative is good first step. Seven regional centers supported by community colleges and private sector partners are identifying workforce needs and the skills that must be obtained. We need to go beyond data analysis and translate this information in to concrete pathways that lead to more students having the skills for the jobs that exist.

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9. Supporting Undocumented Students

California is home to approximately two million undocumented immigrants. A conservative estimate finds that California's public higher education segments enroll about 74,000 undocumented students.

If elected, will you support access to college for California's undocumented students, as well as financial aid? If so, how? If no, why not?



John Chiang: My parents arrived in this country in the 1950s, like all immigrant Americans, dreaming of a better future. My dad came here with just three shirts, two pairs of pants, and barely any money in his pocket. My parents' relentlessness and determination led to a middle-class neighborhood with better schools, and a college education for my three siblings and me. Today, I'm running for governor because of the opportunities the education I received afforded me. Nowhere else in the world is a story like mine possible. Public higher education is vitally important because it gives so many families, like mine, the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

We must fight to keep this country's promise to Dreamers—like the young woman on my staff who joined our campaign as an intern from UCLA. We were able to hire her after she graduated. Now, Dreamers are back in legal limbo because of President Trump. Congress must protect our DACA kids and pass a Dream Act. While undocumented students may not be eligible for federal financial aid, I will continue fighting to protect the California Dream Act and support access to college and financial aid for our undocumented students. Every student deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams.



Gavin Newsom: California is a state that doesn't just tolerate its diversity. We celebrate it, and that includes all Californians regardless of their immigration status. After the 2016 election, I sat down with understandably anxious high school students and DREAMers and called on the heads of the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges to protect undocumented students by moving quickly to affirm campuses as sanctuary campuses. We have both a moral and economic imperative to protect our students – the future workforce and families of California – from Mr. Trump's stated intentions. That commitment includes my continued support to defend the financial aid programs undocumented students are legally entitled to under AB 540 and The California Dream Act, and to provide the resources necessary to ensure undocumented students are aware of the opportunities available to them.



Antonio Villaraigosa: If we succumb to Trump on DACA, we're surrendering our next generation of leaders, educators, health care workers and more to the political machinations of the far right.

800,000 DACA recipients live in the United States-- nearly 223,000 here in California. We need to stand and defend our people. I'm proud we're a sanctuary state, including that our DACA students can apply for state financial aid even if the federal government denies them that opportunity. I applaud the efforts across the state to provide legal services to our DACA students including the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center and our department of Social Services funding of non-profits to provide legal services to CSU and other students.

These young people inspire me every single day for their bravery. We must protect them because we're protecting the future of our state.

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10. College Affordability

By offering the generous Cal Grant program and the California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the Board of Governors fee waiver), California has been a leader on college affordability. However, there is still significant unmet financial need for California's lowest-income students. The "real cost of college" includes far more than tuition and fees, but also the expense of meeting basic needs, such as housing, food and transportation, during the college years.

If elected, how will you help our lowest-income and middle-income students afford the "real cost of college?" Will you take steps to expand financial aid for California's lowest and middle-income families to cover costs of going to college beyond just tuition? What is your position on debt-free college?



John Chiang: Affordability is key to ensuring Californians have access to higher education. We should strive to ensure that no student, who is otherwise eligible, is turned away from a public school because of their financial circumstances. Every student needs a debt-free option at a public university.

While the state has much to do to level the playing field for California's students, we also need to do more to directly help our students and their families afford the skyrocketing costs of college. As treasurer, I unveiled a new Matching Grant Program – in partnership with ScholarShare 529 – to help low- and moderate-income California families jumpstart saving for college. As governor, I will do more to give families these kinds of tools to save.

We also know that a growing number of students are graduating with over-burdensome debt. As treasurer, I

sponsored the RELIEF Act, which would allow borrowers with high-interest private student loans to refinance at lower rates. As governor, I am committed to helping our students refinance their loans so they don't fall into economic hardship.

Finally, we need to address underlying factors that have put stress on our education system, including the inability of students and families to afford textbooks, supplies, food, and housing. I support expanding financial aid to cover "the real cost of college." As California's controller and treasurer, I've stood up and fought for California's students and working families. You can trust me to act with honesty and integrity to address this critical issue.



Gavin Newsom: I have voted against every tuition increase, fought to solve the student debt crisis, and helped lead the charge for Promise Programs across the state, beginning with the San Francisco Promise we launched when I was Mayor.

