

# State Assembly/Senate

## Anne Kepner

California State Assembly, District 25  
Community College Trustee/Attorney

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Public education - protecting and promoting affordable, quality education for all Californians from universal preschool through college.
2. Healthcare - providing universal, affordable healthcare, including mental health services to all Californians.
3. Addressing the needs of our state's most vulnerable populations by advocating for living wages, pay equity, and fair employment practices; addressing the housing crisis through the rapid production of affordable housing for all, protecting renters, and providing services for those who are experiencing housing and food insecurity; ensuring environmental justice for all Californians.

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

Adrienne Grey

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

\$350K-\$500K for the primary

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

South Bay Labor Council; DAWN; Northern California Carpenters Regional Council; Sen. Connie Leyva; Mayor Manny Capello; Mike & Mary Ellen Fox; WVM Trustees: Bob Owens, Jack Lucas, Adrienne Grey, Susan Fish, Randi Kinman

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

Support

Yes, I will support it. We must invest in our regional transportation system. A more robust, reliable and better utilized rail system in the Bay Area will improve the quality of life, the environment and people's general overall health. Providing a permanent source of funding is critical to ensuring the sustainability of an expanded rail system.

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

Support

Yes, I do support it. We must provide a rail system that effectively moves people from where they live to where they work. Given the lack of affordable housing in Silicon Valley, it is anticipated an increasing number of people will live in the Central Valley. It is critical that we reduce congestion, reduce commute times, and reduce the negative impacts on the environment.

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 must provide a public transportation system that actually moves people within the greater Bay Area. Being able to achieve an improved quality of life depends on it. Our environment depends on it. The sustainability of our economy depends on it.

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 am supportive of TOD. Yes, I am supportive of streamlining housing approvals and establishing minimum zoning standards/heights, we must build with far greater density in order to meet the housing needs. Municipalities will likely need to be encouraged to approve of development that achieves these goals and I am willing to support such legislation. An important component in achieving equity and winning community support will be including affordable units in all these developments.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

The California Environmental Quality Act is intended to require state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid and mitigate those impacts where feasible. I would be supportive of reforms that would reduce abuse of this statute as long as those reforms do not undermine the intended purpose. In order to prevent further environmental damage, it is important that CEQA be implemented as intended.

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

Support

I support quality, affordable universal healthcare for all Americans. All other developed nations that have achieved this for their citizens have regulatory controls in the delivery and costs of health care. Careful study leading to statewide and nationwide legislative solutions is what is needed to achieve the ultimate goal of providing affordable health care for all, rather than a piecemeal approach to regulation.

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, I support zero-emission public transit. The health of our environment depends on us making the needed changes to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and reducing GHG emissions.

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, I will work with the “Baylands Caucus” to address this critical issue. The state of California must address sea level rise and decisions will need to be made in the near future that will balance the interests of property owners along the coast with those of the general public. The coastline that many for generations have taken for granted is in jeopardy and it is critical that we create a coordinated plan of action that incorporates the interests of all of us. I strongly support regional collaboration on shared issues related to the environment as well as housing and transportation.

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

Support

Proposition 13 passed in 1975 and since then commercial real estate owners have been paying very modest property taxes. There needs to be much discussion around the particular commercial and industrial property owners who would be impacted by the contemplated ballot measure. We must achieve a system in which all property owners are paying their fair share.

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

Support

I am in favor of reducing volatility. The current is difficult for all. We do need a system that is more predictable for the taxpayer but also for the state and agencies that depend on the revenue the taxes provide. Whether or not I would support particular legislation aimed at solving this problem depends on the specific approach and expected outcomes.

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

Support

I think data-driven decisions in policy setting is always more effective. Creating a statewide student longitudinal data system, if supported sufficiently, could allow California to better understand and close the achievement gap and improve student outcomes. If such a system were created, it would be necessary to provide sufficient funding, ensure continuity during changing administrations, protect the privacy rights of the students, and not permit it to replace the vital relationships between students and teachers, families and communities.

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

Support

Yes, we must start early. Students’ future academic paths are defined at an early age. Intervention and encouragement to study and prepare for careers in the innovation economy is critical to our region’s competitiveness and to ensuring people are prepared for the work that is available and future work yet to evolve. Community colleges are uniquely situated to make higher education more accessible and affordable for many of our citizens. There are opportunities for further integration between the various school levels and coordination will make the needed education more accessible.

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?*

I received the Faculty union endorsement for my 2014 campaign for West Valley-Mission trustee. Later, during contract negotiations, I and the full Board approved contract changes that were opposed by Faculty. I supported the administration’s position because I felt it was in the best interest of students as well as the entire district community. These changes were upheld through mediation and ultimately accepted by the union and implemented. Board relations with Faculty since then have markedly improved.

*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

I support efforts to increase voter engagement. Increased voter participation in selecting San Jose's Mayor is a desired outcome.