

# San Jose

## **Sergio Jimenez**

San Jose City Council, District 2

Councilmember/Incumbent

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Housing & Homelessness Crisis. We need across the board housing solutions for our most vulnerable to new couple just starting out. This is our most prescient issue.
2. Enhancing neighborhood safety and community services - City Hall's first responsibility is our safety.
3. Tackle our infrastructure needs to improve our quality of life, like reducing traffic congestion. You can read more about the work we have already done on these issues and more online at [VoteSJ.com/accomplishments](http://VoteSJ.com/accomplishments)

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

Maribel Villareal

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

The fundraising period for San Jose City Council begins on September 5, 2019, 180 days prior to the Election. In order to deliver our message and a successful campaign in the March 2020 Primary I will need to raise at least \$100,000.

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

Zoe Lofgren & Ro Khanna, US Congress; Jim Beall & Bill Monning, CA State Senators; Mark Stone, CA Assemblymember; Malia Cohen, CA Board of Equalization Member; Chappie Jones, San Jose Vice Mayor, Raul Peralez, Magdalena Carassco & Maya Esparza, San Jose City Councilmembers

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

Support

I believe Caltrain provides crucial service to a vital corridor of the Bay Area. Additionally, South San José and South County generally lack a sufficient amount of service and I expect that any measure would be conducive to producing more service to these otherwise starved areas.

My reservations come from resident concerns around tax fatigue and the sincere concern that our corporate partners along the Caltrain corridor can do more to help subsidize Caltrain as it provides crucial transportation options for the workforce of these corporate partners.

Additionally, we need to think thoroughly about how this tax measure will facilitate increased usage from less affluent residents who utilize a higher percentage of their income to ride the same trains as more affluent riders.

I would need more information on what role our corporate partners will play in solving these long standing issues. I have been supportive of Caltrain as Councilmember and will continue to do so. We have to support our public transit services even through a sales tax measure.

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

Support

I support sustainable, long-term funding because too much has already been spent and committed to turn back now. However the project proceeds, it needs to be done thoughtfully and with an eye to fiscal prudence. It also needs to include grade separations, and have the least amount of impact on our local community.

High Speed Rail should already be an option for residents to travel to the Central Valley and beyond. I want to see stronger action on this issue.

*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 want us to dream big and I want us to work together to see big ideas become real, but my time on Council has shown me that we need a plan. I support this idea in theory, but without a concise vision for what a major transportation overhaul would like, I do not want us to continue to rely on sales tax increases to fund all of our projects. Tax fatigue is a very real concern for the 100,000 plus residents I represent. Residents continue to ask what corporate partners are doing to help solve our transportation issues and feel that time and again they are looked to in solving our areas vast transportation challenges. I would need more information on what role our corporate partners will play in solving these long standing issues. We can make big things happen, but we should not always rely on taxes to make them happen.

*7. Do you support Google's plans for the Diridon Station Area?*

Support

When this project came before us on Council, I voted in support, but I am also very concerned about what the realization of this project will look like, and approaching this with cautious optimism. I am supportive of the Google project because I believe it will bring much needed jobs and tax revenue to our city. However, I do believe that Google will have a very real impact on our local housing market and it can and will potentially exacerbate an already out of reach housing market for far too many residents.

We need to make certain Google does their part in making San José a city for everyone, irrespective of whether you work in a kitchen or in the tech sector. I look forward to continuing to work on this project and hold all partners accountable to make sure this project is a success and is not harmful to our working families and the generations of residents that have made San Jose the wonderful community that I am proud to serve.

*8. Do you support any revenue generating vehicles (please be specific) to build more affordable homes?*

Support

I support a tiered commercial-only parcel tax because I and many residents think our corporate partners can do more to help solve our housing crisis.

I support a vacant land tax because we need to “incentivize” folks to rent/sell their properties so they aren’t sitting vacant while residents go without shelter or new businesses struggle to survive. Anything that can bring more supply on line will only have a positive impact on the current state of rents.

I am supportive of a review our real estate transfer tax, especially as other Bay Area cities look to increase this to directly provide funds for affordable housing. If a small increase to this item does not harm our families looking to own a home in our community, I am open to consideration.

I oppose a general parcel tax because there is tax fatigue among my residents and I don’t want to exacerbate their precarious housing situations by adding more taxes.

*9. Are you in favor of a ballot measure that will prohibit campaign contributions from advocates for development and tie the San Jose Mayoral term to the Presidential Election Cycle?*

Support

I am wholeheartedly supportive of this measure and expect it will receive enough signatures to go before the voters. The most important component of this measure, in my mind, is the change of the mayoral election. I do not buy for one second that changing the mayor election to be aligned with the presidential election is a bad for San Jose voters. We should all desire higher turnout in every election.

As a political scientists commented during a recent debate on the topic, the current cycle is not a-political. We have the current cycle in place because it naturally depresses the votes of certain populations and this naturally favors certain segments of our community. This must end.

*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

This is crucial if we are to meet our state and city’s ambitious climate goals. On Council, I supported the purchaser of electric buses for our airport, and I hope that we are able to have an all electric fleet and work to make this a reality before 2029. We need to take action on the small things and the big ones if we are going to address the impacts of climate change. Our public transit should be as carbon neutral as possible.

*11. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay?*

Support

In the face of sea level rise, we have to take steps together to mitigate these dangers. The waters of the SF Bay give life to our community, and if they are not healthy, resilient and

protected, that will reflect and hurt our communities and our future. This matter is too big for any one city to solve alone, and has to be done together. Environmental protection is a major concern for me, and I am committed to protecting our land, like Coyote Valley in my district, our air and our water.

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

Support

Changes to Prop 13 are a long time coming, and I would hope that we can solve this matter in 2020, otherwise we will see this fight continue at the ballot box. There are many corporations that are not paying their fair share and this is crucial to bring about equitable contributions to our state's tax base. The estimated revenue cities expect to receive from this change is crucial if we are to continue to provide and potentially expand services to our residents who consistently demand more from their local government. On Council, I see the limits that constrain us because we do not have the resources to provide the services the residents in Northern California's largest city deserve.

*13. If a public charter school's petition is approved to operate within your local school district, meaning their proposal meets key pupil outcomes as indicated by state law, would you approve the school's bid to rent or build facilities beyond those already owned by the district?*

Oppose

In my District 2 there are families with children in our public schools and families with children in charter schools, no matter where they go, every child deserves a quality education and safe spaces to learn, grow and play. We do best when we are providing the best for our youth.

My children all attend local public schools and my wife and I are both public school graduates. I am proud graduate of Independence High School and San Jose State University.

Authorization, allowances and oversight of our Charter schools is not one of my responsibilities on City Council, but land use decisions are. I have been able to work with local school board members to help our students and will continue to do so. However, as student enrollments continue to decline and districts are facing school closures, I am not ready to see us turn over more land or facilities for Charter schools.

*14. 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?*

My support for the Google project has been a challenging matter for several of my supporters, several of which are in direct opposition to the project because of their real concerns about displacement and the potential for increasing the inequity of our neighborhoods.

My first term on Council has seen times when I have received affirmation from my allies and opposition as well. In every case I make it a priority to meet and listen to the concerns residents have, and I always take their concerns into consideration as their representative. While supporters of mine may not always agree with my votes, they respect my approach and work.

They know I will be diligent in doing my homework and be tough in holding everyone accountable.