



SILICON VALLEY
LEADERSHIP GROUP

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Candidate Questionnaire Summary

17 candidates running in 7 different races responded to our May 2022 Primary Candidate Questionnaire this year, answering questions relevant to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's policy priorities.

The Leadership Group makes our questions, and each of the candidate's responses, public documents in an effort to provide information that will help voters make informed choices. We are proud of the questions we ask, and expect candidates to be equally proud of their answers. We also believe that both our questions, and their answers, should be as open and transparent to the general public as possible.

A few notes to make the most out of the responses:

- Responses are unedited for spelling, grammar, and format, and are exactly as the candidates submitted them
- At the top of each submission, under the candidate's name, is the position they are running for followed by their current occupation

SAN JOSE MAYOR

Dev Davis

San Jose City Mayor Candidate

Current San Jose City Councilmember - District 6

Why are you Running for this Office?

San Jose needs a leader with a proven track record who will put residents first and who will not hide material facts from the public. We can and we must create a safe, clean, and thriving city by working together.

What is your campaign budget?

\$450,000

What are your key endorsements?

Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, Families and Homes San Jose, Former Mayor Chuck Reed, Hundreds of local residents

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

- 1) Time it takes to get permits from the city - Set standards for how long the planning and building department has to get permits approved and inspections done.
- 2) High taxes - Oppose new taxes on business and ensure efficient operations at City Hall.
- 3) Attitude that businesses can afford any increased expense - Advocate for more people with business experience to be hired at City Hall.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I would create a business roundtable from all sectors of the business community to advise me on these and other issues.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

The two biggest opportunities are with the city budget -- ensuring we are spending our General Fund dollars with equity and intention -- and in hiring staff and appointing commissioners from diverse backgrounds to provide more complete input to the Mayor's office and the City Council. The biggest challenge is in engaging different communities across the city and convincing them they have a seat at the table.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

We need to continue to assist small businesses from all neighborhoods across the city.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

This is an area where the Mayor can lead and advise. However, it's the responsibility of every business to do this; government mandates will not make it happen.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

Ensure that the Planning and Building Department works at an efficient and cost-effective pace. Lead the community by vocally supporting affordable and mixed-income developments, and engage residents across the city to accept housing for all income levels in their neighborhoods. Collaborate with the County to ensure goals are met.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

As traffic worsens and gas prices continue at high levels, willingness to ride public transit will hopefully return to former levels and eventually higher levels. We need to finish Caltrain electrification and have enough service to be a convenient option for all types of trips, whether commuting for work or recreation. BART to downtown San Jose and Diridon station will provide a needed rail connection all around the Bay.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes, I support this because we have numerous options for zero-emission buses.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, it is important to protect our shoreline.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

No, we need our small businesses to stabilize and our larger businesses to get people back to the office so our economy can thrive again.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

While these are important issues, these are not areas that the Mayor of San Jose can directly impact for one specific group of people.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I would reinstate regular meetings with San Jose's school superintendents and other education leaders, along with City staff from the library and parks departments, to address the learning and recreational needs of all children.

James Spence

San Jose City Mayor Candidate
Retired San Jose Police Sergeant

Why are you Running for this Office?

San Jose needs a new leader who are not tied to past poor decisions regarding the use of taxpayer dollars.

What is your campaign budget?

Not yet determined

What are your key endorsements?

Taxpayers who are seeing their tax dollars not being used to improve our infrasturcture and quality of life.

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

First, we must end all mandatory Covid restrictions so the business community can open for business. This step will bring employees back to jobs. For the employees affordable housing needs to be available as soon as possible. Improvements in our public transportation for decent service and safety needs to be placed as an important key to business success.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I would make sure the permitting process is streamlined and timely to capture the new opportunities.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

As Mayor, I would continue to treat residents courteously, respectfully, and in an equal manner. This would be by publicly using the media to celebrate victories of all our residents for the various causes and accomplishments enhancing our community.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

As Mayor, I would assure my office would attempt to make sure financial and government assistance would be available for all community businesses regardless of ethnic or sexual orientation. I would not support any new tax or regulations which would hinder or cripple equitable economic recovery.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Many times qualified applicants are overlooked because they don't have the exposure to opportunities of networking. As Mayor I would look to mentors of the various non-profits, professional organizations, and educational programs to bring new leaders forward. I believe the most qualified individual should be a candidate for any job. I don't support the use of arbitrary qualifications based on sexual or ethnic orientation to obtain increased representation.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

By getting the building and development community to build affordable housing we can try to increase the perceived housing shortage. We must make sure affordable housing stays affordable by using contracts and legal documents to assure this housing is used for opportunity housing rather than investment purposes.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transportation is a joke in this county. Our current light rail and bus system is dirty, not dependable, and poorly funded. The City of San Jose is not built like a metropolitan city. We are still a rural type community. Basing our urban growth on a system of transportation which we don't have control over makes no sense. This City is tied to the automobile not bicycles, scooters, buses, light rail or Cal Train. We should admit this and use or taxpayer dollars to support the infrastructure we really need.

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)? Why or why not?

I support the premise that we should do all we can to cut down emissions. But I will not give into artificial federal government pressure on how we spend our transportation dollars.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

I would support a calibration of city and county governments to keep San Francisco Bay and adjoining water ways healthy.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

With the projected economy hurdles affecting all of our residents, any tax increases on businesses would have a trickle down effect on their ability to care for their families. No tax increases.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

Given the current conversation about students wanting free everything and not willing to take responsibility for their debits, I would not be willing to invest any taxpayer dollars in any grants or other non-profit funding for community college students. If the conversation changes to where students take personal responsibility for their debits then I would reconsider my position.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

As Mayor, I would continue the Mayors Gang Task Force, Police Department School Liaison Unit, Police Officers on campus, and the Youth Commission. I would be sure to expand the Safe Place program and after school supervised home work centers. I would have Parks Recreation and Community Services department to be active supporters of school requests for after school programs. I would have a summit of all school superintendents to make sure the educational instruction and STEM programs are being implemented at the same quality citywide.

Matt Mahan

San Jose City Mayor Candidate

Current San Jose City Councilmember - District 10

Why are you Running for this Office?

I'm running for Mayor because I believe that as a city we deserve better, and that we can do better. San Jose faces unacceptable levels of homelessness, unaffordable housing, crime, dirty streets, and traffic congestion—at the core, our local governments are failing to focus on and meet the basic needs of our community. I am running to hold City Hall accountable for achieving the results we desperately need.

Our campaign is a Revolution of Common Sense. I believe that we can solve the most pressing problems that our city faces with new ideas, new leadership, and common sense: focusing first on the basics such as ending street homelessness, cleaning up our city, keeping our communities safe, paving our roads, and building more housing. I'm running because I believe we must build safe and dignified shelter for homeless people and expect that they use it; improve and reform our police force, not defund it; and build lots of new housing in transit-oriented urban villages.

San Jose has been a city of opportunity for me since I was 14 years old when I began commuting four hours per day by bus from Watsonville as a work-study scholarship student at Bellarmine, where I worked on the maintenance crew during the summers to pay for my tuition. San Jose and Silicon Valley more broadly not only gave me an excellent education and life-long friends, but also my first job out of college, the opportunity to start and grow two businesses, my first home and now, the community in which my wife Silvia and I are raising our two children, Nina and Luke. I want San Jose to be that same city of opportunity for people of all backgrounds as they grow up, attend school, build a career, start a family and go through life in our community. To achieve that, we need our government to do better — that's why I'm running.

What is your campaign budget?

\$1 million for the June Primary Election.

What are your key endorsements?

We have a number of high profile endorsers and supporters (e.g. The Mercury News, former Mayor Tom McEnery and FEC Chair Ann Ravel, the San Jose Business Chamber and the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, John Sobrato and Zoom CEO Eric Yuan), but that is not the focus of our campaign, nor is it particularly compelling to voters. Our message is rooted in the reality that the political establishment is failing to deliver results, and that we need new leadership and new approaches to move past the status quo on homelessness, housing costs, blight, deteriorating infrastructure, economic inequality, and so many other pressing issues facing our community.

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

As the former CEO of two technology companies in Silicon Valley and a former Board Member of the SVLG, I personally understand what it takes to build and lead a business in our region, from competing for talent and managing cost escalation to navigating state and local government regulations. I'm the only candidate in this race with business experience, which is not only lacking in government today, but can offer tremendous value as we think strategically about how to solve our toughest challenges and seek out private sector collaboration. As Mayor, I will leverage my business experience and relationships to close the gap between business and government so that we can work together to craft policies and programs that ensure Silicon Valley remains the best place in the world to innovate and build a business.

Let me briefly outline my approach on a few of the most pressing challenges for the business climate in Silicon Valley:

On transportation, businesses need confidence that our region has the infrastructure in place to enable a large and diverse workforce to move around efficiently. We are not there today. While traffic improved during COVID, we're seeing the Bay Area's notorious traffic congestion return. As an

SVLG board member, I worked with fellow business leaders to secure federal funding for the electrification of Caltrain and have supported the extension of BART to Diridon Station. As Mayor, I will fight for these “big bet” projects to be completed quickly, cost-effectively and with proper oversight. Beyond regional rail solutions, we need to embrace innovation and fiscal responsibility in our local public transit system. Many lines in our light rail system, for example, are vastly underutilized and, overall, the system now costs taxpayers over \$20 per passenger trip, which is roughly the average cost of an Uber ride! We can do better with our public transit money, such as investing in increasing the frequency and range of bus service—which is significantly more cost-effective—to get people where they need to go. Moreover, we have access to miles of valuable public right-of-way that can become a staging ground for innovation and community impact. For example, a low-performing light rail line could be converted into a dedicated mass mobility lane in which anyone—public agency or private company—who can move more than some number of people per vehicle or provide autonomous, electric solutions can access the right-of-way to compete to move more people more efficiently.

On housing, we’ve failed to adequately respond to economic growth by building the workforce housing required to keep pace with new jobs. Over the last decade, our region as a whole added roughly 6 jobs for every 1 housing unit built, which is the root cause of growing costs and displacement.

I am a strong advocate for dense, mixed-use infill development — both market rate and publicly subsidized for those most in need — because I believe that increasing our housing supply is the only way out of this crisis. The City can best support this approach by significantly reforming our Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department (PBCE) to simplify and streamline permit and inspection processes. I’ve proposed that we create a “money back guarantee” for applicants whose permits or inspections are delivered more slowly than our customer service benchmarks require. We can speed up these processing times by expanding automation, consolidating steps in the process, and allowing staff greater discretion to fast-track projects that are routine and use qualified contractors.

Moreover, I want to see the City review our 15 pages of potential development fees and look for opportunities to consolidate and simplify the costs we impose on new housing. We routinely add costly time and tens if not

hundreds of thousands of dollars per unit to our building costs due to high fees and slow processing times. We should also evolve our regulations to better incentivize “affordable by design” units that make more efficient use of space, cost less per unit to build, and create more affordable opportunities for renting or purchasing in our housing market. Finally, the department must explore moving away from a “billable hours” model of fee-recovery that incentivizes staff to spend more time per project and toward right-sized fees that cover true staff costs while incentivizing more efficient processes.

On education, we can do more to invest in our young people and create a diverse talent pipeline. There is no greater tragedy than the fact that a company like Google is bringing 20,000 high-paying jobs to San Jose while a majority of the young people attending local public schools in San Jose are not being prepared to compete for those jobs. This must change. As a former public school teacher, I’ve been on the front lines of closing the achievement gap in our education system. We also have to expand economic opportunity for historically marginalized communities, especially focusing on our children. This means investing disproportionately in underserved, majority-minority public schools, community centers, and libraries and expanding internship programs, coding academies and other similar programs. To benefit both students and employers, we must enable young people from all backgrounds to participate in our region’s rapidly-expanding economy of high-paying jobs.

On the environment, the City has a responsibility to maintain clean air, open space, and a high quality of life for residents and employees. I’ve been an advocate for Smart Growth development, which puts new housing near transit in walkable, mixed-use communities. Some are pushing to double down on urban sprawl by densifying the periphery of the city — this would be very detrimental to our city’s vehicle miles traveled and air pollution.

I co-chaired San Jose’s 2018 Measure T campaign which secured \$50 million to fund conservation and restoration efforts in Coyote Valley, and have consistently championed the preservation of Coyote Valley. Similarly, I publicly advocated for and campaigned on behalf of the Open Space Authority (OSA) 2020 Measure T campaign (continuation of Measure Q). Many of us settled in San Jose for the open space, parks, and trails, and maintaining those amenities is crucial for those employed in our city and region.

Beyond these key issues, we also need to be more receptive to businesses' needs, especially related to overly burdensome regulations and taxes. I've advocated for first-time forgiveness for small business code violations and against new taxes on businesses at a time when we are struggling to keep employers in the Bay Area. And of course, as mentioned above, we need to improve the efficiency of our Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement department to be a stress-free one-stop-shop for permitting and code issues.

