

# State Assembly/Senate

## **Johnny Khamis**

State Senate District 15

San Jose City council member D10

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Public Safety/crime
2. Homelessness
3. Funding for parks, streets

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

Diane Mogannam Straetker

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

\$500K for the Primary

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

SVO (formerly the Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, San Jose Councilmember Dev Davis, San Jose District 6 Councilmember Pam Foley, San Jose District 9 Councilmember Chuck Reed, Former Mayor of San Jose Charles "Chappie" Jones, San Jose, Vice Mayor

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

Oppose

In the last 4 years we have passed with my support, several local statewide and regional tax measures. (SB1, VTA measure B, Regional measure 3, San Jose measure B .25c sales tax and Measure T infrastructure bond). I am worried that our tax paying public has become overburdened with taxes which make it harder to afford to live here. Further I am concern with the rise in labor costs. Over the past 4 years the minimum wage for the lowest rank pavement maintenance worker has risen from \$18 per hour to \$42. VTA labor unions are asking for huge increases in pay (13% annually each year for the next 3 years) which will render any new taxes insufficient to pay for any new services. Furthermore, the public has not seen much results from any of these measures. Its time to show the public that we can come through with projects before we ask for more money.

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

Oppose

At this time I cannot support further funding of this project. I have grave concerns about cost overruns and the reluctance to address audit recommendations to bring down costs and increase oversight and accountability.

### *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?*

Oppose

Same as question 4

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 have supported many VTA projects near light rail and the new Google village. Further, I have submitted several priority memos to bring down fees for high density projects along transportation corridors in order to spur development.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

I have seen abuse of CEQA laws first hand and I see how it has driven up the cost of housing and delayed good projects. I would support reforms for frivolous lawsuits and a streamlining of CEQA in high density infill areas.

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

Support

Depending on the details of the measure I may or may not support the measure. I pride myself on learning as much intended and unintended consequences before I make a decision.

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 have been a supporter of cleaning up our bus fleet at VTA. I have voted to purchase such busses on VTA and for the San Jose Airport.

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 have supported a regional measure to fund projects all around the bay in 2016 and would work with leaders in the bay area to protect the bay lands.

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

Oppose

Any tax increases on employers will ultimately lead to higher costs for consumers. Business will be forced to either build smaller offices (less jobs), raise prices (hurts consumers) or leave the state. I support efforts to save for a rainy day. We need to look at spending and why CA can't seem to make ends meet even in the best of times.

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

Support

I support efforts to save for a rainy day. We need to look at spending and why CA can't seem to make ends meet even in the best of times.

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

Support

Education is the only way to lift people from poverty. Its important to understand opportunities, challenges that are data driven so we can better educate our students.

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

Support

As I said in my previous answer, education is the key to bridging the income divide. We need to harness the innovative power of our high tech companies to play a bigger role in education. We also need to work on more than STEM skills. We need to look at ways to train electricians, plumbers, roofers...These jobs cannot be outsourced and there are not enough people entering these fields to meet demands.

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?*

Although both mayor Liccardo and the SVO (local Chamber of commerce) who have supported me in the past, supported measure V ( a 450 million dollar parcel tax to build housing) I opposed it. We had already passed a billion dollar county tax and we had 2 other statewide housing measures on the same ballot. In the end I explained to my supporters that our middle income earners are overly tax burdened and raising property taxes only increases the cost of living for owners and renters.

*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?*

Oppose

The "Fair Elections Initiative" should be called the "Unfair Elections Initiative". Its a dishonest power grab by special interests and most likely will be ruled as unconstitutional.