

# State Assembly/Senate

## Tim Gildersleeve

California State Senate District 15  
Paratransit Operator

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Housing and Homelessness
2. Healthcare
3. Transportation

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

Not Applicable

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

\$0 - I am taking no donations.

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

Not Applicable

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

Support

It is my belief that if we are going to solve many of the problems that our state and region face that we are going to have to take a more "communal" approach to distributing our resources. Increasing taxes is a mechanism to achieve this philosophy. Since transportation is a huge issue in the area, it makes logical sense to raise taxes so that all of us can gain some relief from the congested roads that we face.

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

Support

Similar to my answer in question #5. Many people are relocating to far reaching areas in order to have a place for housing. It is imperative that a faster means of transportation exists so that those who work in Silicon Valley can get to their workplaces faster from the outer areas of the region. I also believe that mental health is an important component to our individual and regional health. The stress of driving daily in highly congested traffic can wear on people mentally.

### *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 absolutely support these ideas. It is important that we have all communities who have a stake in this concept involved. My answer to this question is also philosophically similar to how I have answered questions #5 and #6.

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

However, I believe I have read that there is some opposition to this idea in some places. I have to listen to the opposing concerns and see if there would need to be some modifications to this concept.

The area and state are overdeveloped. We either build housing in our greenbelts or build in our city upward. If we continue to grow, then this idea makes sense.

An idea that I have been thinking about is the concept of assisting people to relocate to other states (or other countries). Housing is rapidly becoming not only a regional or state problem, but a national and global issue. In order to minimize impact in an overpopulated state or region, we could work with other states and countries that are less populated and assist people in a comfortable transition. Think globally!

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

I support reform. But if it waters down environmental protections then I would be against it. Yes, there have been abuses. If we can not maintain a high standard of environmental protection with reform, then I am willing to live with the abuses that the current legislation allows.

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

Oppose

I voted no on Proposition 8. Many of my customers are dialysis patients. They were against this proposition. My dialysis customers were concerned that the passage of this proposition would have negative effects on their healthcare. The dialysis clinicians that I am associated with also opposed this proposition.

In order for me to support such a proposition, there would have to be a broad consensus that would want something like this passed.

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

Based on the data that I have looked at and the large number of scientists that are saying that we have a climate change crisis, I support this idea.

I am concerned that there could be some "unintended consequences" as a result of using zero emission vehicles. We don't want to solve one environmental crisis only to create another one. We have to think about that.

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. As climate change continues to impact the world, rising sea levels will become a major issue. Other areas of the world will have to address this. We will have to also.

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

Support

It is my belief that proposition 13 should never have been passed by the voters. If I had been of voting age at the time of the proposition, I would have voted no. The real estate market may have played out differently with a no vote.

The November 2020 ballot measure (if passed) would allow for some more revenue to come into the state.

I have already stated previously that I am in favor of a more "communal" philosophy of distributing wealth.

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

Support

I do support tax reform in California. With the current system, when recession times hit, California is especially prone to some great struggles financially during that time.

However, I would only support tax reform if it did not harm the most vulnerable in our communities. If a proposed tax reform system means a draconian reduction of assistance for the most vulnerable (rather than an increase), I would not support it.

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

Oppose

I am choosing the oppose option because I have not yet carefully examined what the ramifications of such a system would be in the state of California. At this point in time, I would be concerned about privacy and too much state control over education. I am open to changing my mind after talking to parents, students, and educators.

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

Support

My greatest concern is the impact of automation on blue collar workers. I am pro-labor and pro-union.

In order to counteract the growing reliance on technology (and automation) young people will have to be trained to be able to do jobs that require technological expertise. Education will be a big part of this.

I would be willing to work with both the business and labor community to find ways to address these educational challenges.

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 have not been an elected official, so I have not had to face this issue.

However, since I am taking no donations (and if I win the SD 15 election) my obligations will be to the constituents of my district. I have outlined a governing philosophy in my "political party" section of my website. I will cut and paste part of that section and put that quote here:

"My philosophy on how I will govern as a state senator of California is one of two options and it depends on how my voters desire for me to "rule". Option #1 would be that I make decisions based on my viewpoints on the issues I have stated on the issues page. Option #2 would be that I would make my decisions based strictly on what the people of California (and my district) want (even if I disagree with them). In a polarized vote I would defer to my position on the issue. A non-polarized vote would be if the California people reached a level of approximately 58 percent as to whether they wanted legislation passed or vetoed."

*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.

- 1) All organizations involved and following rules in an election should be allowed to give campaign contributions. I may not agree with the amount of money involved in political campaigns, but it must be fair to all.
- 2) I am tired of people saying that the system is at fault for low voter turnout. With absentee balloting that is postage paid and plenty of information available to voters to make an informed decision, I do not blame the system but voter apathy. I am not in favor of moving the mayor's election to presidential years (especially if it means giving an extra two unelected years to the mayor).
- 3) I don't agree that if the mayor's race was moved to presidential election years that it would have a negative impact.
- 4) If the election was changed to presidential elections, then the change should occur after the first two years of the mayor's term. For instance, if we want to change the mayor's race to 2024 and the mayor's election is in 2022 then we should have another mayor's race (approved by the voters) in 2024.