I would also argue that the business community needs to better organize and make the case for business-friendly policies at the local level, not by bullying elected officials or candidates, but by openly and honestly laying out the case for market-oriented solutions, policies that encourage innovation, performance measurement in government, and other principles held by most members of the business community. Moving from the private to the public sector, I have been surprised by how little we at City Hall hear from the business community (outside of a permit application), how rarely we engage economists to evaluate the effectiveness of our decisions, and how little math (vs. emotion) drives our policy-setting agenda. A well-organized and engaged business community can create balance in policy-making and hold elected officials accountable for pursuing policies that will increase opportunities for everyone in our community.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I'd like to allude to my answer above – our competitiveness as a region relies on achieving results on THEE challenges (Transportation, Housing, Education, and Environment) and on City Hall's approach to dealing with businesses from a taxation, regulation, and permitting/code enforcement perspective.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

There are a number of ways City Hall can improve diversity, equity and inclusion in San Jose. This work starts with City staff. We have to ensure our workforce reflects the diversity of our city. In my own office as a Councilmember, I have worked to ensure we are able to better connect with the residents of my neighborhoods, especially our large Chinese and Latino

populations. As Mayor, I plan on taking this further by hiring a staff that represents and is able to connect with every neighborhood and community in San Jose. I will commit to partnering with our HR department and Office of Racial Equity to make sure our hiring practices result in a diverse workforce.

A diverse staff at City Hall will enable our government services to be far more accessible. In a city where hundreds of languages are spoken, we can work with our in-house staff to better engage and support communities that need language translation services and work with local outside agencies to meet the needs of our residents. This is key to providing accessibility to all who reside in our city.

Another obstacle for us to tackle as a city is our high cost of housing. This is one of the most significant pain points harming our marginalized communities and disproportionately impacts our present and incoming residents. My Smart Growth-San Jose plan will simplify and streamline the planning process, getting government out of the way to enable City Hall to achieve our goals created in the General Plan 2040. By building the forecasted need of 120,000 homes before 2040, in dense places like downtown and near transit, we can lower the cost of housing in San Jose and ensure there is room for all, while not adding to our present day traffic gridlock. This will ensure our city truly is for all without limiting the possibilities for our marginalized communities.

While not directly in control of the public education system within San Jose, as Mayor, I will partner with our local school boards to provide for greater transparency about performance and accountability. Our residents move here for the great opportunities that surround us. These residents and our major employers have great expectations for our public education system, hoping that one day these students become the future employees of our skilled workforce. By leveraging the resources within our Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department, we can complement the education that students are receiving at local schools and provide quality after-school programs for students across the city at libraries and community centers. These programs can help support students with after-school care, homework assistance, writing seminars, and language programs. We can also partner with our Community Colleges and local employers to help students who decide a four-year program is not what they want. By bringing these

Community Colleges together with local employers, we can provide opportunities that do not require a four-year degree.

Finally, we must take advantage of data from sources such as the census to invest in communities that need it the most. With the fresh data from the latest census, now is the time to reaffirm what neighborhoods in our city need the most services and work with our Budget and Finance teams to deliver these services. By working with the data available, the staff at City Hall and community organizations, we can uplift our communities most in need.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

As a Council, we've taken aggressive action to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery includes our entire community. To name just a few examples, we've continued to run a substantial food assistance program, which is traditionally not within the City's purview, we adopted an extensive eviction moratorium up to the state's deadline, and we provided rental assistance to thousands of households that experienced income loss due to COVID.

Looking forward, we can benefit from the guidance provided by the "Building a Better Normal" plan crafted by Mayor Liccardo, SVLG and a number of key business and community stakeholders. One of the recommendations I am most interested in pursuing is bolstering job creation and economic mobility to support displaced low income workers. One of the historical struggles of our city has been our ability to attract high quality jobs that provide opportunities for our residents and tax revenue for the City budget. While many think of San Jose as the Capital of Silicon Valley, the reality is that we are more often the bedroom community for Silicon Valley, providing critical workforce housing but lacking the economic opportunity from which many of our residents would benefit. We can work with employers to improve the alignment of local educational curricula with future job needs and do more to attract industries, such as advanced manufacturing, that offer accessible high-wage jobs to our working and middle class households.

Public-private partnerships were also highlighted in the report, and can help expand the positive impact of business in our community. For example, San Jose's partnership with internet providers has helped expand broadband access across the city, and with it, access to telehealth, education, and other services previously not readily available online. Post COVID strategies should

focus on closing the equity gap in access to technology and social services. Public-private partnerships also have proven to be successful in supporting schools as deliverers of technology, social services such as mental health, and telehealth aiding in providing an added layer of support to the elderly and those with limited mobility. We can build on this success.

Most importantly, however, City Hall needs to re-focus on the core services upon which all residents rely, from public safety and roads to housing and economic development. When the government tries to do everything, big and small, it tends to do nothing well. This is especially true in San Jose, where we have a relatively small tax base per capita due to our low jobs-to-housing ratio. Investing in adequate police staffing levels, cleaning up our streets, ending street homelessness through cost-effective shelter and holding the County accountable for providing mental health and addiction treatment services, and spurring investment in housing and jobs by reducing regulatory friction and keeping taxes at a reasonable level will benefit all San Joseans, and especially those who are disproportionately impacted by underperforming city services.

Finally, I think the City must embrace and facilitate innovation, especially when the market is providing new solutions to the challenges facing our community. We should remove barriers to experimenting with new homeownership models like that envisioned by Nabr. We should make public right of way available for experimenting with new public transit models like that envisioned by Glydways. We should embrace prefabricated modular units like those built by FactoryOS. Government typically isn't the best innovator, but it can and should provide the platform for others to provide new solutions to our most pressing problems. In the long run, innovation is one of the only reliable means of improving everyone's lives.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

It's critical that Silicon Valley businesses and government institutions reflect the diversity of our region. This is not only just, it is also our competitive advantage as one of the world's most diverse regions. As elected officials, we can ensure the talent pipeline is supported throughout every stage of a young professional's career.

As elected officials, we should deliberately invest in programs and partnerships that support all of our young people in being prepared to not only work, but lead in business and other critical sectors. We can do this by supporting programs that supplement what is learned in the classroom, improving our own hiring practices at the City to attract and retain talented individuals, and advocating for State policies that increase representation in corporate leadership roles such as the 25x25 Initiative, or advocating for policies such as AB 979 through our Office of Legislative Affairs.

Another way of ensuring our local workforce is representative of the diversity of Silicon Valley is by connecting Community Colleges and City-Operated Job Training Centers with employers, hosting talent fairs, and advocating for state and federal dollars to support our local schools, public colleges, and programs that have proven to work.

SVLG's very own Community College to Career Initiative, also known as the Hire Learning Initiative, is a prime example of how public-private partnerships can not only change the trajectory of a student's life, but also provide local companies with talent that is diverse and connected to the community. Thanks to the many work-based learning opportunities and upskilling programs made possible through the Hire Learning Initiative - such as the DeAnza Nuro Upskilling Partnership - students can develop the skills necessary to compete in our local industries.

Finally, I'd like to highlight the critical importance of San Jose State University. Sitting just a few yards away from City Hall, SJSU is not only a leading technical university in the country, but also houses a diverse student body with students from all over the world. Their collective talent and richness in experiences present a key partnership opportunity for the City to solve many of the issues we face.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

San Jose, and our region at-large, faces a housing affordability and supply crisis which disproportionately affects marginalized communities. As Mayor, I will support the creation of state and regional funding sources for constructing affordable housing. The County's \$950 million Measure A bonds work towards this goal — though it's not scalable when taxpayers are footing

an \$850,000 bill for each new unit constructed and the average time to build is about five years. This is why we also have to focus on reducing construction costs, speeding up processing timelines, programmatically pre-clearing more of the environment review, ensuring timely inspections, and keeping one-time development fees low.

It's estimated that over \$1.5 trillion worth of investment is needed to address the state's 3.5 million home shortfall. We can't realistically tax ourselves enough to meet this shortfall through subsidized affordable housing alone, as important as that approach is for addressing the needs of our most vulnerable residents. The reality is that 97% of California's housing stock was created by private sector developers to meet growing demand and most of today's affordable units were simply market-rate housing that was built 40-plus years ago and has since aged into affordability. To truly address displacement at scale we will need to encourage private investment in housing by removing any and all non-essential barriers and costs. While this approach doesn't directly address the immediate need of our most vulnerable residents, it is essential for controlling housing costs and preventing buyers from bidding up the price of our existing scarce affordable housing stock that could and should be used for those who most need it.

Other policies targeting marginalized communities are also important to continue, such as our inclusionary housing ordinance, tenant protection ordinance, and rental assistance programs. While I'm open to adding further protections, I think we have to also ensure that we are encouraging housing production to match job and population growth, which is the only truly scalable and sustainable strategy for reducing displacement over the long run.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Transit will play a crucial role in the post-pandemic era. This is especially true because the only viable solution to our housing crisis is to build up, increasing our residential density, which will in turn make it impossible for each new resident to be fully dependent on single-occupancy vehicles. We will need better mass mobility options to enable a growing and denser population to move around efficiently and cost-effectively.

Fortunately, in San Jose, we are planning and building toward a future Diridon Station that will become the most important multi-modal transit hub on the West Coast, providing the convergence point for BART, electrified Caltrain, Amtrak, Capitol Corridor, ACE, Highway 17 Express, MST Monterey San Jose Express, and local VTA light rail and bus service (and, hopefully one day, CA High Speed Rail).

However, as we move forward it is critical that we embrace innovation in the transportation sector and enable more efficient and cost-effective mobility solutions for short, medium and long range travel. Our existing transition solutions (e.g. mostly light rail and bus) should not be a straightjacket. We're seeing incredibly promising innovation in the mobility sector, including autonomous and electric solutions, ride-sharing, and futuristic vertical take-off and landing tech, not to mention upgrades to tried-and-true solutions such as the electric scooter and bicycle. We will need all of the above, and we should not presume to know which solutions will offer the most value in the long run. As the Capital of Silicon Valley, San Jose must use our public right-of-way to promote experimentation and innovation in the mobility sector, as I've outlined in my answer to the question about regional competitiveness above.

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)? Why or why not?

I am particularly proud of the City's Carbon Neutral Pledge, and more broadly, our Climate Smart San José Initiative, which is one of the first detailed city plans for reaching the targets of the international Paris Agreement. To get there, Climate Smart has set ambitious goals for energy, water, transportation and local jobs. While this decision came before the Council prior to my joining, I have been a long time supporter of environmentally friendly solutions that are effective, realistic and sensible. I support the transition to electrification, a key component of climate strategy.

I have faith in Silicon Valley's innovators, who are driving the shift toward more sustainable transportation solutions. As pertains to federally funded public buses, I support phase-out strategies that give purchasers ample time to plan (in this case, another 7 years) and don't waste recent investments in operable

physical capital by requiring a more aggressive transition. I believe the public sector is well poised to lead the change, but we'll have to embrace phase-out strategies like this to ultimately reach our climate goals without defunding other critical priorities.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, I would be thrilled to work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and other stakeholders to secure additional funding to protect our region and drive a common vision for a healthy and resilient Bay Area. I am proud of my track record on climate and related environmental issues including: working on Measure AA, which secured over \$500 million in funding toward restoration projects for the Bay, co-chairing San Jose's 2018 Measure T campaign, which secured funding to preserve hundreds of acres of land in Coyote Valley, which has numerous environmental benefits, from carbon sequestration to flood control. I also served on the SJ Clean Energy Advisory Board for a couple of years before joining the City Council; one of the most important things we can do is leverage our collective purchasing power to invest in renewables and other zero emission generation capacity, the infrastructure to transmit that energy, and storage solutions that are critical to scaling most zero carbon energy solutions.

I fought hard to increase our urban canopy through San Jose's Urban Forest Management Plan. I am continuing to advocate for a dense urban forest through a budget document that if successful, will secure thousands of dollars to help secure new tree plantings citywide.

Finally, one of the most important things we can do from a climate perspective is continue to pursue smart land use policies that allow us to densify employment and residential development near transit and retail hubs to reduce car dependence. Every multi-family apartment building that we inadvertently tax or regulate out of downtown San Jose leads to a few acres of open space being paved over in South County or another less urban area of the state. We will have to make room for residents and employers in dense, mixed-use urban villages and transit corridors across San Jose and the entire region.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

No, this is not the right time to raise taxes on businesses, especially with inflation running rampant, supply chain issues afflicting many sectors, and a recession looming (not to mention, public revenues being at an all-time high). As we recover from the pandemic, we need to ensure that San Jose is a desirable place to invest and do business — we don't want to force businesses out of the area or harm their ability to expand and innovate. Government, like every other sector in society, must learn to do more with less by becoming more productive over time. By focusing on core services, measuring our performance, and holding ourselves accountable for achieving results, I'm confident that City Hall can deliver more impact without raising tax rates. Doing this will generate even greater tax revenues in the long-run by building out the tax base as residents and employers choose to invest in a well-run city that is safe, clean and business-friendly.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I would be happy to work with SVLG and partner companies to advocate for financial aid reform and federal and state policies that address the true cost of college. Starting next school year, every high school graduate in our State will be required to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). While this is a step in the right direction, it is abundantly clear that California's first-generation college students face barriers to entry that go beyond academic preparation. The decision to attend even our tuition-free community colleges becomes difficult for students who must decide between pursuing their academic goals in the long run, or addressing their most immediate basic needs of food and shelter today.

Advocating for sensible approaches to financial aid reform to ensure that financial aid includes funding to help California's low-income, underrepresented, older, and non-traditional students is one way to provide equitable educational opportunities for tomorrow's workforce. Funds could

help cover the true cost of college, which includes non-tuition costs that have been long standing barriers to access for many of California's most diverse students.

