

State Assembly/Senate

Sally Lieber

State Senate, District 13

Policy Consultant

Top 3 priorities citywide

1. Housing California's housing prices continue to escalate, while our population growth has slowed and even reduced. Too many people are living close to, if not over the line and into, homelessness. It's clear that new housing must be built proximate to transit and small businesses and that we need supply at all income levels with affordable options for families, seniors, young people and people in need of supportive housing, workforce housing, and specialized housing for people living with addictions. To achieve the housing we need, we must plan for more compact housing and utilize infill opportunities, including surplus properties and surface parking lots.
2. Environmental Protection Protecting our environment and addressing the climate crisis is the most pressing issue of our time. We must accelerate our transition to clean energy while working to reduce pollution and toxic chemicals that contaminate our air and water, and compromise the health of workers and the community overall. We need to reduce the use of plastics in packaging and single use plastic containers. And we must plan for a future of sea level, Bay level and even groundwater rise, and plan for future inundation and accelerated work through the Bay Restoration Authority, created through my legislation, and other environmental agencies.
3. A more complex future requires the highest quality education for every child in California. I support the Schools and Communities First Initiative to provide for reassessment of commercial properties under Prop 13 and other funding measures to provide high quality education and schools to move California's students forward.

1. Who is your Campaign Manager?

Jordan Eldridge

2. What is your Campaign Budget?

\$400,000 for the primary.

3. Please share your Top Ten Endorsements:

SEIU California; Faculty Association of California Community Colleges; Dolores Huerta, Activist and Union Organizer; Erin Brockovich, Consumer Advocate and Environmental Champion, Hon. Delaine Eastin, CA Supt of Public Instruction (Ret.); South Bay Progressive Alliance; Peninsula Progressives; Faculty Association of Foothill De Anza Community College District; Sunnyvale Democratic Club; Democratic Activists for Women Now (DAWN).

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

Support

I do support instituting a reliable, dedicated funding source for Caltrain, and believe that it should not simply be a sales tax, but should also have additional mechanisms for greater participation by businesses.

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

Oppose

A long anticipated high speed rail system for California is needed and could be beneficial for our State, yet the weight of many missteps in the process and gigantically ballooning costs have resulted in a serious deterioration of support among voters and the community overall and high speed rail up the Peninsula's very narrow corridor is not practical. We should focus on how to pay for the Peninsula's needed electrification and grade separations instead.

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 strongly support addressing our transit needs through a regional measure, but believe that it should not simply be a sales tax, but should also have additional mechanisms for greater participation by businesses.

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 support facilitating and encouraging a mix of compact housing and small business development within range of transit, and the use of transit surface parking lots and surplus properties to meet housing needs.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Oppose

I support preserving the public's right to access to the courts and public agencies' responsibility for transparency under CEQA.

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 controlling the cost of care and 115% of the cost of patient care is certainly an adequate compensation. In this case, the for-profit dialysis industry undercut its position (that caps on profits would result in clinics closing), by spending more than \$111 million on the initiative.

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, this has been a goal of environmentalist for a very long time and now it is critically needed. We must do everything in our power to transition vehicles, machinery, and buildings, away from fossil fuels and to electric power from renewable sources.

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. When I authored successful legislation to create the Bay Restoration Authority, few people had thought about the future impacts of sea level rise on the coast and Bay. Now thanks to the voters of the nine Bay Area counties, we will have \$550 million to provide local matches for federal monies and to have critically needed restoration projects done under Project Labor Agreements. We must also develop the leadership needed to plan for conservation of restorable Bay wetlands and prevent developments such as the Saltworks proposal in Redwood City.

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

Support

Avoiding reassessment of commercial properties has placed greater burdens on new and prospective homeowners in California. It is way past time for commercial property owners to step up to do more, with appropriate safeguards to preserve truly small businesses.

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

Support

Yes, absolutely. We need reform of the commercial side of Prop 13 and other progressive measures.

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

Support

A longitudinal data system could be used to inform teaching strategies and achieve better outcomes for students, but should be oriented toward a benefit for students and not just be allowed to be used as a political cudgel. If it deteriorates to that, then it's not worth having.

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 tuition and fee-free education to fulfill California's potential. STEM education is needed for all students, but it should be recognized that we need more career ladders than just technology.

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?*

Representing the community in public office isn't easy--and you have to learn to face your friends' and supporters' disappointment with you when you vote in the community's interest rather than your own self-interest or your supporter's self interest. There have been many times when I had to do this--and I feel strongly that if someone isn't able to act in the public's best interest time after time, then they probably don't belong in public office. For me, the public's best interest, as well as you can interpret it, is a very bright line.

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 strongly support, have endorsed, and will work to pass the Fair Elections Initiative in San Jose. This measure is needed to ensure that big money interests don't dominate local elections and that critical decisions are made by a diverse electorate.