I understand that once the total cost of attendance and all available financial aid is taken into account, it's more expensive for a financially needy student to attend a community college than a UC or CSU campus. Non-tuition expenses like books, transportation and housing can make up 90% of the total cost of attendance. That's why I advocated for legislation to expand the Cal Grant B Access Awards, supporting community college students with these costs.

As Governor, I will ensure high schools do all they can to make students aware of their financial aid options. I'll ground all conversations about tuition and financial aid in the full cost of attendance to reflect the actual cost of postsecondary education. We'll boost financial aid by increasing the amount of competitive Cal Grant awards and expanding award amounts, and we'll offer two years of free community college tuition.

I'm also alarmed by the staggering number of college students who confront food and housing insecurity. We'll provide the resources necessary to address these crises. Moreover, 75% of serious brain illness manifests before age 25, meaning our college-aged youth are at particular risk. We'll work to ensure every college adopts comprehensive strategies for raising awareness of symptoms of mental illness, identifying students at risk, and providing support services.



Antonio Villaraigosa: We need to expand and implement new ideas for financing higher education.

- That's why I'm proposing the creation of the California Dream Corps---a year's community service for a year's cost of college, modeled on AmeriCorps and the California Conservation Corps. A high school graduate can invest a year in our communities and we will invest in our young people.

- We also must reform and expand our current state financial aid programs, making sure we are helping with all costs, not just tuition, since too many of our college students are going hungry or unable to find affordable places to live.

- It is time to update the measurement of 'need' and expected family contributions to better reflect the high cost of living in California. Age restrictions, GPA requirements and time out of high school are just some of the differing requirements that should be realigned. This will have the effect of requiring more appropriations. The full cost of which all depends upon the pace of implementation of these recommendations.

- Additionally, we need to modernize and utilize technology to improve information and advising, as well as engage in significant public outreach and communications. Students and their families do not have easy ways to navigate the complex maze of federal, state and private sources of financial aid.

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11. Lack of Diversity Among Faculty and Leadership in Higher Education

Today, California's higher education leadership is predominantly White and male, while our student body is majority female (54%) and overwhelmingly racially diverse (70%). Over 60% of UC Regents and over 70% of CSU Trustees and Community College Board of Governors are White. And, although 54% of college students are female, nearly 70% of Regents, Trustees, and Board of Governors Members are male.

Do you believe our colleges and universities should be more reflective of the student body they serve and California's diverse population? If yes, what is your plan for promoting greater equity in representation in higher education? If elected Governor, will you commit to appointing more women and racially diverse individuals to key positions in your Administration and on the UC Board of Regents, CSU Board of Trustees, the Community College Board of Governors, and the California Student Aid Commission? If no, why not?



John Chiang: Whether it's in the board room or in our classrooms, our society benefits from the rich diversity of our population. Unfortunately, we know discrimination continues to deny opportunities to people of color, women, and people with other adversities.

In my roles as State Controller and Treasurer, I've tackled the issue of diversity. I led CalPERS and CalSTRS, the country's largest public pension plans, to adopt language encouraging our corporate partners to increase diversity on their boards, including women, people of color and LGBTQ individuals. In November, I took this fight a step farther, introducing my "30 and 30" plan, calling on the board to clarify that our definition of a diverse board is one in which at least 30 percent of its members are women and 30 percent of its members are diverse in terms of sexual orientation and cultural and ethnic composition.

I will take my responsibility seriously to create an inclusive and diverse administration. 75 percent of my leadership team in the Treasurer's office is a person of color or a woman. As governor, my administration will reflect the rich diversity of our state, and I will commit to appointing more women and people of color to sit on our boards and commissions, including those governing our institutes of higher education.



Gavin Newsom: As outlined earlier, I believe Proposition 209 took a devastating toll on the diversity of our student body -- and I also believe that a lack of diversity among faculty constrains unique perspectives and hinders students' educational experience. As Governor, I will work to ensure that the UC, CSU and CCC systems institute admission and hiring policies and practices that yield diverse faculty and student bodies. I am also deeply committed to appointing Regents, Trustees and Board of Governors Members that both bring experience in higher education, and reflect the diversity of the state. It's critical that the folks making decisions that impact access, affordability and educational goals understand the unique life experiences of California's students.