I also support the push for California's Cradle to Career Data system. Until recently, California was one of only eight states in the nation that did not have a cradle to career data system. This tool will help ensure that we are tracking students' educational and career pathways, capturing key transition points from elementary to middle school, middle school to high school, and high school to career. This in turn, would allow for us to track and measure the success of our investments and interventions. We can then pinpoint when, how, and why students fall off and provide necessary support to ensure their success and secure our future economic vitality.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

My perspective on education has been strongly shaped by my personal experience as a teacher. When I graduated from college, I decided to come back to San Jose to teach middle school in Alum Rock because education changed my life and I wanted to give back. I was — and continue to be — motivated to make society a fairer place with greater opportunity for all. Alum Rock is much like the community I grew up in: widespread economic insecurity, but vibrant and striving. My goal has been to identify policy changes that might promote greater equity while improving government institutions for our entire community. While city and county governments may not have direct purview over the public education system, there are many opportunities for local governments to support and supplement what our students learn in the classroom.

Efforts such as those led by SVLG to bridge the digital divide in our city demonstrate the power of public-private partnerships. Thanks to our collective efforts, over 40,000 students across our city received the tools they needed to access and be successful in their online coursework in the midst of COVID.

As Mayor, I would work to leverage our city-run libraries, community centers, and parks to expand opportunities for students of all ages to supplement what they're learning in the classroom during the school year and throughout the summer. The City of San Jose has made great investments in tutoring, after school support, and even coding camps for students to develop existing and discover new skills they may not otherwise practice at school. Community centers provide youth with access to sports and programs that help them develop soft skills used both inside and outside of the classroom, such as teamwork and resilience. Our parks and environmental education programs teach students the importance of conservation and protecting our planet. Wrap-around services for families, key investments in childcare, mental health, and many other enrichment opportunities are key priorities for our city when allocating public funds. These are important for educating the student as a whole.

Finally, as Mayor, I would leverage the bully pulpit to promote transparency about school performance and accountability to ensure that our students are receiving the best education possible and that our schools are being good stewards of public resources. Parcel taxes and bond measures are regularly present on our voter ballots, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our schools are making the best use of public dollars to provide a quality education for all students in our city.

Raul Peralez

San Jose City Mayor Candidate

Current San Jose City Councilmember - District 3

Why are you Running for this Office?

I am a proud lifelong resident of San Jose and I care deeply about our city. I am currently raising my own family here and I plan to be here for many years to come, so the successes and challenges of our city are very personal to me. I have served on the City Council for seven years and I have seen how important and influential our Mayor can be in setting a vision, priorities, and ultimately a path for our city. I am running to help lead our city through the recovery of a once in a lifetime pandemic, to help create a safe, vibrant and thriving city that we can all be proud of, and to prioritize dealing with some of our most pressing challenges.

What is your campaign budget?

\$500,000

What are your key endorsements?

San Jose City Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Magdalena Carrasco, Maya Esparza and Sylvia Arenas, Former Mayor Ron Gonzales and Silicon Valley Young Democrats

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

The key challenge for the business climate in Silicon Valley is the high cost of living and specifically the high cost of housing. We are competing with growing regions all across the country and if we can't stabilize the growing cost of housing we will grow less competitive and lose more and more talent. Addressing our housing crisis is a top priority for me and I have already demonstrated the most success in approving and constructing more housing in my district than anywhere else in the county over the last seven years. I have also stood out as the biggest champion for housing development in this race and as Mayor I will build upon my success to address this issue head on.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

Being an attractive incubator is what has made us Silicon Valley and one of the most important components has been the talent that is already here or that is drawn to our region. I will continue to ensure we foster a competitive environment for our innovative business community and most importantly that we can continue to grow, attract and retain the talented employees who make this all work.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

I am proud to have led the effort for creating an Office of Racial Equity in San Jose. This effort failed the first time around because our current Mayor and a majority of the council did not think it was important enough to prioritize or even to fund an analysis costing a mere \$50,000 (out of a \$4,000,000,000 budget). A year later the pandemic hit and a nationwide push for police reforms and a prioritization for DEI work. The Mayor and council changed their mind and agreed that this work was important and now our new office is in its second year doing the important work of helping to address the systemic racism and inequities that still exist and permeate our local government. I see the biggest opportunity right now being simply a raise awareness and acceptance that these inequities exist and that we need to identify where they exist. The biggest challenge is getting an entire workforce to initially buy in, especially when just two years ago our current Mayor did not. That work is beginning now and will be the most important next step.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

We need to focus on the areas and the businesses most impacted and fortunately we know where those locations are and what businesses are most in need. I have already been working to ensure our most impacted businesses and employees receive the most attention and unlike a couple of my opponents I am proud to have supported actions such as HERO Pay and mandatory rehire policies.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

I think we should first hold local corporations accountable to regularly report out their progress and to make these goals priorities themselves. Secondly we can help to educate and build up the pool of talent through our investments with job training, leadership programs and our partnerships with local corporations.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

I think we are the primary responsible parties to ensure adequate housing for all incomes. We will ultimately need to pass laws and taxes that generate revenue from local businesses and that allow our development community that land use authorities to actually get it all done, but the leadership starts with our local and state elected officials. I'm proud to be the only major candidate in the race who supports new laws like SB9 and I'm grateful for the Leadership Group's support on that bill as well.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

It will take a little time but we will absolutely return to congested roads and freeways and we will need to ensure we don't stop our progress on public transit. We will also continue to grow in population and we can't rely on everyone getting around primarily by vehicle, so we need to continue to build out a robust and efficient public transportation system.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes, if we are going to meet our greenhouse gas emission goals then we need to be a leader and push the limits on moving away from fossil fuels.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Absolutely, we need to find as many strong partners as possible and I'm happy SVLG is prioritizing this as well and we will definitely need as much funding as we can get.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

Speaking for just San Jose, we have one of the lower business tax rates in the region and I do think it is worth us looking at modernizing that tax to address some of our major crisis like housing and homelessness.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I do support this effort and I see two paths. The first with a coalition of supporters that includes investment from the city, just like we have been doing with our San Jose Promise grants. The second would be the more favorable outcome for me and it would include an investment from either the state or our federal government to invest much more in the higher education of our nation's people.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

The city offers some of the most enrichment opportunities for our students, whether directly at our community centers or indirectly through the reservations and uses of our parks and recreation facilities. We need to continue to invest in these areas and ensure safe and equitable access across

the city. We have also recently invested significantly in free wifi access throughout the city and with hotspot and device rentals at our libraries. We worked closely with our local schools and districts to make these decisions and I would continue to collaborate closely with them to ensure we keep supporting our students wherever they most need it.

Cindy Chavez

San Jose City Mayor Candidate

Current Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Why are you Running for this Office?

As a mother and former Vice Mayor, I have the values and experience to take on the toughest challenges facing San Jose families. As County Supervisor, I championed affordable housing by authoring Measure A – 4,400 new affordable homes are now built or in the pipeline. Working with non-profits, we relocated over 14,000 homeless people off the streets and into safe housing. We can end family homelessness by 2025.

When COVID-19 hit, we acted quickly to save lives and made Santa Clara County one of the most vaccinated in America. I helped save two hospitals, 451 hospital beds and two emergency rooms.

I pushed the Children's Health Initiative, so every San Jose child has access to health insurance. I established the Megan's Law Taskforce to keep sexual predators from secretly moving into our neighborhoods and made Santa Clara County the national model for arresting rapists by rapidly processing their DNA.

I'm running for Mayor to improve our quality of life. Working with police officers and communities, we can make San Jose the safest big city in America. I'll tackle the affordable housing crisis, homelessness, rising crime, climate change and inequality with passion and experience. I'd be honored to have your vote."

What is your campaign budget?

\$800,000 in the Primary

What are your key endorsements?

Carl Guardino, Former CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Van Jones, CNN Broadcaster Jed York, CEO of the 49ers, DA Jeff Rosen Supervisor Otto Lee Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, League of Conservation Voters Santa Clara County Correctional Peace Officers' Association Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION San Jose Fire Fighters^[1]_[SEP] Santa Clara County Firefighters

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

For decades, San Jose and Silicon Valley provided a quality of life that attracted businesses and individuals from around the globe, and this is under threat. The key challenges for San Jose and Silicon Valley are public safety, homelessness, affordable housing, and cleanliness. These are essential quality of life issues that are necessary for businesses to thrive and expand. When I served on the San Jose City Council, we were the safest big city in America. When I am mayor, we will be again.

We will invest in our public safety staff and recruit and retain the best officers. We will expand our crime prevention efforts so that the police department is able to proactively prevent crime by working closely with our businesses, communities, and neighborhoods.

Since 2015, the county, working with partners, has housed more than 14,000 homeless. I initiated this effort and it is working; we just need to do more and we need to do it faster. To do so, San Jose needs to work with other partners – the county, the business community, and non-profits, and leverage Measure A and Measure E funding – along with state resources. We currently spend \$60,000 annually per homeless individual on the street. We have an opportunity to permanently house those individuals and prevent additional residents from falling into homelessness. I will make this a priority as mayor.

Housing affordability directly affects Silicon Valley companies as they have difficulty attracting and retaining talent. It also affects them indirectly because of its impact on education and public safety as our teachers, nurses, police officers and fire fighters can no longer afford to live in the community they serve. I have been working to make our region more affordable for working families since I joined the Board of Supervisors in 2013, including

being one of the driving forces behind 2016's successful Measure A housing bond which will generate \$950 million for affordable housing projects and has already built, or put in the construction pipeline, 4,400 homes.

The work to improve cleanliness will require more focus on cleaning up homeless encampments, combatting graffiti, and controlling litter and illegal dumping.

We need to clean up homeless encampments compassionately and comprehensively when they appear. We cannot ignore and delay dealing with them, so they grow to the size of the one that developed along the Mineta San Jose International Airport flight path.

We need a robust citywide anti-graffiti effort that includes both an enforcement component that works with the District Attorney's office and a rapid cleanup program that does not allow graffiti to remain in place for months. The cleanup program could also provide jobs for low skilled workers and those in transitional situations.

San Jose needs more large item trash pickups, and they need to be more convenient for residents and businesses. One way that I will work to improve upon this is to give every residence and business two scheduled weeks a year (such as after the holidays and at the beginning of summer) when they can put large items out for free pickup. I will also commence a multilingual and culturally sensitive anti-littering public outreach campaign targeted at residents who are from areas with differing traditions around litter and public spaces.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

An essential component that I will work to improve upon immediately is the city's Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department. This department is especially critical for startups and businesses attempting to expand. It currently has a 25% staff vacancy rate. I will give the department the resources it needs to move projects through the approval pipeline rapidly. The divisions within this department must be fully staffed and functioning so that all businesses, regardless of size and age, are able to get through the permitting process in a timely and effective manner.

Reforming the procurement process is another way to support the innovation economy. Currently, the city uses requests for information to help solve problems. I believe the city would be better served by reaching out to the business community for support through requests for solutions. This more flexible approach of focusing on outcomes and not input would lead to more innovative results.

As a Board member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, I helped found, establish, and chair the Technology Implementation Office (TIO) Steering Committee. The TIO cultivates partnerships between technology developers and customers and offers grants and loans for low-carbon technologies to accelerate climate action. My work on this committee led to the creation of a pipeline for innovation from the private sector that was then showcased and adopted by the public sector. I continued this model of innovative partnership with VTA and at the county. Some of this work included seeking opportunities to partner with companies creating new transportation opportunities, companies creating cleaner, safer pesticides, and companies creating new software to better assist our public agencies in planning.

The city also needs to ensure that it is supporting our educational institutions to make sure there is a skilled next generation that can fill the full spectrum of employment needs in our region. As mayor, I will work closely with our schools so that they are able to prepare all students for a successful future, including expanding after school programming, mental health services, and other support systems that help kids stay in school and thrive.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

Elected officials are able to improve upon the issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion as role models and by focusing on areas both as organizational leaders and as community leaders. I have dedicated my career to creating better organizations and communities for all.

A significant opportunity for elected officials that would directly improve these important issues is the creation and expansion of a qualified workforce. We can accomplish this by working with the State to get more trained workers and quality childcare facilities. This is a critical component to maintaining the reliable workforce necessary for our entire county. Our region's childcare industry has been decimated, handicapping employees across the board, and hindering people's ability to return to the workforce.

Elected officials are sometimes challenged by the lack of training on what avenues of improvement will help issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is important that cities and counties work to provide this training to electeds, for once they have that training, they will be empowered to bring forward far reaching policies and practices.

I spearheaded the establishment of the Santa Clara County Office of Labor Standards, Office of Gender Based Violence Prevention, Office of Cultural Competency, and the Office of the Census 2020 (resulting in Santa Clara County being the county with the second highest number of residents counted in all of CA). These are all departments within the Division of Equity and Social Justice. Their work has significantly improved how the county addresses race, diversity, equity, and inclusion both internally and externally.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

As the President of the Board of Supervisors during the COVID-19 pandemic, I led through inclusion, consensus, and persuasion to keep our 15 cities and the county united and on the same page for testing, vaccines, hospital beds, and social distancing. Together we prevented deaths and minimized hospitalizations. We dove deeply into the needs of the community by focusing on census tracts, looking at equity concerns, and looking for opportunities in a refined, data-driven and vigorous way.

