

# CCSG 2022 General Elections:

## SENATOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidate: **Rita Awad**

*John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." I implement this quote in my daily life and always encourage others to reach their goals, no matter how big they might seem. I believe that a great leader is someone who continually puts others before themselves. They display compassion, integrity, empathy, gratitude, and grit, all qualities that I regularly prioritize.*

*My name is Rita Awad and I am excited to be running for Chaffey College Student Government Senator. As we all know, Chaffey College is a community college. The amazing thing about a community is that it allows you to be a part of something much bigger than yourself. It allows you to work together, build friendships, share smiles, and enjoy life much more than you can alone. I wish to be a part of student government to implement the true meaning of community upon our campuses. I want to make a difference in the students' lives and ensure that everyone's voice is heard. Being a leader isn't about the title; it's about inspiring others and helping them succeed. I want to help others reach their goals and enjoy every moment of their time at Chaffey.*

*As Senator of CCSG, I will put the needs of the students first. I will represent and serve the students of Chaffey College with all of the qualities a great leader should possess. I will push everyone to never give up on their dreams because inspiration and motivation are a large indicator of the end result. Likewise, I will always do the same; never give up on any of my roles and responsibilities as Senator. Most of all, I will do everything with a smile on my face and always strive to bring smiles to your faces!*

*Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to work with you all next semester!*

Candidate: **Jennica Valencia**

*Hello fellow panthers,*

*As a student at Chaffey College I've learned so much but I am open to learning so much more. Let's learn and improve our school together. A quality, interactive, fun and affordable education is close to my heart, and by running for senator I will do everything in my power to enhance the experience for myself and all other fellow students. With my experience serving on several youth councils and as a youth ambassador, I know what it takes to be heard. With that being said, entrust in me to help all my fellow panthers be heard and expressively share their opinions.*

Candidate: **Demia Lotson**

*Becoming a part of CCSG for me, will be fulfilling a new goal in my life to impact others positively and efficiently. I am currently in a position of mirroring kindness, hard work, and compassion to my community. My persistent effort will show resilience in converting our student body belief system into a mindset of peace and togetherness.*

Candidate: **Jasmin Duarte-Alvarado**

*I, Jasmin Duarte-Alvarado, am running for the position of Senator within Chaffey college for a multitude of reasons. The most important reason is to help students who face the same challenges as I do being first generation college students. As a first-generation college student, we face double the challenges as it is an immense responsibility and journey that we must take on with minimal guidance and often minimal support. We do not have the advantage of asking for help from our family members because we are often the first in our families to seek further education upon graduating high*

school. As a result of this, we must become the guides for those we care for who also want to further their education. We must pave the way for those who will follow in our footsteps. This pressure can be overwhelming at times, but I believe it can be significantly reduced by reaching out to someone who has had similar experiences. Being a part of the CCSG, I believe I can help our first-generation students by creating more resources for them and actually taking the time to connect with them to ensure these resources are being utilized to their maximum potential. In my experience, my first year here at Chaffey it felt as though I was on my own trying to figure out what it was I was supposed to do. I felt lost with no clear path or direction. It took me a while to reach out to someone because I was afraid and I didn't want to feel like I didn't belong or wasn't good enough to be here. I felt helpless and almost defeated. This feeling is something I hope other students do not have to go through. It is my wish that they have a person they can create a connection with to guide them and be that support they desperately need. Someone whom they can relate to and someone they can trust in with the confidence that they are being led down a path for their highest success. If I were given the honor of being a part of the senate committee, I could help other students not only with similar experiences as mine but the student body in general. I can assist in providing students with tools and resources that they need so that they may be equipped with the knowledge and confidence they need to make their college experience as seamless as possible. I strongly believe that I can be the voice for those that are too shy or too afraid to speak up regarding their concerns. I am confident that being a part of this committee will also equip me so that I may become the helping hand so many of our students need. Being a part of this great committee is one of the many aspirations I have as a college student. I wish to reach this goal so that I may help as many students as I can within my time here at Chaffey. I would love nothing more than to be a part of the reason as to why students succeed at our campuses. I'd love to see us, as a committee, having a more active role within our campus so that we can make this campus feel as beautiful as it looks. Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate: **Joette Chavez-Lares**

My name is Joette Chavez Lares and I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the position of Senator for "Chaffey College Student Government". I'm looking forward to working harmoniously with others in the "Chaffey College Student Government" to continuously make "Chaffey College" a great place to attend.