Antonio Villaraigosa: Promoting greater equity and diversity in higher education at all levels starts with increasing access and affordability for racially, ethnically and geographically diverse students. We also know how important it is for students to see themselves as professors and teachers in the classroom. To increase at the pace, we need we must be intentional in seeking out, supporting and promoting first-generation undergraduate and graduate students to pursue academic careers. Growing our own faculty through UC system-wide fellowships for such students could accelerate the process.

I have a track record as mayor of appointing more women and racially diverse individuals in my administration, and as governor, I would do the same. Having a diverse administration is not about politics or political correctness, it is about building a team reflecting California's diverse perspectives. That is how you get a better decision-making process.

12. Statewide Leadership in Higher Education

California has no coordinating body for higher education to provide oversight or guidance to the 146 public college campuses which include UC's, CSU's and the Community Colleges. We believe the lack of a coordinating body has inhibited the state's ability to effectively develop long-term plans, ensure the segments are working together, and ultimately hold our public colleges and universities accountable.

If elected, will you establish a coordinating body with oversight the authority and capacity to engage in goal setting, oversight and coordination to help ensure seamless integration and accountability of California's UC, CSU and community college systems? Will you appoint a Secretary of Education? Undersecretary of Higher Education? Will you have a higher education expert within your senior leadership team? Explain your answers.



John Chiang: Yes, we are inefficient operating in silos. We need to coordinate our efforts to create the best possible outcomes for our students.

Will you appoint a Secretary of Education? Yes Undersecretary of Higher Education? Yes

Will you have a higher education expert within your senior leadership team? I'd be crazy not to. One of my current deputy treasurers served for over eight years as chief legislative advocate for the University of California's 10-campus system, and I benefit tremendously from his knowledge and experience in higher education.



Gavin Newsom: Yes, as previously mentioned, I will call for a new higher education coordinating council to set bold statewide goals and hold institutions accountable to them. We need to expand access, improve affordability, bolster transfers and completion rates. It's not fair to the CSU, UC, or to any segment to operate in its own silo; it's time for a new era of communication and collaboration. Higher education will be a top priority for my administration, which is why I will appoint a higher education expert as a key member of my senior leadership team.



Antonio Villaraigosa: We all need to understand now that there has to be better coordination among the three systems, especially as we look to develop a New Blueprint for Higher Education. Steps have been taken, such as the Community Colleges and CSU stretching to improve graduation rates. The state has also directed UC and CSU to focus on workforce skills based on anticipated needs, requiring a more intentional approach to education. This also requires the systems and individual campuses to work with business and the private sector.

Moreover, as noted earlier, increasing the number of college graduates will not happen in a vacuum. The importance of early care and education as well as demanding more from our k-12 system are essential to achieving our goals. This means our higher education systems must work in partnership with our early education through 12th grade systems.

The absence of a statewide higher education coordinating mechanism makes it difficult to achieve the above goals. We had California Post-Secondary Education Commission once but it was purely advisory to the Legislature, creating unnecessary red tape. As its purpose and authority were unclear, especially given UC's constitutional independence, it was defunded. The need continues.

For example, where there is little central governance of community colleges as they are governed by elected district boards, the system-wide Chancellor's power comes mostly from exhortation and occasionally resources

that can act as carrots to spur innovation and accountability. As for the CSU system, the Chancellor has a bit more power but probably not enough, especially when so many key actors, including some faculty, are fond of the status quo.*

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13. Data Infrastructure

California educates 1 out of every 10 K-12 students in the nation and has millions of students in our higher education institutions. While California touts itself as the hub of innovation, the state has an embarrassing relationship with using educational data to increase transparency and improve practice. Education leaders today cannot follow students from kindergarten through the workforce because California lacks the data to match students' records to their college records and to the workforce. Each of the California public university and college systems use different data systems that seldom connect to each other, which limits the type of publicly available data on how students are doing and where challenges may exist in the educational pipeline.

If elected, what would you do as Governor to improve our education data systems?



John Chiang: The absence of transparency is a breeding ground for waste, fraud and corruption. I've demonstrated throughout my career my commitment to shedding light on how government is spending tax dollars, increasing accountability and building trust among constituents. That's why when I was state controller, I made it a priority to make government financial data more transparent by launching three award-winning open data portals –ByTheNumbers, Government Compensation in California and Track Prop 30. More needs to be done, but this is the type of innovative and open government California can and should have.

As governor, I will support efforts to expand and coordinate educational data so we can get an accurate picture of what is happening to our students and workforce, and so we can build the type of response necessary to help all Californians achieve their dreams.