This same approach of collaboration and needs assessment will be important as we focus on ensuring an equitable economic recovery. As mayor, I will continue my practice of collaboration to uncover the root of issues that are delaying economic recovery and to find solutions for success.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

I hope to work closely with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the area's corporations on this issue and look forward to collaborating with you on this.

One area that I believe we can focus on immediately is supporting early learning as a region with a goal of increasing graduation rates, increasing access to college and apprenticeships, and increasing the skills for graduates who are not college bound so that they are prepared for jobs that do not require a college degree.

Electeds, corporations and schools have an opportunity to bridge the gap between corporations and schools by working together to prepare students for the employment opportunities that exist within Silicon Valley. Many of the Valley's leading employers provide training and educational programs in partnership with workforce development agencies, community colleges, and K-12 schools; and we need to leverage these programs fully. Additionally, we need to expand mentorships for high school students through summer internships and part time job opportunities. These mentorships will help students develop a vision for what they want to do post-graduation and how to achieve it. Another area of collaboration with schools and industry that I believe is imperative is an increased focus on mental health support throughout the K-12 years. As mayor, I will continue and expand upon collaborations between electeds, schools and corporations.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

To create a sustainable housing market, we must first acknowledge that the existing system is preventing access for the poorest people and displacing many. With tens of thousands extremely low-income households currently struggling to make it paycheck-to-paycheck, and with most of those families coming from communities of color, we need to rebuild the housing system from the ground up if we want to make a lasting change. This starts with supporting the creation of local community development corporations that are focused on specific job creation and affordable housing needs for a specific neighborhood.

Using vehicles like limited equity housing cooperatives to create ownership opportunities that could never exist is another critical step, as is direct investment in groups looking to dive into the housing conversation and figure out other innovative approaches. Without these types of targeted interventions, the systems we have in place will continue to deny access to those who need it the most and continue to displace many from affordable and safe places to live.

Another key component to addressing the housing shortage is the necessity for San Jose to build up its Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department by addressing the current high staff vacancy and high staff turnover rates. This is critical to ensuring development projects can get across the finish line as quickly as possible. It is imperative that this department be staffed and funded so that it is efficient and can work closely with the development community as they apply for new construction opportunities and new innovative projects permits. I believe it is critical that the city approve projects that are safe, reliable, and innovative as quickly as possible.

As a San Jose Councilmember, I worked with communities, developers, business organizations and city staff to remove unnecessary regulatory barriers, create clear design guidelines, and facilitated the development of 1,000's of homes in the downtown during my tenure. I know this can be done because I have done it, and we need to do it again

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transit has the ability to improve two important issues for our region, climate change and quality of life. I support new investments in public transit that moves these goals forward.

One way of achieving these goals is through collaboration with developers, cities, and landowners to build jobs and housing along and near public transit lines. At the Valley Transportation Authority, I have long championed higher density development at transit stations to meet our housing and environmental needs while protecting our open space land and maintaining property ownership in the public's interest. In 2016, I led the effort to amend the Joint Development Policy to include a 30% overall requirement of affordable housing to be built in any residential development on Valley

Transportation Authority (VTA) land near transit stations. The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy adopted by the VTA board identified 25 potential sites on over 200 acres that could be used for these partnerships.

Another way of impacting these important regional issues is by continuing work to bring forward electrification and High-Speed Rail. I have been actively involved in both efforts and will continue to move them forward.

I believe that building flexibility into the city's procurement process will also be helpful in supporting transit innovations that meet the goals of reducing climate impacts and improving resident's quality of life. This includes supporting innovative methods such as scooters and micro transit that bridge the "last mile" gap between transit stops and the destination of the rider.

Transit plays a clear role in both economic recovery and climate resiliency, and I am supportive of moving forward new modes of transportation that play a key role in those important issue areas.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes. This is an important requirement to reaching the area's climate and air quality goals.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, I will. The impact of climate change is being felt by every Californian. It has dramatically affected our public health, our economic development, and our overall quality of life. That is why I have made protecting our environment and natural resources one of my top priorities.

In 2021, while I was chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors, we enacted the strictest refinery particulate emissions standards in the country with our new Regulation 6 Rule 5. This put in place regulations on fluidized catalytic cracking units, which are some of the largest

individual sources of particulate matter pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area. We also became the first air permitting authority in the United States to set stricter standards for permitting in environmental justice communities.

Also in 2021, I led the broad-based community effort to achieve a decades-long environmental justice goal in Santa Clara County: a successful vote by the Board of Supervisors to close Reid Hillview Airport in San Jose's Eastside. For generations the small private planes that use the airport have spewed lead pollution into the air, negatively affecting the health of the residents in the surrounding neighborhood. These residents are predominately children and from communities of color. A peer-reviewed study concluded that the blood-lead levels in the children living immediately adjacent and downwind of Reid Hillview were comparable to those in Flint, Michigan during that city's water crisis. Now, we have already stopped selling leaded aviation fuel at the airport and will be closing it as soon as possible, no later than 2031.

As a Santa Clara County Supervisor, representing nearly 400,000 residents, I led the effort in our county to create the nation's first zoning overlay specifically intended to protect and invest in regional climate resilience. The new Coyote Valley Climate Resilience district will help retain and promote the precious environmental benefits of Coyote Valley by support the long-term viability of agriculture in tandem with the natural characteristics that increase regional climate resilience. Additionally, I sought a funding stream to make permanent land acquisitions in South County, either through straight purchase or agricultural conservation easements to preserve and expand local agriculture in our region.

The County of Santa Clara took multiple significant environmental protection actions that I championed in 2021 including adopting all-electric Reach Codes for new buildings in the unincorporated areas of the county, adopting a garbage and refuse ordinance that includes mandatory organic waste service for residential and commercial customers, enacting a Santa Clara County Sustainability Purchasing Policy, and approving the Renewable Energy Aggregate Procurement Project to install 15 solar systems with the total capacity of 12 megawatts, and 4 energy storage systems with a total capacity of 5 megawatts.

I facilitated the building of the county's first all-electric facility, the Vietnamese American Services Center (VASC) which also uses a recycled water system for its landscaping.

Because of my work while chair of the Air District, we established a \$1 million program to deploy portable air filtration units during wildfire emergencies/smoke events to evacuation and sheltering facilities and other publicly accessible centers in partnership with Marin, Sonoma, San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Santa Clara counties. This allowed for the deployment of heavy-duty portable air filtration units to shelters and evacuation centers and facilities such as schools, libraries, and community centers.

During my tenure, and as the Founding Chair of the Air District's Technology Implementation Office (TIO) Steering Committee, I helped provide funding for green technologies that will improve wastewater treatment, as well as for publicly accessible electric vehicle infrastructure, and to help low-income residents trade in carbon emitting vehicles for green cars. Specifically, the TIO helped get \$4 million in financing for a microgrid implementation of a medium wastewater treatment plant. In addition, the TIO created connected a bioplastics startup and a wastewater treatment plant so they could use and utilize biogas to create bioplastics.

This work is why the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters named me their Legislator of the Year in 2021 and 2018 (w/ Sup. Dave Cortese) and why they gave me your sole endorsement in 2013 and 2020 when I ran for supervisor and in 2006 when I previously ran for mayor.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I do not believe this is the right time to raise taxes. Any consideration for an increase in taxation and fees would require a deliberative process done with all stakeholders before moving forward

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I will work to support these needs. During my time as a Santa Clara County Supervisor, I was one of the leaders of the effort to pass the \$950 million Measure A housing bond which dedicates significant funds for first time home buyer assistance and for building affordable rental units. This was an effective method for helping meet affordable housing needs for our region and has already resulted in 4,400 units of affordable or supportive housing being built or being in the construction pipeline.

I will continue my collaborative work with VTA, the area's community colleges, and students to provide efficient and cost-effective transportation to students. Past efforts of collaboration led to successful agreements, and I believe this type of collaboration will be an effective way of meeting future needs.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

One of the biggest challenges our schools face in Silicon Valley is the Digital Divide. Thousands of children in our region missed the better part of two years of instruction because they did not have broadband internet access. Even as the COVID-19 pandemic recedes this will still be an issue moving forward. This is particularly true here because so much of our economic drivers are tied to the technology and information sectors.

I have been working to bridge the Digital Divide for two years now, including co-authoring the landmark proposal passed unanimously by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in December to establish a public broadband

service option for those Santa Clara County residents who are currently unserved or underserved by affordable broadband internet.

I believe the city and county should take a proactive role in public education by helping the next generation succeed – especially in communities of color and of low income where the barriers are greatest. We should encourage communication between all parties through a joint planning committee. Moreover, we can do a better job creating private/public partnerships that encourages charitable giving and internship opportunities to children in San Jose's public schools. Economic mobility, a key measure of our success, starts with this.

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

Rosemary Kamei

San Jose City Council - District 1 Candidate

Current Santa Clara County Board of Education/Trustee

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for San Jose City Council, District 1 to bring my proven experience as well as to increase accountability and transparency to City Hall. My background in public policy and community engagement is a distinguishing factor of my candidacy. I have over three decades of experience in advocacy and engagement in my community.

San Jose needs leaders with experience taking real action for our community. I am running to address our homeless crisis, increase access to quality education, invest in public safety, and provide quality transit.

What is your campaign budget?

\$100K

What are your key endorsements?

San Jose Mercury News Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters (SCCLCV) California State Treasurer Fiona Ma Congressman Ro Khanna, District 17 Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, District 18 Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, District 19 State Senator Josh Becker, District 13 State Senator Dave Cortese, District 15 (See a full list on my website at rosemarykamei.org)

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

Our business community has deeply felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic due to challenges in supply chain, lack of financial resources, and staffing issues. As a member of the San Jose City Council, I will work directly

with businesses to ensure our community's overall success, protect our economic diversity and vibrancy, and cultivate our entrepreneurial spirit. I propose shoring up our City resources to provide one-time grant funding to small businesses. I also would do weekly small business spotlights to highlight our local District 1 businesses and cultivate a business roundtable.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

If elected, I will work collaboratively with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and our business community to ensure our region thrives. Vice Mayor Chappie Jones has initiated the idea of creating an "Innovation Zone" in San Jose District 1. I would like to follow through on making it a reality to provide support and create an environment where startups and companies can engage to iterate their ideas.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

I support the City of San Jose's Office of Racial Equity as an opportunity for elected officials to lead on racial equity. The goal of the office is to examine and improve San José's policies, programs, and decision-making to improve outcomes for communities of color both within the City as well as for residents. The COVID-10 pandemic disproportionately affected our minority run businesses and the disparities in our community worsened. To tackle this challenge, I believe there is a good opportunity to work closer with small and medium sized businesses in economic development.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

The economic recovery in a post pandemic Silicon Valley will take time and we are still learning its full effects. In the meantime, elected officials can be united in working together to support small and medium sized businesses who felt the effects of the pandemic the hardest. This means prioritizing resources and investing in programs to help our small to mid-sized business first.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

As an elected official, I believe it is important to support systemic change to organizations to truly make an impact in the workforce and leadership ranks. That is why I support the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's 25x25. A very focused effort needs to be made to identify how we can build the skill sets necessary to prepare our future workforce. We need to target our local community and how resources can be utilized.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

To address our housing crisis, I believe we must be bold and innovative. Local and state elected officials must work collaboratively as we have seen with the multi-jurisdictional partnerships like the Governor's Project Homekey and Measure A funding for all affordable housing projects. Public/Private partnerships are also critical to generate the funding and resources necessary to generate housing. For example, we have seen the Housing Trust Silicon Valley's TECH Fund as a useful tool to leverage capital to create housing.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

As a native New Yorker, I grew up utilizing public transit from a young age. In Silicon Valley, public transit needs to be safe, reliable, and efficient for it to become more of a choice for the public to use. It must be easily accessible that goes where a majority of people need to go and within a schedule that meets the need. The West San José Multimodal Transportation Improvement Plan (WSJ MTIP) is a good start but needs greater community engagement and adoption.

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)? Why or why not?

Our future depends on our decisions today to reduce carbon emissions. It is a good goal to create the target to transition to require all new buses to be zero-emission.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, I look forward to working with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to work on climate change, sea level rise, and resiliency. I have been an active proponent of working collaboratively to protect our region and provide for a healthy ecosystem of the SF Bay.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

No, I do not support raising business taxes at this time. The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected our businesses and need to allow the recovery from the pandemic to take the time necessary to get us back on track to a thriving economy and job creation.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

The diversity of our community is what makes it so special and community college students are important to our region. I would support them as much as possible. Working in collaboration with community college trustees, the college administration and local nonprofits, creative opportunities to assist with housing, food and transportation should be available. For example, the Foothill-De Anza College District has a food pantry and aid program that

helps students with basic needs. I support this effort and would aim to replicate it in our Silicon Valley region. I believe textbooks should be made available free of cost.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

As someone who has dedicated the last 12 years in the education arena by working directly with school districts, I am in a unique position to be able to work with them to create the support necessary for in-school and out-of-school support systems. The Santa Clara County Office of Education has been providing assistance to school districts and the City of San Jose can also be a partner in this effort.

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3

Irene Smith, JD, PhD

San Jose City Council - District 3 Candidate
Current Small Business Owner

Why are you running for this office?

I've called Downtown San Jose home for 33+ years. I raised a family here, started and own a small business in downtown, and am involved with neighborhood groups. Over the last several years, I've seen the quality of life decline with City Hall doing nothing to help. I decided enough is enough.

