

State Assembly/Senate

Anthony Phan

Member, California State Assembly; District 25

City Councilmember/President of Land Development & Public Affairs

Top 3 priorities citywide

1. Housing Affordability
2. Transportation Infrastructure
3. Economic Development

1. Who is your Campaign Manager?

Doug Greven, Mission Control Consulting

2. What is your Campaign Budget?

\$150,000 Primary, \$400,000 General

3. Please share your Top Ten Endorsements:

Sunnyvale Vice Mayor Russ Melton, Alameda Councilmember Malia Vella, Alameda Councilmember Jim Oddie, San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, San Leandro Councilmember Benny Lee, El Cerrito Councilmember Gabe Quinto, Milpitas Vice Mayor Marsha Grilli (ret.), Campbell Mayor Jeff Cristina (ret.), New Haven Unified School Board Member Jeff Wang, Franklin-McKinley School Board Member Thanh Tran

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

Support

If the ballot measure also requires an independent audit of the funds appropriated and/or a citizen's oversight committee, I am supportive of these efforts. I often look at things from a long-range planning perspective--strengthening our regional transportation infrastructure is common sense to me.

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

Support

Absolutely, not only does it connect geographical locations, it connects jobs to housing and bridges the gap. So many companies in Silicon Valley employ workers who have to commute from areas where housing is more affordable. This isn't industry specific, it's just the harsh reality of the housing crisis. In fact, it's not even limited to the private sector. In Milpitas, we actually even employ firefighters who reside out of state and go home on their days off.

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'd love for Milpitas to have representation in the group of elected officials that you're working with on this initiative. It's very important that the distribution of these funds are equitable and address regions with the highest needs.

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, in fact, I am not waiting on the state to take action. On the city council, I have already successfully passed significant reforms to our entitlement and permitting processes with the goal of streamlined government that incentivizes TOD and affordable housing production. Cognizant of the challenges that our development partners go through, we have gone above and beyond to welcome a diverse stock of housing. We are memorializing our housing policy initiatives through code and ordinance changes and through our General Plan update.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

Not only do I support reform of CEQA, I have publicly advocated for it to be repealed and replaced with a version that can address contemporary environmental concerns, while not stagnating housing production, and allows room for variances to be permitted given minimum standards are met.

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

Oppose

Prop 8 does not actually account for the costs of care and is overly punitive. It tries to accomplish too much, but the risks are too high. Many local clinics may be forced to shut down, ultimately reducing patient access to care.

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)?*

Oppose

Although I believe reducing emissions should be a priority, I am skeptical that this requirement will be realistically met. Government should incentivize zero-emission transit with tax credits and subsidies, not regulate and create more barriers, and especially not without remedies to address the unintended repercussions.

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've been following this issue through my previous work with the Cities Association. It is incredibly alarming to see the so many areas that would be under water, literally under water, if critical infrastructure investments are not made. I would definitely work with the Leadership Group and work towards building a Baylands Caucus that addresses funding, and creates a more sophisticated plan of action than what MTC tried to accomplish with its Plan Bay Area 2040, while also making serious effort towards public engagement.

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

Oppose

While I do believe Prop 13 should be reformed, I don't believe this ballot measure is the answer, as it is written in its current format. The unintended consequences of the split roll property tax proposal are far too risky for me to support in good conscience. I also believe timing is very important. Economists generally agree that another recession is looming, and as the pendulum of politics swing and businesses start struggling more, a statewide tax increase on our job creators will push our jobs elsewhere.

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

Oppose

The volatility parallels the disparities associated with the wealth gap, which to this day has obviously not been solved by government. I believe a more productive conversation can be had as to where the revenue is going and what should be done about it. Through my personal experience in balancing a budget and my conversations with other municipal counterparts, is that while incoming revenue may at times be unpredictable, every year, we generally spend on the same things. A large part of every budget goes towards unfunded pension liabilities.

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

Oppose

The danger in longitudinal data is that without anecdotal data, the door is open to misinterpretation of data. This becomes more dangerous especially, when such data is tied to educational funding, creating pressure for schools to improve numbers, rather than quality of education. While I support incentivizing school achievement, such efforts should be studied holistically, with more context to the data.

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

Support

One of the major hurdles that businesses go through is a lack of talent in certain areas. Investing in workforce development programs will go a long way to supplement a STEM education and pipeline students for an advanced career in Silicon Valley. I have supported

workforce education initiatives as a member of the then-named San Jose-Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce' Workforce Education Committee and also through public-private partnerships as a Councilmember with companies such as Flex to provide students with job-training and mentorships.

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've never seen policies as black and white. As an elected official and as a government affairs professional, building relationships and maintaining them are critical to me. I know that while I may disagree with others on an item one day, we may find common on an issue another day. I also accept that sometimes in order to move anything forward, compromise is often required. I am fundamentally opposed to rent-control, which some of my colleagues support and some of my supporters who are elected officials in other municipalities support. I led an effort to create an emergency relief fund that essentially temporarily subsidizes the rents of those at risk of displacement.

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

While I do generally support campaign finance reform, such efforts need to be nonpolitical and should not give any side a competitive advantage over the other. Every organization should have the same right to advocate for their respective interests as this contributes to an informed electorate.