

State Assembly/Senate

Anna Song

State Assembly District 25

Trustee, Santa Clara County Board of Education

Top 3 priorities citywide

1. Education
2. Housing & Transportation
3. Women's issues

1. Who is your Campaign Manager?

Frank Biehl

2. What is your Campaign Budget?

\$200,000

3. Please share your Top Ten Endorsements:

Asian Pacific Islanders Legislative Caucus (API Caucus); California Federation of Teachers (CFT); Korean American Political Alliance of Silicon Valley (KAPA-SV); Delaine Eastin, California State Superintendent of Instruction (Ret.); Mike Honda, Member, U.S. House of Representatives (Ret.); Lorena Gonzales, California State Assembly Member; David Chiu, California State Assembly Member; Phil Ting, California State Assembly Member; Rob Bonta, California State Assembly Member; Rosemary Kamei, President, Santa Clara County Board of Education

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

Support

Caltrain is a significant link in providing public transportation around the bay. It currently does not have an independent source of funding. This modest sales tax increase would provide the financial base need to continue and expand service.

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

Support

Linking the two valleys is essential for the continued economic viability of our community. Because of lower land cost, high density housing development at transit stations in the Central Valley would provide a needed source of lower cost housing for employees in Silicon Valley.

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'm inclined to support but would like to more before committing to a 1% increase in the sales tax. Will the funds be used for infrastructure investment or operational expenses? What is the ration of funding between regional and local projects; transit and automobile related improvements etc.? What is the time frame for the tax? How will this affect the ability of other local government entities to raise funds for their needed public investments? Have other sources of funds or taxing mechanisms been explored?

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

We need to adjust our housing patterns to meet the needs of the 21st century. One solution that will permit lower cost housing and lower carbon emissions is higher density development around fixed rail transit stations. State legislation will be required to overcome NIMBY opposition.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

I support reform where all parties affected by the legislation are given the opportunity to participate in the discussion and drafting of new legislation.

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

Support

While I would need to review the specifics of any future proposals before arriving at a decision, I support a general concept of regulating current healthcare cost that is out of control.

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

We need to rapidly move away from carbon-based transportation. This is one important step.

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

This is a regional issue that requires a regional solution and I would very much appreciate SVLG's leadership and its convening power. When I'm elected, I promise to work with SVLG along with Bay Area state legislative colleagues.

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

Support

I understand that a new ballot initiative is being written and will shortly be circulated. I'll need to review that proposal before making a commitment. That being said I think there is a need for reform in this area and I would be looking to support a reform that is practical and implementable.

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

Oppose

California's system of taxation is volatile because it relies primarily on income and sales tax, not because it's progressive. Both income and sales tax are volatile because in the "good times," an economic expansion, they produce well but in the "bad times," a recession, they produce poorly. Other states have tax systems that are less volatile because they rely more on property taxes which remain relatively stable in both expanding and receding economic periods. Tax reform is a very challenging issue and will require the building of a broad consensus in order to bring about reform. I'm willing to enter the conversation.

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

Support

Long overdue. Santa Clara County Office of Education has been championing a similar data system. The challenge is getting it right. I'll support appropriate funding.

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

Support

We need to develop an education system that provides training for the jobs that exist in California. This will require an increased emphasis on STEM, starting in elementary school. But we also must provide equitable funding to assure that all California students are offered the same opportunities.

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?

It was regarding a certain charter school renewal which their data did not reflect their promise to serve the demographics of the nearby districts. I challenged their assertions and it created community dialogue including the stakeholders from local school districts. I believe it forced an exclusive community to become more open to the nearby school districts and encouraged collaboration.

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

Democracy works best when there is increased participation. Moving the San Jose mayor's election to coincide with the presidential election assures that more San Jose voters will determine who is elected mayor. Additionally, the campaign reforms provided in the initiative are simple and reasonable. A developer who has a project pending is prohibited from making campaign contributions to the mayor, city council or candidates for either office. This reform is similar to what was enacted several years ago when the city prohibited card club operators, whom they regulate, from making campaign contributions in council or mayor elections.