I'm running as the independent turn-around candidate with the goal changing City Hall to deliver core services to its residents. I do not believe in the same old thinking to which career political insiders subscribe. I am not beholden to any special interest and have no further political ambition beyond serving the residents and small businesses of D3. My goals are to implement my Incremental Ladder of Housing Success program, start the creation of the city's own housing voucher program, expand upon and invest in Public Safety services, such as the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) to better address mental health needs in our community, and invest in the BeautifySJ program to eliminate blight.

throughout this City.

What is your campaign budget?

I have raised \$78,000 to date

What are your key endorsements?

Key endorsements include Silicon Valley Biz PAC, Santa Clara County Association of Realtors, Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, Rollo's Donuts, Peanuts, Casa Vicky, Sa-By, and many downtown neighbors.

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

As a long time, small business owner, I am the only candidate who knows the ups and downs of running a small business in downtown. The current permitting process is complicated with too many fees and permits to acquire which requires a small business owner to spend a lot of time, sometimes an entire day, waiting at City Hall. This needs to be fixed. I propose the following to make it easier for small business owners to navigate the city's permitting system:

- Develop and implement a master plan for the permit process
- Consolidate multi-department permit review process
- Publish fees and coordinate multi-departmental fees
- Reduce multi-inspection processes
- Measure our goals and results and adjust accordingly

I also want to empower our Office of Economic Development to work with new small businesses in our city to help them establish a strong foundation and flourish in downtown.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

My door is always open for businesses to talk to me about how we can create more jobs in the city. I would work to connect start-ups to the right city staff to address problems and efficiencies. The government needs to get out of their way. If the problems require legislative action, I will work collaboratively with city staff, my Council colleagues, community members, and the companies to see what processes can be changed to address the problems at hand. I will also work from day one to implement my permitting changes. We should make it easy to work with the city and the changes I put forth to change our permitting process can help businesses get what they need taken care of quickly so that they can move on to work on other business.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

I believe one of the biggest opportunities elected officials have with regards to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion starts with ensuring that their staff is representative of the community. I commit to having a diverse staff representative of the community if elected to council. In fact, my current campaign team is diverse and multilingual. The other opportunity is acknowledging that some city policies and processes are inherently racist and they need an immediate fix. An example of this is the recent Housing Element Survey issued by the city. The survey failed to list Asian and Pacific Islanders as a historically marginalized community. This simple act erases the struggles, racism, and pain felt by the API community. I applaud the city for making strides in being inclusive, but it is clear to me that not all communities of color are given the attention they deserve.

The biggest challenge the city will face is getting all members to understand why this work is needed. It will also be difficult to bridge different communities together and ensure that everyone is heard, as noted in the above example.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

My focus is on downtown D3 which needs to be the gem of all San Jose. In order to attract families and small businesses our streets need to be clean and our sidewalks need to be safe. These are basic core services without much glitz but without addressing these issues first there can be little economic recovery.

I will continue to promote small businesses and the families who run them as the best way to ensure an equitable economic recovery.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

It's important that elected officials let corporations know that representation matters. It matters beyond posting about LGBTQ+ month, Women's History Month, Black History Month, etc. They must be investing in, training, recruiting, and hiring women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ in their companies.

Leading by example, I am a huge fan of the Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE). When elected, I plan on having my team take their training. We should encourage the creation and implementation of this type of training at companies in the city.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

We need to build more housing. One of the best ways we can build more housing in the city is to streamline the permitting process. This cuts back on cost and time to build more housing. I laid out my plan on how we can streamline this process. Another aspect of housing is ensuring that housing is built equitably throughout the city. San José has a siting policy that needs to be implemented and executed better. We can't concentrate most of the affordable housing in one area of the city. We must ensure that affordable housing is built throughout the city so that residents have more choice as to where they can live.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley. Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transit plays a vital role in ensuring residents have an affordable source of transportation, especially post pandemic where some families are still financial recovering. I support new investment in public transit going forward if it's to make the system more efficient, effective, reliable, clean, and safe. One of the top complaints about public transit is how unreliable it can be. We can attract more public transit users if we can make it reliable for residents to use in addition to making it clean and safe.

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)? Why or why not?

I support this because vehicle emissions have been identified as one of the top contributors to carbon in our atmosphere. We have to cut back carbon emissions wherever we can, and I fully support having a fleet of zero-emission buses to help the city reach carbon reducing goals.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Absolutely. I founded The Defenders of Clean Air E-Quality after reading the study about children who breathe in toxic air from encampment fires have a reduced IQ. I have rolled up my sleeves and put on waterproof boots to help with half day creek clean ups. I understand the need for protecting our bay and will work with SVLG and other organizations to ensure that creeks and bays are preserved.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I don't believe in raising taxes for businesses, they ultimately hurt mom and pop businesses and families. As a small business owner myself, I feel these effects. If we continue to increase business taxes, those costs are always passed on to the consumer which hurts families and the economy.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I believe that everyone should have access to affordable education. As an elected official, I will advocate for programs that help make education affordable. I also think the city's SJ Promise program is a program the city

should continue supporting to help students in underserved communities afford college.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I would support these systems and invest in the city Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force which provide afterschool programs, counselors, and mentors. I think this is a wonderful program to helps students struggling with school, those who want or need a mentor, or are looking for tutoring.

Omar Torres

San Jose City Council - District 3 Candidate

Current Business Resiliency Manager- San Jose Downtown Association

Why are you running for this office?

My roots are in this district, I am looking to fight for underserved communities and ensure that San Jose is truly an inclusive city for everyone regardless of background, income level etc. Our city faces many challenges, from quality of life to severe effects of our housing crisis, I am best equipped to tackle challenges with my wealth of experience working in communities throughout this City.

What is your campaign budget?

NA

What are your key endorsements?

Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Attorney General Rob Bonta, Supervisor Magdalena Carrasco and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez.

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

The business community had to massively adjust it's work model during the Covid-19 pandemic. As we recover from the effects of this pandemic, we must ensure that we are working to recover in equitable fashion so that as our economy moves towards a "new normal", all residents will have the opportunity to participate in that process. The city will need to actively engage our business community to ensure that the path to recovery is a smooth one and that San Jose will be able to continue to advance economic development goals.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

San Jose is the largest City in the Silicon Valley. In that spirit, we must maintain our identity as such by fostering both established and up and

coming companies looking to call San Jose home. Building strong dialogue from the beginning will be important, identifying what needs and challenges exist will be key in order to decide how to best advocate for economic development at the City level. I am also very interested in seeing how any and all organizations can support our community through offering opportunities such as job training programs for residents in under resourced area looking to get into the innovation economy. Finding the path for companies to support community would also be a key goal of mine.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

One opportunity is that through interacting on various business/city matters, elected officials can and should be emphasizing the importance of prioritizing matters related to race, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Corporate responsibility towards these issues will be paramount going forward. Just like we in the public sector push for increased representation, it is important that corporate America have the same sentiment within the private sector.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

We have the opportunity to ensure our recovery is an equitable one, putting forth programs and policies so we are addressing impacted residents and connecting them to both services and opportunities such as job trainings or certification programs to allow for integration into post pandemic economic practices. Elected officials have the ability to push to fund initiatives to ensure our recovery is an equitable one and that those dollars be used as effectively as possible.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Similarly to question 3, having matters such as representation must be an overarching theme when discussing the business community in San Jose. Any and all advancement of economic development goals will be tied to matters of racial and gender equity as well. for that reason elected officials

must recognize the opportunity to work this topic into any conversation with companies.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

Political will is a massive component of the housing crisis. Elected officials play a monumental role in addressing our housing shortage, whether it be working with our planning department to move projects forward, or by supporting developments that would increase our housing supply at all income levels. This crisis has had a massive impact on our City, elected officials need to lead in putting forth solutions to address our housing shortage.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

I will answer the second part first, I am a huge proponent in new investment for public transit. I personally have relied on public transportation in the past in order to get to school and work. Thinking of our region post-pandemic, there needs to be a realization that we can no longer rely on automobiles to be our primary mode of transit. As our city continues to grow, we will need to build out our public transit infrastructure for both capital and operation uses. Increased investment in public transit will lead to increased ridership, this must be a goal of ours moving forward.

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)? Why or why not?

I support this goal in order to reduce our city's carbon footprint. Our climate crisis continues to worsen, there needs to be measures taken out to ensure that we as a city (along with partner agencies) are doing everything we need to do to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, I will work with any and all partners looking to combat the climate crisis affecting our planet. We must reverse the current trend of increased greenhouse gas emissions, robust collaboration must take place in order to tackle the many challenges facing us on this front.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I believe that there are many needs that exist in our community, and that through various forms of revenue generation we can fund programs to address various issues. We also have to keep in mind that we are in economic recovering mode, I would be open to potential tax increases only if appropriate and there would be no hardship.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

Yes, I have lead on many of these efforts in my current role as a trustee for the San Jose City/Evergreen College District. I am extremely passionate about how our community colleges can be a first line of providing direct support to community members. I have been an ardent supporter of SJ promise and have supported efforts at looking at district land for faculty housing, we need to remove any and all barriers to allow all residents wanting to get a college education the opportunity to do so.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I have also served as a trustee for the Franklin/Mckinley School Board. During my time serving K-8 families I had a mentality of students and parents first, I use that same approach when looking at how to support educational efforts in San Jose. I would work with school districts, school board members, but I would also work directly with parent groups, many of which I have worked with extensively in the past. Through both administrative and on the ground engagement I would hope to work collaboratively to support the local education system for students.

Elizabeth Chien-Hale

San Jose City Council - District 3 Candidate
Current Law Partner

Why are you running for this office?

Wanting to serve the residents of San Jose in a more active role

What is your campaign budget?

As much as it is required to win

What are your key endorsements?

Tony Spitaleri, Council Member and Former Mayor of Sunnyvale; Don Gaglardi, Ford, Walker, Haggerty, & Behar, LLP, former D3 Candidate; John David, CEO, Amnick International; Henry Yin, California State Commissioner for Economic Development; David Schwartz, Incoming Chair-Elect, International Law Section, American Bar Association; Liang Chao, Vice Mayor of Cupertino; Kathy Sakamoto, President, San Jose Okayama Sister Cities; Janis Gemignani, Board Member San Jose Downtown Residents Association; Jovica Jovanovski, President of the Board, Globe HOA; Raul Aldana, Board Member San Jose Downtown Residents Association; Ahoura Zandiatashbar, SJSU Professor and Board Member of San Jose Downtown Residents Association; Jeff Tang, Board member of Orchard School District

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

Silicon Valley is the home to major tech companies, which have grown bigger, more profitable, and more influential in recent years. While we take pride in their achievements, we also have to be careful that their dominance do not stifle the growth of start-ups and competitors. Competition and future innovation are the key components to continuing growth in the region.

Furthermore, the success of the tech companies in general is creating a level of income disparity in this region, leading to higher rent and housing prices. We need to strike a balance in maintaining a business friendly environment that allows all businesses to thrive. Government has a key role in setting the

right policies (anti-trust, fair business practices, fair labor practices, grant resources for SMEs, for example) to create such an environment

Other challenges, such as the housing and talent shortages, have been somewhat softened by the remote work model. However, they remain issues for businesses and residents alike.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I do not necessarily see a conflict between startups and established companies, unless they start pillaging each other. Most startup founders are at one point or another trained in the established companies, and their funding connections, and other resources very often come from the previous employers. In an ideal world, they form a virtuous cycle. In other words, if elected, I would work equally with established companies and startups.

I do think that for long-term growth in an innovative economy, we will need to demand higher level of corporate transparency and accountability. For example, the recent reports on data privacy abuse, personal data manipulation, and other aggressive business practices have led the consumers and the governments to demand higher ethical standards, requiring companies be held accountable by regulators, users, boards/investors, and internal compliance staff. These policies and demands need to be calibrated so they are not just restrictions, but rather guideposts to steer the startups and the mature companies into ethical behavior leading to long-term, sustainable growth.

Finally, people and talent are the lifeblood of an innovative economy. I also think we need to continue investing in the region's education and transportation infrastructures to ensure the companies can have easy access to the talent they need to excel.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

Implementing the appropriate legislation is an effective tool for addressing such issues. For example, Women on Boards (SB 826) was signed into law in

2018 to advance equitable gender representation on California corporate boards. When the law passed, one-fourth of California's publicly held corporations had no women directors on their boards.

However, these tools may be outside the jurisdiction of the cities. As a councilmember, I would practice setting the right example in my own office, communicating with stakeholders regarding the benefits of diversity, setting up workshops, providing a platform or a databank for a qualified pools of candidates in under-represented groups.

From what I understand, the biggest challenges are access to qualified candidates in under-represented groups, and also retention.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

Many research reports have indicated that economic growth in our city and our county reached historic heights; unfortunately, the growth is often uneven as historically disadvantaged groups do not share equally and continue to face higher rates of unemployment, fewer investment and growth opportunities, poorer health outcomes, and limited access to government resources. The pandemic exacerbated those inequities and forced communities of color to bear the disproportionate impact of the public health and economic loss.

Elected officials can increase equitable recovery by making more grants and investment in minority-owned businesses, restoring confidence and public safety in minority districts, and creating more community stabilization centers and organizations to help bridge the divide (digital, educational, etc.).

