

# State Assembly/Senate

## **Carmen Montano**

State Assembly District 25

Teacher /City Councilmember

### *Top 3 priorities citywide*

1. Education
2. Economic development
3. Housing

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

Darrell Mellion

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

50k

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

Milpitas Mayor Rich Tran, Firefighters local 1699, MPOA-Milpitas Police Officers Assoc., SVHispanic Chamber of Commerce, Mountain View Mayor Lisa Matichak, Milpitas Councilmember Bob Nunez, San Jose Councilmember Johnny Khamis, San Jose Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, E. Palo Alto Councilmember Larry Moody, Morgan Hill Councilmember Yvonne Martinez-Beltran, Pico Rivera Mayor Gustavo Camacho.

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

Support

Transportation is a very crucial issue among residents in the region. People's quality of life is being consumed by their long hours stuck in traffic. Caltrain is another mode for folks to use Mass Transit. We should do everything we can to fund and improve Mass transit ridership such as Caltrain to alleviate traffic. Further this increased mobility from an electrified cal train will help support a corridor that is a critical job and employment center. It is a benefit to both employers and employees.

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

Oppose

There is an urgency to alleviate the traffic congestion going in and out of the Bay Area, Los Angeles and other major cities going into Metropolitan areas where most jobs are concentrated. One must consider all the obstacles such as topography, geography, distance, which all add up to higher cost.

Most 21st century jobs are in Metropolitan areas of our State not the Central Valley. In our region I would of liked to have seen the state concentrate a high speed rail from San Francisco, Oakland, Tracy, connecting to Mass Transit areas in Silicon Valley where there is higher employment from Tech giants that are based in cities such as Mountain View, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, etc...

Actually it is already a moot point to oppose it since it has already been approved by the state legislature.

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, but it all depends who will manage and be the fiscal agent. I would support it only if it was operated or in conjunction with another agency besides VTA.

VTA has not proven to be fiscally responsible with tax payer monies as indicated with three grand jury reports released to the public..

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 this is a way to encourage people to use Mass Transit.

8. *Do you support reform of CEQA?*

Support

Yes I think CEQA is a safety net to ensure that there are minimum environmental impacts to people and the environment, however this good thing can also be used to stall and discourage development that could benefit the community. I think revisiting CEQA is not a bad idea. It is always good to revisit policy due to changing societal demands. We need to look at reforming CEQA by putting an end to serial lawsuits. A couple of reforms that I will prioritize is that CEQA challengers need to be responsible for legal cost. There also need to be full disclosure on who is filing these lawsuits. I would also include timelines so challenges cannot be indefinite.

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

Oppose

This is a tough topic but I am opposed to capping profits. Businesses have a right to make a profit and they create jobs. My only concern is if the profits should not be so outrageous that it creates a public health concern. I feel if we had universal health care that would alleviate the need to put caps on how much Dialysis clinics can charge. There must be a better solution and using different strategies to make it fair for everyone. As an Assembly member I will do more research on this topic, seek expert opinions and facts to find what are the best solutions for both the consumer and business.

*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 if we are serious about reducing our carbon footprint we should do what we can to have government take the lead. Leading by example is the way to lead and I believe others in the private sector will follow..

*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

It is important to iron out details with community input. This is a work in progress where all stakeholders have a say and the caucus can make fair and regional decisions where everyone wins. This is a great concept to give all the stakeholders a voice.

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

Oppose

Small business are the backbone of our economy and I feel it will drive business away from our state and put many out of business. Our state should be doing more to attract business not drive them away. Ultimately, it is always the consumer who pays the price for higher taxes on business.

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

Support

We have to. It's a very difficult task that many legislators have chosen to ignore. The last time the tax code was overhauled was in 1935. But just because it is too difficult doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. If 1 percent pay half the income tax, that means when the stock market takes a serious downturn so does California's budget and with this volatility in California's budget means cities get less funding. Cities then pass these on to these burdens unfairly onto the business community through new taxes.

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

Support

As a teacher I know how important data collection is to help students succeed. Some districts currently have that in place within their school sites and it would be great if we had a statewide system to help all school districts instantly access information to better help students' educational needs. As an Assembly member I will advocate for longitudinal data systems.

*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 to find creative ways to make people employable for jobs of the 21st century. Many students who are very capable of succeeding in a higher education setting have the doors closed to them because they cannot afford tuition cost and all the expenses related to a higher education degree. I have encountered many bright students who will never have that opportunity to gain a college degree because of their financial situation. As a matter of fact some of them outperform their counterparts who hold a college degree!

I will create an exploratory committee to find ways to help students access a higher education. I currently serve on the board of a nonprofit group called "Engineers 4 Tomorrow". Our goal is to provide workshops to middle school students to inspire them to become future engineers. We need to find creative ways to give students the opportunities to succeed.

*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?*

On the Milpitas City Council I was opposed by a councilmember for my stance on Rent Control. The councilmember who brought this issue to the city council tried to strong arm this as an ordinance without due process. I voted against Rent Control because 67% of our community voted against it when it was on the statewide ballot. Also the majority of our residents are homeowners that live in single family detached homes. Milpitas is not San Jose. Every city is unique. Unfortunately many of the folks that came before us were organized groups from San Jose on behalf of the VM.

I believe in making fair and impartial decisions where there is a win-win for both sides. I created a Housing subcommittee along with Councilmember Bob Nunez to find ways to alleviate economic hardships. The housing Subcommittee created a Pilot Rent relief program that is open to all. We contract with Project Sentinel and are in partnership with Silicon Valley Independent Living Center -SVILC to help residents and families who are experiencing temporary financial hardships. We also created a Milpitas Assistance Program that provides discounts and payment plans in recreation programs, water and sewer utilities, permits for residential water heater furnace, airconditioning replacements. We also target low income families in partnership with the MUSD to provide summer jobs for High School students who are on free and reduced lunch programs.

*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

It seems that this this ballot measure is one sided and meant to strip away the business community's advocacy. I see this as unfair and one sided. If it were to include labor then it might be palitable. However, I see this as a way to demise the business community from a fair and equal process for their advocacy. This is not a fair representation of freedom of speech and should be appealed.