Gavin Newsom: Our state's higher education system has operated in silos for too long, and it's time to link data systems and talk to one another so that we can see where we're serving – and where we're failing – our children. As Governor, I will reassert California as an education data leader. The public deserves to know whether all students, regardless of background, have access to good schools and equitable funding. I know this transparency will enable educators to better tailor supports and remove barriers to opportunity. I will connect our early childhood, K-12 and higher education data systems so that we can best serve California's students as they progress through their education.



Antonio Villaraigosa: The absence of accurate data from birth to college degree makes accountability difficult. In much the same way high school dropout rates were hard to measure as districts simply assumed that a student had moved elsewhere, having a unique student identifier for all public education will help us all measure the outcomes we want.

One system for all public education. Especially if efforts to provide funding based on performance and outcomes continue and we want to show improvement, such efforts will be doomed to fail if there is no system of accountability. At some level, the systems need to be able to share information while still protecting privacy. Transparency in financing and accounting systems would also facilitate reducing costs. Reporting student progress will inevitably help accelerate achievement of our overall goals.

14. Higher Education Legacy

If elected governor, what would you like your higher education legacy to be? What measurable progress do you want to see accomplished by the time you leave office as Governor?



John Chiang: Public higher education is important to me because it gives families like mine the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. As governor, my higher education legacy will be setting California back on the path of restoring the Master Plan. We must make higher education more affordable, more accessible, and more accountable, so all of our students have the opportunity to reach their potential.

As governor, I will support giving every student two years of free community college. Over the course of the next 10 years, I am also committed to reducing tuition and student fees for our UC and CSU systems to their pre-2009 fee hike levels—a reduction by more than 40 percent. This isn't going to be easy, but you can trust that I am committed to this cause and will use the same creative and effective strategies for maximizing state resources that I have demonstrated in my 20 years as a state constitutional officer



Gavin Newsom: In many ways, the UC, CSU, and California Community Colleges serve as the gold standard for public higher education not just within the United States, but for the entire world. However, the status quo just isn't working for enough Californians today, which is why I believe we need to enhance our commitment to preparing our children for college, and reform certain elements within the higher education system that currently limit our state's potential.

As Governor, I'm calling for the California Promise, a new way of thinking about education as a lifelong pursuit, where our role in setting a foundation for student success begins when babies are still in the womb and doesn't end until we've done all we can to prepare them for a quality job and successful career. As Governor, I will realize this bold vision by expanding prenatal care, adopting universal pre-k, launching college savings accounts for every incoming kindergartener across the state, investing in community schools, increasing incentives to attract more high quality teachers, setting bold statewide higher education goals, and connecting our early childhood, K-12 and higher education data systems to improve student outcomes.

My vision is simple: every California student, regardless of their background, will have access to a high-quality and affordable public higher education, no eligible student will be turned away, and our state's public colleges and universities will once again be the envy of the world.



Antonio Villaraigosa: The challenges are many but I know without question that without investment, innovation and commitment, we will not build the higher education system we need for the 21st century. I want us to have virtual campuses in every system providing the best on-line education in the country, because that will increase access, diversity and affordability.

I want our higher education system to proactively address our workforce needs including life-long learning, because we need to strengthen economic security in the face of rapidly changing technology and work. Perhaps this can be accomplished through a better coordinated community college; if not, we need a fourth segment. I also want to close the racial and class disparities in college attainment.

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¹The Campaign for College Opportunity invited all gubernatorial candidates who raised a minimum of \$4 million as reported in the Los Angeles Times (2/26/18) and who had polled at/or above an averaged 8% among California voters in the most recent surveys conducted by the USC Dornsife/LA Times (11/17); UC Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies (12/17); the Public Policy Institute of California (1/18) polls, to be included in On the

Record. This meant that State Treasurer John Chiang, businessman John Cox, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, and former Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa were invited to submit responses for On the Record on 4/6. Three candidates responded by the April 27th deadline. Businessman John Cox was invited but unable to schedule a forum or respond to our questionnaire within the time frame allotted to all candidates.



www.collegecampaign.org

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

1149 S. Hill Street, Ste. 925

Los Angeles, CA 90015

Tel: (213) 744-9434

Fax: (877) 207-3560

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

1510 14th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 443-1681

Fax: (916) 443-1682

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

1825 K Street

Suite 720

Washington DC, 20006



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