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

I am not sure the "representation" refers to under-represented groups, or local workers. I think the Silicon Valley corporations need improvements in both areas. They can start by investing in local educational systems, especially in economically disadvantaged areas, to secure their future pipeline of workers and leaders.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

We have Measure A of the County, Measure E of the City , and commercial linkage fee, for providing funding for affordable housing. We are also seeing the tech companies into the City, such as Google, pledging to provide community stabilization fund or build affordable housing.

Given these and other resources, I believe the most important role for the elected officials is to be the liaison between the the residents and the governments, to help ensure the residents are getting frequent updates and reports on the progress of money collected and the intended goals.

In canvassing, I definitely detected a strong sense of tax fatigue among the residents and businesses, especially after the pandemic. I am not inclined to initiate new taxes. The elected officials can focus on providing guidance in strategic spending and locations with respect to the new housing possibilities.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transit took a hit during the pandemic, but I am sure riders will return. However, the frequency and cost of the rides both need improvements before and after the pandemic.

I believe public transit is important in developing an integrated Silicon Valley economy. Easy and reliable transit options will ease the housing demands in job-centered cities, thus softening the affordable housing crisis.

We also need to make public transit available to ease traffic congestion, to reduce wasting precious land on parking, and to save the environment.

Finally, I believe the two magnets for attracting investments into an area are transportation and talent. We need to continue make San Jose an attractive destination for businesses by investing our public transit system.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes. This seems like a small step in the right direction. We need to take even bigger steps if we are to reverse the impacts of climate change.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Absolutely supportive. In the face of sea level rise, drought, and a whole set of other issues, we have to take steps together to mitigate these dangers. Environmental protection is too big a topic for any one city or county to solve alone. I am glad to see that SVLG will coordinate with stakeholders within the entire region to advance solutions to these problems.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

As previously stated, I definitely detected a strong sense of tax fatigue among the residents and businesses alike when I walk around District 3. I am not inclined to initiate new taxes. The government should first work on transparency and accountability of the budget surpluses.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I believe SVLG's Community College to Career program sets a very good model. I would encourage Silicon Valley companies to partner with community colleges and other nonprofits to provide work-based learning opportunities, career exposure, and hiring opportunities to community college students.

Early exposure to career and cultures in the work place is the best way to ensure we can close the economic divide between different groups.

With demonstrated needs, I am supportive of helping costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

We can start by increasing the hours of our school libraries to make sure students have a good place to work, if this space is not available at home. We can supplement the school curriculum by adding on-line education modules in the libraries.

Furthermore, we should provide mental health support for students, as we gear up for mental health support in the adult population. Finally, we should provide before and after school programs, and summer internship (for the high school students), to ensure students have productive activities outside of limited school hours.

The City can work with the school districts to provide partnerships and other needed resources.

SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 7

Bien Doan

San Jose City Council - District 7 Candidate
Current Fire Captain

Why are you running for this office?:

As a front line fire captain I have seen the worst of our community with my own two eyes for the last 22 years, I want to clean up our city, help our unhoused residents back on their feet by providing transitional housing that provide dignity, respect and a safe environment. We must provide drug, alcohol, mental illness treatments to include mentoring and jobs placement. We can reduce crimes by supporting our police and fire by bringing staffing to a true metropolitan city. I support small and large businesses that bring in revenue our city desperately need. Businesses will create well paying jobs for our residents to survive in this expensive environment. We must create more affordable housing so our families don't have to move out of San Jose in order to survive. Last but not least is to protect our open spaces, parks, and waterways.

What is your campaign budget?:

\$80,000

What are your key endorsements?:

SVBIZPAC, Dev Davis, Johnny Khamis, Tam Nguyen

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

Many companies had left Silicon Valley due to bureaucracy, red tapes and unfriendly businesses environment. We need to create a business friendly environments that can create well paying jobs by centralize services, reduce

timelines, reducing fees and hires more staffing to provide a more effective and efficient services.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

As your Councilmember I would set up monthly meetings and outreach to our Chamber of Commerce, businesses, community leaders to discuss and provide recommendations to ensure, improve our competitive innovative region.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

City of San Jose must be committed and invest in having a diverse work force. We must lead by example! Our city Council doesn't show diversity or equality therefore it trickles down to the city work force then down to our citizens. We must do a better job to outreach and recruit our multi ethnicity/cultures community.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

It is impossible to change the course of the pandemic without tackling it in the hardest-hit communities. We need to identify and take swift action to support and prevent our small businesses from closing especially in the underserve area by secure funding, create incentives and forgiveness or fees reduction.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

As yours elected official I will outreach to our Silicone Valley corporation leaders to strategize for better communication, promote equity diversity, and

develop strategic training program to ensure representation, leadership ranks and diverse workforce in the Silicon Valley

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

A local in state elected official can play an important role and addressing or housing shortages. We must have the political will, the ability to rezone, and a clear transparent communication with our neighborhoods and community so all concerns will be heard.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

We have one of the worst congested traffic in the country and we have more roads with less money to maintain. I believe with a well plan public transit system that is on timely, cost effective and efficient will better serve our community now and in the future.

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)? Why or why not?

In order to protect our environment and cleaner air we must do everything in our power to reduced the carbon footprint in our community. Not only buses, cars, motorcycles, and all hydrocarbon consuming products, we must encourage and incentivize program like solar panels, electric power vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric equipments.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes I will work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure funding to protect our residents, businesses and our environment. In order to advance our common vision for healthy and resilient San Francisco Bay we need to

have open minds, political will and aggressively secure funding not only for the present but for the future.

It is my mission to protect, preserve and restore our SF Bay for the future generation.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

Absolutely not! Businesses are in a recovering stages from the pandemic instead of penalize we should support our businesses by reducing fees, create incentives to attract more businesses that will bring jobs to the City of San Jose

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

Colleges are a powerful gateways to economic and social mobility opportunities.

I'm a product of community college and I have a clear understanding of the needs towards education. My vision is that someday we have free education for all and in order to compete globally we must support our community colleges, by promoting higher education and inclusion for all students. We must providing affordable housing, supplements books, educational fees, foods and transportation. As your council member I will work to assist with our states, county school boards and private donors to pursue funding and create viable solution for our future generation.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

As your councilmember I will assist with ours state, county, nonprofit organizations and private donors to create a sustainable school programs such as mentoring, tutoring, internet access, foods and youth activities. We must raise standards for teachers, acknowledge, address and reduce overcrowding, funding for schools is a priority.

Van Le

San Jose City Council - District 7 Candidate
Current East Side Board Trustee

Why are you running for this office?

I am running to be a voice for helping families, seniors and businesses in District 7 and throughout the City of San Jose and to ensure that we make fiscally sound decisions regarding our city monies by staying on budget and not increasing city fees which hurt District 7 residents especially the middle class and those on fixed incomes.

For example, I am against the proposed City of San Jose 8% garbage fee increase and against the 9.2% sewer use charge. These fees combined will cost San Jose residents – middle class and those on fixed incomes \$95.00 a month. If I was the District 7 Councilmember, I would vote against both fee increases.

I am currently an elected school board member for the East Side Union High School District (ESUSHD). I enjoy working productively with the community, parents, students, teachers, administrators and my fellow board members.

I am the only candidate who has the sole endorsement of Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee, East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) President, J. Manuel Herrera and Mary Pollet, Yerba Buena principal/educator.

What is your campaign budget?

110k

What are your key endorsements?

Board Supervisor Otto Lee, East side Board President Manuel Herrera, East side Teachers Associationesident Manuel Herrera, Eadt side teachers association, educators

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

There is too much “red tape” interfering with businesses being able to run their businesses effectively. Our City needs to be friendlier to business by streamlining processes such as paperwork and hiring enough knowledgeable staff. For example, the City of San Jose raised the business fee that each business owner is required to pay each year - a few years ago. However, the money from the increased fees are not coming back to assist businesses – those fees are lost within the General Fund. Increasing the fee is a challenge for business owners and then to not use those increases to assist businesses is also a challenge for businesses.

If elected, I will not support higher taxes or fees for our San Jose businesses. I will also work to streamline processes for businesses."

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

We need to do more research or be more creative to bring more businesses in order to create more jobs – especially in the area of manufacturing so that the city can collect sales tax on the physical objects that are sold.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

As a Vietnamese refugee, who left a war-torn country, issues about race, diversity, equity and inclusion are important to me. We need to ensure we set strong examples of inclusion for others to follow.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

As a small business owner and If elected to be the next District 7 representative, I will continue to support and lift up our local businesses. I will work to ensure we have business grants, keep business fees down – no increases and listen to what the businesses need and work to achieve the successful outcomes businesses need.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

If elected to District 7, I will continue to work with Silicon Valley corporations the way I do now as a small business owner – by reaching out and meeting with corporations to see how best we can increase representation. It is best to ask how corporations would like to lead and how an elected official can help.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

I support streamlining the process and working with developers to build more housing. We need to lower fees and percentage of affordable housing in order to attract more developers.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

I support building more housing along transit corridors, support BART and the use of buses. We need to overhaul the bus system so that the buses can reach more people.

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)? Why or why not?

I agree we need to have this program in order to control smog causing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, water is a precious resource. We need to work together and do all we can to secure additional funding to protect our region.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I do not agree that we should raise taxes on businesses. As a small business owner for over 25 years, I understand how higher taxes hurt businesses. Businesses suffered during pandemic, and it will take time to recover; the last thing that government should do is to make this burden worse by raising taxes.

Government entities are not being held accountable for how our tax monies are used. Government uses terms such as “Tax increase for more police officers” to lure voters to support taxes but then we do not see more police officers hired after the tax increase passes. We need to hold government accountable on how they spend the money they do have prior to any further taxation – which higher taxes and fees tend to hurt the middle class, working poor and those on fixed incomes the most.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

As an elected board trustee with the ESUHSD, many of our students transition to community colleges and vocational schools after graduation. Although the City of San Jose does not have direct purview over the public education system, I think it is important to create partnerships to assist school districts.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

As an elected board trustee with the ESUHSD, improving in school and out of school student support systems are important. There are current programs in place that I would like to continue – ensuring our community centers are open so children including high school students can go there after school – to do homework, socialize with others in a safe place. Counselors within the

school system are important for students. If elected, I will work with other councilmembers, principals and the community regarding new ideas of how to improve in and out of school programs and services that will support our students.

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - DISTRICT 3

Laura Parmer-Lohan

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors - District 3 Candidate
Current Businesswoman/City Councilmember/Small Business Owner

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running for Supervisor to:

- Ensure we are successful in addressing the devastating effects of climate change.
- Bring people together to address the effects of severe drought in San Mateo County, including developing programs to recycle/ reclaim water for use in irrigation, farming, and landscaping; reducing the traffic that intensifies climate change; and protecting our open spaces, beaches, and forests for our future generations to enjoy.
- Tackle climate-induced flooding and sea-level rise.
- Reduce homelessness by expanding mental health, substance abuse, job training, and housing services.
- Continue to demand effective community-empowered, accountable police services.
- Ensure our future generations can stay in San Mateo County and our teachers, firefighters, and essential workers can live near where they work.

What is your campaign budget?

\$225,000

What are your key endorsements?

I'm honored to be endorsed by the current, and two preceding holders of the office - current Board President Don Horsley and former supervisors and State Assembly members Rich Gordon and Ted Lempert as well as the United Health Workers, Equality California, Planned Parenthood Advocates Mira Monte, National Women's Political Caucus Silicon Valley. A more complete list of my endorsers is available at <https://www.lauraforsupervisor.com/endorse-laura>

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

The key challenges impacting the business climate in Silicon Valley are:

- Enacting policies to expedite the building of affordable housing. I would leverage my role as a Home for All steering committee member to identify best practices to reduce the uncertainty and costs associated with the creation of affordable housing (i.e., San Jose has several ADU design templates that receive same-day approval). I would also establish partnerships with organizations such as Life Moves and Hip Housing to mitigate the effects of homelessness.
- Increasing access to reasonably priced childcare by ensuring its location within residential districts and eliminating or reducing permitting fees.
- Addressing climate change by setting aggressive 'reach' goals and establishing policies to reduce GHG emissions in advance of the 2045 Carbon Neutral objectives outlined by Governor Newsom.
- Engaging ongoing wildfire risk mitigation efforts (e.g., clearing combustible fuels on county lands that are adjacent to homes, deploying goat herds throughout the district to clear brush, conducting disaster preparedness drills and engaging in educational efforts to support the open space private landowners (who own up to 75% of the open space in the county).
- Addressing sea and bay level rise through continued support of the OneShoreline's efforts to prioritize and build out capital improvement projects by seeking funding sources through partnership with local, state, and federal agencies.

- Expanding county/local school district partnerships to ensure that working parents and students have access to skill development and educational opportunities that provide the gateway to rewarding careers. An integral part of this will be increased access to childcare services.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I would leverage my experience in industry and existing relationships with business leaders and build new ones. I serve on the board of The Chamber Silicon Valley and have worked in my professional capacity with other industry organizations such as Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San Mateo County Economic Development Association, and others. Establishing and running my small business has afforded me the opportunity to develop advisory relationships with incubators such as CLS FAST, QB3, and LaunchPad Digital Health.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

San Mateo County is a “majority minority” community, and it is a very real possibility that the San Mateo Board of Supervisors may be all male. As a member of the LGBTQ community and female, I know how it feels to be excluded, ridiculed, and passed up for opportunity, despite my capabilities. This experience informs my commitment to ensuring that all voices are heard, and that everyone can pursue their goals and dreams. I remain committed to my promise to solicit, hear, and act upon the concerns of the community.

