

State Assembly/Senate

Alex Lee

State Assembly - District 25

Legislative Policy Advisor

Top 3 priorities citywide

1. Fixing the Housing Crisis
2. Reinvesting in Education
3. Eliminating Traffic Via Transit Infrastructure

1. Who is your Campaign Manager?

Michelle Hua

2. What is your Campaign Budget?

126,000

3. Please share your Top Ten Endorsements:

Jorge Pacheco Jr Trustee, Oak Grove School District; Kalen Gallagher Trustee, Campbell Union High School District; Kristiina Arrasmith Trustee, Campbell Union High School District; Stacey Brown Trustee, Campbell Union High School District

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

Support

Our transportation infrastructure is far behind other developed Metropolitan areas in the world. Increased South Bay - Peninsula Transit is one vital step we must take to curb carbon emissions and take cars off the road. I'd of course support this measure

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

Support

Yes, we need HSR to connect our major population centers. Californians deserve to have freedom of mobility across the state in a convenient and sustainable manner. HSR will undoubtedly transform our economy and society for the better and I will be a fierce advocate for its completion and connection with the Bay Area.

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

Yes we need a seamless, integrated transit system across the Bay Area. Our piecemeal approach is frustrating and lacking for every day riders.

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

Yes, I support such legislation and would co-author legislation similar to SB 50. In fact, I live exactly in a TOD zone (currently a single family suburb next to light rail in San Jose) and can speak more to my constituents about the myths and fears perpetuated by SB50 opposition. We need more housing and we need to be building for the future in dense, sustainable ways.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

I suppose common sense CEQA reform. CEQA has been a great tool to bring transparency, public input, and of course environmental protections for CA. However, I think there is room for commonsense reform - especially if a project is incredibly beneficial to the community and has a lot of affordable units.

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

Support

Yes; at a time when healthcare costs are bankrupting our communities for life-saving treatment AND healthcare industry is making incredible profits - we have to assert that human life is more important than money. The Dialysis industry is infamously terrible and manipulative as well. DaVita itself poured \$67 million against Prop 8 (more than 3x the total budget for the Yes campaign). I also voted yes in 2018 for this ballot measure.

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

Yes, but in fact I think we need to be really moving faster with our time table of zero-emissions improvements. By 2029 our mitigation efforts may be way too little, too late.

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

Yes, sea level rise is an unfortunate reality we must confront. AD25 itself is vulnerable along our coasts in Alameda and Santa Clara county, so I will be a strong advocate for sea-level rise mitigation efforts.

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

Support

I wouldn't say the taxes would become "unpredictable" since it's being reassessed at market value every 3 years (from the last briefing I had on this). It's definitely not fair that business/industrial properties enjoy the benefit of a blanket protection designed to keep seniors and families in their homes. We need Prop 13 reform and this is a good first step to help rebalance tax revenues for local jurisdictions.

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

Support

Yes, CA's reliance on income tax is incredibly volatile and puts us at risk in the next economic downturn. I would want us to talk about tax reform now and looking at other structures and

systems of tax while the economy is doing well. We have to learn from other countries and states and do better.

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

Support

If we value student success, using empirical data from all the collection we use over a student's academic career seems common sense to me

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

Support

Absolutely yes; I will be fighting for higher education opportunities for all Californians and fighting for tuition-free college. Too many people try to get educated and come out saddled with terrible debt - debt that often is a deciding factor in whether they stay home in CA or leave for good. I will be fighting to expand access to our colleges while also holding those institutions accountable for student success.

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?*

A lot of conflict comes from fear and misunderstanding. When some of my supporters disagreed with my position on housing, I accept their real grievances with more development as valid. They are indeed real problems, but I also point to the common ground of problems that get worse from inaction. I've learned that having genuine conversations (even if they are uncomfortable) is best to actually learn about each other's perspectives.

Additional Question asked on 10/15

17. *Are you in favor or in opposition 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

Support: for two reasons

1) Turnout of course is always higher in presidential years and in general elections. Moving the Mayoral election to Presidential years will boost turnout just given the way voters turnout higher in those years - especially because the political discourse and attention is more prominent in presidential elections. As a candidate running for Assembly in a presidential cycle, I can attest to you that voters can care about local *and* national interests simultaneously. Indeed they are often interlocked. I think voters have the intelligence to decide on varying levels of government one ballot and can fairly decide who ought to be their choice for mayor, president, water district member, state legislator, and party central committee member as they do every 4 year cycle.

2) It is unarguable that the influence of money in political campaigns has ballooned out of control, especially after *Citizens United*. Ask any voter and they will tell you special interest money is off-putting and corrosive to our democracy. That is why I am a major proponent of publicly financed elections and curbing the influence of special interest money statewide. And as well all know in post *Citizens United* that such measures should not impact the ability of any moneyed interest from contributing or forming Independent Expenditures. As a campaign that is

fully funded by individuals and grassroots (whereby I raised the most money in the first reporting period), I support all measures to curb the influence of big money in politics. We must strive for our democracy to be real voices of the people, not those who can produce the biggest checks.

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/alex-lee-outraises-competitors-in-assembly-district-25-race/>