To those of you who do not know me, I have lived in Ontario, California for the entirety of my life and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. I have been attending Chaffey College for just almost a year. In my spare time, I work as an intern for the City of Ontario and help out with their many events. I also get the pleasure of meeting the mayor and city council members. In addition, I am an Explorer in recruitment at the "Ontario Police Department" where I am required to always be professional as well as have integrity. Lastly, I am a Member of the "Young Senators Program", which includes working with Senator Connie M. Leyva to gain leadership experience as well as learn more about state public policy development. Understanding how state legislators, local officials, and others, play a role in developing public policy. Also, I get to meet local elected officials, prominent community members, and get acquainted with the 20th Senate District.

I believe my background and experience in volunteer work and other organizations has prepared me to be the best possible candidate for the position of Senator. Throughout my time doing these activities, I have attained many skills that would be useful for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of this position. I can effortlessly and effectively communicate, organize events, set up meetings, along with many other things. Using these skills, I would make for an astounding Senator in Chaffey College Student Government.

If you believe in my abilities to fill this position as your Senator, please vote for me, Joette Chavez Lares in the election! Thank you for your time and consideration!

Candidate: **Jennifer Vo**

My name is Jennifer Vo, and it is my pleasure to introduce myself to you. I am a student at Chaffey College. I can assist you. This is my second time running for Senator. I am honored and pleased to serve as Senator again at Chaffey College

*for the 2022-2023 school year. There are many students, staff, teachers, and friends that I care about at Chaffey College. We're looking forward to a good school year at Chaffey College in 2022-2023. My role as a senator provides me with so many opportunities. It is a pleasure to support the college in this way. It is my goal to come up with new ideas and to make sure that we as a team organize good stuff because I am a great listener and note taker. I thank all of you for listening to me. I look forward to working with you in the future. Right now, I am studying to become an excellent photographer. Both a degree in photography and a certificate in Commercial Photography (Cert) Graphic Design for Digital Media at Chaffey College are on my wish list. When I was in high school, my counselor always recommended taking photography classes at Chaffey College. Growing up, I loved taking pictures. My goal is to complete the photography program at Chaffey College. In November 2020, my father passed away. It is my dream to become a photographer. I want to get my photography degree at Chaffey College. I love to take pictures so much in Middle school and high school. The reason is that I would like to help my school community by organizing and helping other students to be able to take part in and lead school functions. I just have a few classes to go to graduate from Chaffey college. I have also joined Chaffey College and Disability Program and Services to assist me in navigating which college or university I want to attend. To better prepare for a AA degree and Commercial Photography (Cert) Graphic Design for Digital Media, I enrolled at Chaffey College to get a head start. To get a better understanding of how to achieve my career goal.*

Candidate: **Christopher Cormier**

*No candidate statement submitted.*

Candidate: **Stephany Guevara**

*No candidate statement submitted.*

Candidate: **Joseph Foss**

*First and foremost, it would be a gracious honor to receive acceptance into the CCSG. Participating in my community college's student government would enable the opportunity to question, assimilate, and debate ideas to generate prosperous plans. Additionally, engaging in CCSG extends my vulnerability to comprehend board-topic discussions; essentially, critiquing my impartial decision-making skills. Finally, it has been my everlasting dream to experience admission into the prestigious UCLA campus; without mention, my major of choice, Business Economics, is the second highest selective major with a mere 12% admission rate. Given this data, the competition to secure admittance is fierce and aggressive. Therefore, acquiring membership in CCSG would drastically improve my chances, considering the low admission rate and other eagerly ambitious students applying. Thus, membership in CCSG, along with my diligence to excel in my current honors courses, position my admittance into UCLA an attainable endeavor. Nevertheless, I value the personal development that would be associated with my CCSG membership, and for this, I would have endless gratification.*

Candidate: **Tamia Newman**

*My name is Tamia Newman, and I like social justice and nice walks on the beach. I don't claim to know it all, but I know that I am a good fit to be your CCSG senator. Currently, I am a sociology major because I find people and the way we work together fascinating. Since we live in a diversified society, I believe that our representatives should also be diverse. It is extremely important to me, as a queer Black woman, that my communities have authentic representation.*

*I moved to this country from Australia when I was nine, and immediately I was thrust into a culture that differed from all that I had previously known. I felt pressured to adapt quickly and thought that in order to fit in, I had to be versions of myself that others expected me to be. I was scared to death of not fitting in at school, and I was scared of letting my mother down; I was scared of not being enough. Though I have overcome these fears now in defining my identity, I still*

*strive to make my mother proud. Immigrating to and getting settled in this country wasn't an easy feat, especially as a single mother of two young children, yet my mother did it in order to give me and my brother opportunities she believed we would miss in Australia, and for that reason she is my biggest inspiration. She is why I work hard. Every day when I attend classes at Chaffey, I'm reminded of her. My mother always told me that education is the path to freedom and self-improvement.*

