

# State Assembly/Senate

## **Josh Becker**

CA State Senate D 13

Lex Machina, Chairman; Chief Mobilizer, Full Circle Fund,

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Transportation/Traffic and Housing (which I believe are interrelated)
2. Climate change and the vulnerability of our Peninsula communities to Sea Level Rise
3. Education at all levels, starting with early childhood, K-12, and higher Ed, including STEM education as well as all means of Career Pathways (com college, apprenticeships, more funding for higher ed, etc)

### *1. Who is your Campaign Manager?*

Ed McGovern

### *2. What is your Campaign Budget?*

The maximum spending cap for the March Primary is \$930,000 – I plan to spend \$930,000 in the primary.

### *3. Please share your Top Ten Endorsements:*

Governor Gavin Newsom; Congressman Ro Khanna; San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo; Mountain View Mayor Lisa Matichak; Jeff Rosen, Santa Clara County District Attorney; Gary Kremen, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Member; Maureen Freschet, Deputy Mayor City of San Mateo; Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic and Business Advisor and Director of the State Office of Business and Economic Development; Jason Baker, former Mayor Campbell and Vice President Transportation, Housing & Community Development for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group; Anne Campbell, fmr San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools

### *4. Would you support or oppose a 3 county ballot initiative for a permanent 1/8 cent sales tax to fund Caltrain?*

Support

I support it

### *5. Do you support funding to complete a valley to valley connection through high speed rail?*

Support

For background, I was a Founding Trustee of UC Merced and have been on the Board for 15 years. I chaired the Board for 2 years and have been on the Executive Committee for 10 years. Currently I Chair an Executive Committee focused on entrepreneurship both out of the UC and also trying to get Silicon Valley companies to open up an office in the Central Valley. I have been actively involved in building business ties between Silicon Valley and the Central Valley. I support this so much that we actually have looked at running our own shuttle!

6. *Would you support a measure dedicated to build and operate a world class, seamless integrated transit system to better serve Bay Area residents, funded through a one cent sales tax, to better serve the transit dependent and those of us still in our cars?*

Support

I support. I have been actively talking about this from the start of my campaign.

7. *Would you support state legislation to facilitate and encourage TOD within a half-mile of fixed-rail development, including streamlining housing approvals and establishing minimum zoning standards/heights?*

Support

I support facilitating and encouraging Transit Oriented Development

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

I have recently been looking into reports of abuse of CEQA for political reasons. I would want to play a role in ensuring we keep the important components of studying environmental impacts but we look at streamlining the law so that it does not become an impediment to new housing production.

9. *Would you support a ballot measure, such as Prop 8, that regulates the amount that healthcare providers may charge for services?*

Support

I will only support a measure in this area that I play a major role in helping to develop.

10. *Do you support requiring all new buses purchased with federal funds be zero-emission beginning on October 1, 2029 (which is California's deadline for transitioning all transit bus purchases to zero-emission buses)?*

Support

I support. I have a 7-part plan to reduce climate emissions and it includes leveraging government procurement to promote clean energy and EVs. Any reasonable ways to reduce our carbon footprint need to be implemented quickly.

11. *Will you work with the Leadership Group and your Bay Area state legislative colleagues to develop a "Baylands Caucus" focused on a regional vision and plan of action for sea level rise, as well as funding to address our shared vulnerabilities?*

Support

I will – it's a vital necessity.

12. *Do you support or oppose a proposed amendment to Proposition 13?*

Support

I understand the the initial measure is no longer being pursued. I am waiting to review the full text of the next version before fully committing support.

*13. Will you support legislation that reduces the volatility of the California tax system?*

Support

Having been a CEO I know how hard it is to run a business with a wildly fluctuating top line! We must get our long term budget in shape and not be subject to the the extreme volatility we've had over the last 20 years. And we all know budgets don't expand forever. We must prepare for any upcoming recessions -otherwise there will be dire consequences including layoffs again of teachers, nurses, public safety personnel and other important government jobs and cuts again to critical social services.

*14. Do you support the creation of a statewide student longitudinal data system?*

Support

I support

*15. Will you address the higher education opportunity gap for underrepresented students and increase the number of graduates prepared for innovation economy careers?*

Support

I will and have worked actively on this for the last 20 years, including currently teaching in our local Community Colleges, my work with UC Merced (the most diverse UC and 55% get STEM degrees), grants through Full Circle including Black Girls Code, Women's Audio Mission, and many others, and through my work the last six years on the California Workforce Development Board.

*16. Tell us about a time when you were opposed to a position of one of your major supporters. What was the issue? How did you handle this situation?*

Since the beginning of my campaign I've talked about the idea of a 'mega-measure' – doing what LA and Seattle have done to raise around \$100B to create a world class transit system here in the Bay Area. I've had some of my supporters who have voiced concern to me about spending that amount of money for this cause. I've told them that we do need to make sure that the money is spent wisely, but explained to them why this is needed and why I'm pushing for it.