Constituent feedback provides the context, objectives, and priorities necessary for directing and managing staff. Synthesizing community input to develop clear and actionable goals within realistic financial limits is required for effective community-driven governance. Patience and a commitment to facilitating consensus across geographic and social boundaries produces plans, projects and partnerships that deliver regional benefits. I conduct myself with grace, kindness, and gratitude as an accessible, accountable, and transparent leader.

The challenges in addressing DEI are the systemic practices and bias that create barriers to inclusion.

When elected, I will work to ensure that the Chief Diversity Officer for San Mateo County has the resources she needs to realize a county in which everyone feels welcome and has agency in its creation and their future. As well, I will advocate for budget for training and education on these issues.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

It is important that we work to ensure that BIPOC community members have access to resources to ensure that they can thrive. It is imperative that we:

- Build the digital infrastructure out on the coast
- Forward policies to increase affordable housing and childcare
- Continue to invest in workforce development and ensure that it is accessible to talent where transportation is a challenge
- Continue to pursue functional zero with multiple housing strategies so that no one is unhoused
- Reduce barriers to accessing capital so that small businesses and mom and pop shops can grow their business according to market demands

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

California Life Sciences has a robust Racial Social Equity Initiative that addresses systemic barriers to career development and advancement in the life sciences industry. Where these types of programs exist, I will initiate a dialogue with the organizers to understand how the county can provide a more level playing field for historically excluded community members.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

I am a proponent of the county building housing on public lands. I support the effort to consolidate the county corporate yards and repurpose the land for housing. The Bay City Flowers farm is up for sale – this site has access to water and would be well situated for housing farm workers and their families. I am a steering committee member for the San Mateo County Home for All program, and will continue to shape its strategies and objectives to inform policy and enlist support across the community for all types of housing solutions.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

I fully support the vision that the public transit in the Bay Area be made seamless and more convenient. Investment in the public transportation infrastructure promotes the economic vitality of the region, reduces reliance on greenhouse gas-emitting modes of transportation and enables students to get to school, workers to get to work and families and friends to enjoy the many offerings of the area. While realization of this vision will be complex and costly, to not do so would be more expensive and create more complex problems.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes. Climate change experts have expressed concern that our ability to keep the average temperature from increasing 1.5C by 2035 is diminishing. Once the planet reaches this threshold, the impacts of climate change are predicted to be irreversible. We all need to make different choices to reach carbon neutrality as quickly as possible. Increasing the fleet of zero-emission vehicles is critical to this effort.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Absolutely. We must act swiftly to shore up infrastructure that is vulnerable and identify funding sources at all levels to fund the capital improvements necessary to ensure its resiliency.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

The community has called for bold and swift action to address impacts of climate change. The cost of these capital-intensive projects that will harden our infrastructure is not insignificant and local funds must be curated to effectively compete for matching state and federal funding. Therefore, I am supportive of a funding measure, the details of how much and when are being studied. This decision will be made by the public via a vote at some point in the future.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

When elected, I plan to increase county/local School District partnerships to remove barriers to education. This will include increasing affordable housing stocks for teachers and students, alleviating food insecurity and increasing accessibility to our community colleges. I have already begun engaging with school board officials to clear a path for the creation of housing on public lands.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

"I believe the role of the county is to help foster healthy communities. There are many areas of mutual interest between the county and school districts. For example, the county can further its investments in family resource centers by providing grants for food subsidies for kids 5 and under, making available developmental screenings and supporting libraries and parenting classes. And increasing support for mental health programs for young children and caregivers is critically important.

Affiliated with Amgen. Opinions are my own.

Ray Mueller

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors - District 3 Candidate

Current Third Term Menlo Park City Councilmember (2 time Mayor), In-House Counsel, IEM

Why are you running for this office?

I running for County Supervisor to build an equitable “Human Recovery” from the Pandemic, ensuring the County’s economy, public health, and quality of life recovers and rises for all residents equitably.

My goals and priorities include:

a) Partnering with Cities to address and knock down the obstacles they face in creating housing at all levels of affordability, from transportation to impacts on local school districts.

b) Stabilizing the County Health and Hospital system which is so vital to the County’s core mission of Public Health.

c) Providing certainty to San Mateo County businesses, as we recover from the Pandemic, Working with stakeholders to avoid economy killers, such as over regulation and moratoriums.

d) Taking action on climate adaptation, resilience, mitigation, such as wildfire mitigation, facilitating the mode shift to clean energy, combating sea level rise, and building resilience to drought.

e) Providing high quality, transparent law enforcement and public safety services. Improving alternative multi-modal public transit options.

f) Creating a County/City capital improvement Strategic Plan for the Coast, that stabilizes the Agricultural/Marine Tourism Economy; from roads to sewers to the seawall improvements. At the same time protect the Coastal environment for the enjoyment of future generations. I believe the San Mateo Coast is a treasure similar to Sonoma, Napa, Yosemite Valley. Yet it has not been supported and invested in, to an adequate degree, by the County of San Mateo.

g) Improve social services, housing and access to education for farmworkers and their families and provide support to farmers and ranchers, which is absolutely essential to stabilizing the Coastal economy. Fight for appropriate water allocations for our farmers and ranchers and build agritourism on the Coast.

What is your campaign budget?

\$400,000

What are your key endorsements?

Anna Eshoo, Congresswoman, 18th Congressional District; Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, State of California; Betty Yee, Controller, State of California; Steve Westly, former Controller, State of California; Josh Becker, Senator, California State Senate; Jerry Hill, former Senator, California State Senate; Joseph Simitian, former Senator, California State Senate; Supervisor, Santa Clara County; Kevin Mullin, Speaker Pro Tem, California State Assembly; Marc Berman, Assemblymember, California State Assembly; Jim Cunneen, former Assemblymember, California State Assembly; Dave Pine, Supervisor, San Mateo County; Warren Slocum, Supervisor, San Mateo County; Adrienne Tissier, former Supervisor, San Mateo County; Tom Heuning, former Supervisor, San Mateo County; Nancy Magee, Superintendent of San Mateo County Schools ; Anne Campbell, former Superintendent of San Mateo County Schools; Sandie Arnott, San Mateo County Treasurer Tax Collector; Juan Raigoza, San Mateo County Controller; Over 60 current and former City Councilmembers in San Mateo County District 3; The San Mateo County Democratic Party; The San Mateo County Labor Council; San Mateo County Firefighters Local 2400; San Mateo County Deputy Sheriffs Association; Carl Guardino, former CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group; Lenny Mendonca, former chief economic and business advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom; Rich Serino, former Deputy Administrator of FEMA

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

1) Lack of affordable workforce housing.

Solution: The County can provide land, funding, and political support to Cities seeking assistance from the state and federal government. As Supervisor I will do all of these things. I will also push for the diversity of opportunity in affordable housing stock, to include community trust models of affordable housing that allow people to buy into their units, rather than just rent, so their families can enjoy some level of equity creation. I will support public agencies attempting to build affordable housing.

2) Uncertainty regarding government regulation as pandemic continues.

Solution: San Mateo County really needs to do a post pandemic fact finding on what worked for the business community and what didn't, and set down principles how it will conduct itself in the future should a more virulent strain of covid emerge. We are missing the opportunity to engage the business community now, to provide certainty for investment and keep businesses here in the Silicon Valley and California.

3) Cost of Childcare:

Solution: San Mateo County District 3 has 7 of the most expensive location for Childcare in the Bay Area: Menlo Park, San Carlos, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley, San Gregorio and El Granada. The average cost of childcare for 2 children is above \$60,000 a year. At the County I will support programs that provide zoning for childcare, grants for teacher training, and support the creation of childcare programs that provide childcare to enable a workforce of home providers.

4) Scarcity of property, the cost of property, rising interest rates

Solution: Create certainty and consistency in zoning for that encourages rather than discourages investment. As Mayor of Menlo Park in 2014, I met with SVLG seeking their support against a ballot measure in Menlo Park that would have rolled back our Specific Plan that provided certainty to development on the El Camino transit corridor. SVLG endorsed granted my request, and we won at the polls with an over 60% margin.

5) Rising fuel costs.

Solution: Build and expand affordable alternative transit.

I am on the only candidate in the race to have served more than one term on a City Council, and the only candidate to have served as Chief of Staff to a County Supervisor. I am best equipped to navigate the twists and turns of delivering effective solutions to address these challenges.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

The Cities of San Jose and Los Angeles, and the City and County of San Francisco all have Offices of Civic Innovation. I believe San Mateo County should have such an office. This is separate from a CIO office that just looks at technology. An office of Civic Innovation pilots new approaches in the delivery of services and analysis of data. Here in Silicon Valley, with so many thought leaders and academic institutions, the County absolutely should be leveraging innovation, and creating an opportunity for startups to work with government. County government should also be finding ways to anonymize data sets and create data clearing houses for innovation. Finally outside of direct interaction with startup and innovative business, County government needs to work to sustain the features that of innovation ecosystem: affordable housing, affordable office space for startups, strong alternative transit, and quality of life amenities like entertainment venues. Finally, government needs to provide certainty of investment to the business community.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

1) County Officials can focus on creating programs to address institutional bias in County Government structures. One such method do so is to implement equity baselining where working with a specialist we would measure how the County was performing from a racial equity perspective across metrics, upon which we we could measure over time. Equity baselining can be applied to delivery or services, to participation in government.

2) In 2020 I obtained a certificate in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell's online platform, eCornell. I am committed to taking legislative action on racial justice issues. I have proposed initiatives already in my own city. Racial Justice touches all aspects of government, including but not limited to Public Health, Public Safety, Education and Housing. At the end of the day it comes down to whether or not you are using racial justice and racial equity, with identifiable metrics and standards in the consideration of how you spend tax dollars, create budgets and create policy. Racial justice needs to be integrated into all aspects of government. It isn't just, "let's make policing transparent." It's about making government transparent and shining a light on implicit racial inequities underlying past policy decisions.

3) Beyond the approach outlined above, from a subject matter perspective, our biggest opportunities lie in equitable access to alternative transit, healthcare, education, affordable housing and childcare. The biggest challenge will be paying for it all.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

I strongly believe in program management that links data to metrics, to drive investment of taxpayer dollars. As I mentioned above, the subject areas I would focus in would be access to alternative transit, healthcare, education, affordable housing and childcare. I believe all of these areas are foundational to an equitable recovery.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

1) Support the expansion of alternative transit so every member of our community has access to education and job training. Create grants for job training and education programs.

2) Support policy and programs that keep women and minorities in the workforce. A recent U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission report examined the evidence of the supply of women and underrepresented minorities and concluded there is substantial attrition of women and minorities in post-education access to Tech firms and high rates of turnover once hired. Public policy makers in the Silicon Valley must accept

responsibility for how the cost of living, institutional inequities and lack of affordable child care attributes to this problem.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

In the past I served as a representative of all of the Cities in the State on the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee. The County can provide land, funding, and political support to Cities seeking assistance from the state and federal government. As Supervisor I will do all of these things. I will also push for the diversity of opportunity in affordable housing stock, to include community trust models of affordable housing that allow people to buy into their units, rather than just rent, so their families can enjoy some level of equity creation. I will support public agencies attempting to build affordable housing.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transit will play a vital role in post pandemic silicon valley, both in the short term, due to rising gas prices and inflation, but also in the long term as cities implement state housing law creating denser transit oriented development. Investments in last mile transit will be critical to bring workers door to door.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes I do. The California Air Resources Board, has said it expected that municipal bus fleets would be fully electric by 2040 and has provided estimates that the rule would cut emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases by 19 million metric tons from 2020 to 2050, the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to

secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes I will. In Menlo Park we recently were selected a finalists for a 50 million dollar FEMA Brick Grant to help build our seawall. I absolutely will work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to obtain funding from the state and federal government to protect the region from Sea Level rise.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

No I do not believe the time is right to raise taxes.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I will support SB 893 (Becker), which provides the community college district the authority to charge students less than \$46 per unit required by the state, effectively enabling the district to lower as well as entirely waive enrollment fees for students in need. The bill also allows the district to use its local revenue in the form of "unrestricted funds" to cover enrollment fees, in addition to helping students with other costs related to attending the district's community colleges, including food, transportation, housing, books, school supplies, student counseling and technology needs. Until the bill passes I would support County grant programs to address this areas.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I would be supportive of reexamining how the County approaches the use of ERAF funds. "In the early 1990s, the Legislature permanently redirected a significant portion of the property tax revenue from cities, counties, and special districts to schools and community colleges. The redirected revenue is

deposited into a countywide account known as ERAF. In a few counties, ERAF revenue is more than enough to offset all of the General Fund allocated to schools and community colleges. In the mid-1990s, the Legislature enacted a law shifting the portion of ERAF not needed for schools and community colleges to other agencies in the county. The revenue shifted through this process is known as excess ERAF. As of 2018-19, five counties have excess ERAF—Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara."

I would propose in San Mateo County, excess ERAF be put into a joint powers agency focused on providing equity in education for the funding of schools in struggling districts and for the expansion of wifi internet access in underserved areas.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - DISTRICT 1

Sylvia Arenas

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors - District 1 Candidate
Current San Jose City Councilwoman

Why are you running for this office?