*The first time I attended class here at Chaffey, I became acutely aware of how diverse its student population is. Seeing older people coming back to school, people from different countries, and people who have struggled with the hardships of life—and despite the harshness, still seem to rise above in order to better themselves . . . that is inspiring. And to me, it's 100 percent worth my time and energy to make Chaffey College an experience that helps fellow students feel supported in every way while receiving a quality education. This would not be my first time investing my energy into my community; a few years back, I began organizing LGBTQ+ prides and marches against police brutality and discrimination, and started vocally advocating for the implementation of better mental health services in schools. I find empowerment in myself by empowering others and bringing people together, and I will ensure that Chaffey fosters an environment that is inclusive and representative of the student body that makes Chaffey what it is. Chaffey students deserve to feel seen and represented, and I assure that as a CCSG senator, I will make it my mission to not forget you.*

Candidate: **Adaugo Anuforo**

*I'm Adaugo Anuforo. I would like to become Senator because I'm self-disciplined, like to get involved in extracurricular activities, and help out a lot with retreats and workshops. I enjoy patriotism and traditions. I'm also motivated to finish tasks and duties wherever I go. With that being said, I have lot of self-dedication when it comes to my grades and sports.*

Candidate: **Roland Burgess**

*I took 3 classes at Chaffey and in the Fall of 2021, I was able to get back to school full-time. I earned all my CE units elsewhere and as a photography major, I've been taking photography and art classes. The quality of instruction in the Chaffey classes I've taken have been equal to and better than classes I've taken at several universities. Faculty have been excellent in their technical area of expertise and welcoming, supportive and encouraging in their classes. I've also been enriched by many of my fellow students who share my passion and enthusiasm for the field. I've gained much from being a Chaffey student and I would like to give back.*

*My goals as a senator: One effect of the pandemic has been that students have socialized less or not at all with other students. With in-person classes returning, many students are anxious about re-entering the classroom. It's important that people feel comfortable reestablishing a sense of community as we, hopefully, return to our new normal. Doing what I can to facilitate this rebuilding of community is an important goal for me. Student clubs and activities, especially within majors, are a solid way to accomplish this. There is a reluctance on the part of Chaffey Administration to fill full-time faculty positions. While part-time faculty can deliver excellent instruction, full-time faculty offer more to the student, i.e., office hours, continuity across semesters, ability to serve as club advisors, and to supervise independent projects. There needs to be more transparency with students from both the administration and with the Faculty Senate.*

Candidate: **Marissa Narvaez**

*No candidate statement submitted.*

Candidate: **Sara Reyes**

*My name is Sara and I am currently in my third semester here at Chaffey. I am looking to run for a Senator position because I am passionate about representing and being a voice for all students here at Chaffey College. I am committed to advocating in the students best interest in all matters and acting as an envoy between the student body and administration. I am a Psychology major and like to refer to myself as a Chicana first generation college student. I hope to secure a position that would allow me to help all students while they pursue their education here at Chaffey.*

**Candidate: Ramia Chaudhary**

*Hi, I am Ramia and I have been a student at Chaffey for the past two years majoring in Geology. I am running for this position with just one main aim in mind and that is to be able to better help and serve others. I believe being in a position of power no matter how small comes with a lot of responsibility and that justice can only be done to that position if all responsibilities are fulfilled to the best of one's ability. I would be very happy to contribute my time and efforts to make a difference by carefully listening to and understanding concerns or ideas students may have and then transmitting them to the appropriate office. I believe in taking every concern, idea, or proposal, no matter how small very seriously and doing my best in my position to resolve it.*

**Candidate: Fernando Vazquez**

*STUDENTS OF CHAFFEY. YOU, YES YOU WITH THE SMILE AND BEAUTIFUL EYES. Only you will be able to make a fruitful life for yourself. Let's work together and get our money's worth. We work, ask, and receive our own money so let's make Chaffey work for their's. I'm not a liberal nor a conservative I am Fernando Vazquez. You will be able to make change through me because you motivate me and vote for me to be here. I vow not to stray away from these words and keep it direct. So, for 22-23 school year let's not let it be known as the year after COVID. Let's outshine COVID and make it a year where we are the spotlight. Let's be the future parents that didn't quit and surpassed all obstacles in our way. We only have a few years to make our voice be heard and with me on YOUR team I'll promise to be loud and use the mind of the student body. Thank you for reading and your vote of confidence.*

**Candidate: Valeria Lopez**

*No candidate statement submitted.*

**Candidate: Shane Russell**

*I am proud to be a panther and this is my way of giving back to the prestigious institution that is providing for me my future. Thank you Chaffey College!*

**Candidate: Fatima Chaaban**

*I believe that I would be an amazing candidate because I really want to create a outgoing environment for students at chaffey to really engage with activities and engage with the school more.*