Since 2017, I've served on the San José City Council, where I have been a tireless champion for the needs of children, families, and working people. I am passionate about serving my community, and I'm a lifelong advocate for using public service to improve the lives of working families in Santa Clara County.

Before serving on the San Jose City Council, I served on the Evergreen Elementary School Board of Trustees. I started my career as a public employee of the SJ Parks, Rec and Neighborhood Services Department, working for First5, Family Wellness Drug Court, and Gardner Family Health Network.

I am running to make sure that the South Bay remains the best place to raise a family. Too many Santa Clara County families are being forced out of their communities by out-of-control housing costs, and by wages that don't come close to keeping up with the cost of living. I am passionately working on addressing the housing crisis, while investing in solutions that allow our families to earn more, access child care, and have the educational opportunities to succeed in our community. No one should grow up in a system that doesn't give them the opportunity to thrive in their own community.

As the Chair of the City of San Jose's Neighborhood Services and Education Committee, I'm proud to have launched the Family Friendly Initiative, which is working to increase access to early education, after school programs, safe housing, family friendly public facilities, and paid family leave. Through this effort, the City of San Jose is investing about \$20 million dollars in supporting

the needs of our most vulnerable children through investments in childcare. That includes a City investment of over \$2 million dollars in 2020 that directly put \$10,000 into the hands of each child care provider. This fall, I succeeded in directing \$11 million in federal funds to invest in child care and afterschool care programs.

Solving the housing crisis is going to require a massive and coordinated effort to produce more housing, preserve the affordable housing that already exists, and protect our families from being evicted or displaced. That is why I have successfully fought for strong rent control and tenant protections in San Jose. It's why I fight tooth and nail for anti-displacement measures. And it's why I advocate for more housing production – Affordable Housing in particular – and efforts to desegregate housing. On the Board of Supervisors, I would continue this vital work.

What is your campaign budget?

Since joining the campaign in January – I have raised over \$125K and intend to raise up to the spending limit, which is \$250,000.

What are your key endorsements?

I am endorsed by the South Bay Labor Council, Santa Clara County Democratic Party, Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club, San Jose Firefighters, SEIU 521, SEIU-UHW, SEIU 2015, Teamsters Joint Council 7, Dolores Huerta, and local elected leaders including: Former Assemblymember Kansen Chu, Former Assemblymember Paul Fong, Former San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzalez, San Jose Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, San Jose Councilmember Maya Esparza, San Jose Councilmember Raul Perez, Morgan Hill City Councilmember Rene Springs, and more.

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

The key challenge that Silicon Valley businesses will continue to face will be the challenges related to recruiting and retaining staff, despite the cost of living in the Bay Area. We must address the crisis-level cost of housing and child care, as well as making critical investments in commuter mass transit and land use changes to allow our residents to access jobs closer to their homes.

As I discuss below, we must invest in both market-rate and affordable housing construction to successfully reduce the cost of housing in the long run. On childcare, we must support our local childcare small businesses, invest in a workforce development pipeline, and increase the direct support of working families in paying the high cost of childcare. Regarding transportation – we must complete major improvements in mass transit, like BART to downtown San Jose and expanding Caltrain service in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

If elected, I will continue to have an open door with the business leaders in our community, to work collaboratively toward solutions to the problems that we face together. Additionally, I would continue to collaborate with SVLG to move forward solutions that benefit our innovation economy and our local working families.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

The challenges of addressing race, diversity, equity, and inclusion remain enormous, but over the last few years leaders in our community have finally gained traction on some solutions. We need to recommit ourselves to this work.

At the City of San Jose, I have been working diligently to address these challenges in the following ways: 1) building equity considerations into budget and policy decisions as part of the standard policy process; 2) housing policies that address longstanding segregation in our communities – this includes siting policies for affordable housing that incentivizes finally building in high-resource areas; 3) Creating an Office of Racial Equity at the City of San Jose to support making race, diversity, equity and inclusion a standard part of the work of the city – with a particular focus on training and supporting work inside of individual departments; and 4) Smart reforms in law enforcement policy – an ongoing process.

These opportunities exist at all levels of government. At the County, there are particular concerns about more effectively supporting desegregation

through our housing policies, as well as expanding equitable access to health care – particularly including mental health services in disadvantaged communities, and most critically for children in those communities.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

Too often, we provide services in a way that makes them most accessible to those who are fluent with the workings of government. This often means that economic recovery programs exclude those who most critically need their services – like small businesses whose owners are immigrants, non-english-speaking, or own microbusinesses. Additionally, we too often focus our workforce development programs on helping men find work – missing out on the fact that the pandemic had a much larger impact on working women. And when we do focus on supporting women, we often don't actually tailor our programs to address the challenges they face – like a lack of child care that can allow them to reenter the workforce. Last, we fail to address these issues all at the same time.

These have been critical questions that I ask in my oversight role on San Jose City Council, and it is the lens that every local elected official interested in an equitable recovery post pandemic must bring to this work.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Based on national data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, white men are overrepresented in the executive level, while all minority races are underrepresented – which is why I think it's crucial to increase representation in workforce and leadership ranks. In order to do this, working with Silicon Valley corporations is critical – which is why I applaud SVLG for establishing a Racial Justice and Equity Portfolio and prioritizing the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Elected officials should partner with stakeholders like SVLG to establish policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in corporations. As a Latina in a leadership position, I have always made it a priority to uplift our communities of color. For example, I have proudly appointed men and women of color to our local boards & commissions.

Additionally – on the City Council, I advanced a proposal to evaluate disparities in contracting opportunities for minority owned businesses in the City of San Jose in order to ensure small, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and women-owned businesses get a fair shot at competing for government contracts. I have also successfully secured funding to convene the small and predominantly Vietnamese & Latino businesses along Tully Road into a business association. This is a key opportunity to provide a bridge for them to access city, county, state and federal services.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

It is vital that both the city, county, and state leaders continue to take bold action to address the shortage of housing supply, while preserving existing affordable housing and preventing displacement and evictions. I continue to strongly support the broad approach that was passed as the ABAG/MTC “Casa Compact”, which committed our region to an approach of Production, Preservation and Protections (3 Ps)

The housing supply shortage must be addressed primarily through the Production part of the 3 Ps. While I support recent changes in state law, like SB9 and SB10, the next critical phase will be the adoption of local Housing Elements that actually meet the ambitious RNHA goals that have been created for each city and County. We have seen the state dramatically increasing its engagement and oversight to make sure that new Housing Elements are real plans to address the housing shortage. For too long, these goals have been purely aspirational – and too many cities have created jobs without meeting their housing obligations.

This is a critical moment in time for this question – if we do not take bold action now, we will permanently lose the middle and working class families, so many of whom are holding on by a thread. This is why I’m proud to have helped pass Measure E, which is now the primary source of funding for affordable housing in San Jose – and why I believe that we must continue to consider what steps the County can take to continue the work of Measure A.

At the same time, we need to make it easier for developers to build in-fill housing, particularly along transit routes and in our city cores. We simply can’t

solve the crisis by further sprawling out – we need to build up in our cities. Reforms that make that possible are vital.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Those who had the opportunity to work from home, including tech workers in Silicon Valley who tend to have higher-incomes, did not use public transportation during the pandemic – which significantly impacted our public transportation system. With employees returning back to their in-person jobs, we have seen our highways, roads, and streets filled with cars again. Although ridership for public transit reduced during the pandemic – low-income neighborhoods actually retained the most riders.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed that we must rethink our public transportation system – including, expanding and investing in public transit not just for Downtown workers and tech workers, but for those who are truly dependent on public transit. This is why I have been an advocate and supporter of the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector Project and why I will wholeheartedly support new investment in public transit going forward.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes - That is plenty of time to transition our purchases to zero-emissions vehicles. Given the state deadline and the rapid advances in technology, this transition will likely be easier than some anticipate. Additionally, over time, it will be easier to maintain a zero-emissions fleet than try to continue investing in legacy vehicles. Last – I am firmly committed to the greenhouse gas/climate goals that the City of San Jose has adopted, and moving the VTA fleet to zero-emissions vehicles is one more critical step in that direction.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, absolutely. I would love to work with SVLG to secure additional funding to protect our region & to fight against environmental racism and ensure that our most underserved communities in the South Bay who are disproportionately impacted by climate change continue to be advocated for. If elected County Supervisor, I will continue to prioritize ensuring that my children inherit a world that has not been irreparably harmed by the actions of previous generations.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

As we recover from this pandemic we must make tough and careful choices regarding how we fund critical investments in our community. Most acutely, it is vital that we find funding sources that address the child care needs that are holding back both our economic growth and the success of our working families. Additionally, we must find ways to ensure that the County continues building affordable housing beyond current Measure A budgets.

We must start by ensuring that we're effectively utilizing the funding that we have, and the funding that may become available from the state – which is why I've been convening joint hearings between the City and County on Child care. As we continue working to strengthen and expand affordable housing & public services for our most vulnerable, we will need to consider when is the correct time to return to voters with carefully considered proposals to address these pressing needs.

Lastly, I do not support increasing the tax burden on our small, minority owned businesses. They have truly suffered immensely during the pandemic – and many are still struggling to stay afloat from the severe impacts they have endured.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

Making college available and affordable is a critical issue for our families, students, and our local economy. As a former student at San Jose City and

Evergreen College, I've seen first hand both the opportunity and the challenges that our community colleges can provide local students. While, fundamentally, we must lobby for more funding from the state and federal governments for our community college systems – in the meantime we must find strategic partnerships, like the San Jose Promise, that can turn the needle for students. One key space for collaboration is on housing – and finding opportunities to collaborate in keeping students from becoming homeless. Additionally, further matching up our students' transportation needs with VTA routes is a critical action. Last – we must do a much better job of helping struggling high school students identify career routes through community college, and then job placements out of community college by working with employers to create recruitment pipelines that start in high school.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

It's vital that Santa Clara County dramatically increase their investments in child and student support systems. Santa Clara County has a unique role as the backbone of the public health system to provide social-emotional support and therefore casework support for children who face the greatest need. Done correctly, the County can bring city, school, and non-profit partners together to create a coordinated continuum of care which would provide wrap-around services for children. And given the most recent changes to state law, there's a great chance that much of this could be funded through state preschool dollars and expanded Medi-cal reimbursements.

As the Chair of the San Jose City Council Neighborhood Services and Education Committee, I've been working to kick start this collaboration – including co-hosting joint committee hearings with the County's Child, Seniors, and Families Committee on child well-being. These hearings are bringing together all of the key players in this policy space – such as SCOE, First 5, Go Kids, San Jose PRNS and Library, and County departments, as well as many more. The hearings have helped daylight the challenges and opportunities that our kids face and created a platform for the collaborative work necessary to move our kids forward.

At the City of San Jose, I'm working to move forward recommendations from the joint hearings that are in the City's purview – such as expanding after-school care and our Rec Preschool program. I'm also launching a Working Group to continue the work that has started in these hearings.

At the Board of Supervisors, I would continue and expand this collaborative approach and expand on the push at the County to take on the leadership role in coordinating this response. I'm particularly concerned with the County leading the creation of a continuum of care system for children 5-18 (not covered by First 5), and expanding their inter-agency "CAST" system that they've been working on to create a structure of care that can support our broader goals.

Denelle Fedor

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors - District 1 Candidate
Current Case Manager - Businesswoman

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for the Santa Clara County District 1 seat to be a voice for fiscal accountability and to ensure that our county programs are reaching those who need them most, like seniors, families, businesses and the unhoused.

What is your campaign budget?

NA

What are your key endorsements?

Santa Clara County Supervisor District 1 local business owners, and residents

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

I am concerned about any future corporate taxes and any increase in fees for businesses. If elected, I will be a voice against raising business taxes and fees.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

Per my answer above, I will be a voice against increasing taxes and fees for businesses and by doing well will help retain business in our region. It is important to keep land zoned for industrial, commercial, retail and office so that businesses have places to start, grow and stay in the region. Ensuring the Mineta International Airport continues to provide great service to business sector is a must.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

If elected, I will be a voice for inclusion of all people. Our biggest challenge is to stop enabling people from villainizing others - each other - we should not

tolerate villainizing of others - of people who have a different opinion about an issue, policy or way of thinking than one may have. And, the other challenge is the lack of civility we are experiencing. We need to set an example of extending common courtesy and show mutual respect for others.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

Elected officials should ensure that business fees and taxes stay the same and/or lower taxes and fees for businesses. Elected Officials should listen to business needs and stay out of the way of businesses so that they can move forward without government interference.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Elected officials should not interfere with Silicon Valley corporations. If Silicon Valley corporations would like to meet with elected officials to discuss representation in the workforce and seek input of ideas, that could be helpful.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

The role of an elected official is to ensure there is balance in creating and developing housing for all people of all income levels in the county. If I was an elected official, I would work to lower all of the fees that developers have to incur to develop housing in the County. Government agencies can be their own worst enemy as we mandate development fees which creates hindrances in the housing shortage.

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

We need to follow the advice of the Grand Jury report which calls for the removal of politicians from the VTA board - which has contributed to the current VTA debacle. We need to ensure we have professional individuals with transportation experience providing direction for public transit. I do not

support additional taxes and fees for public transit at this time. The costs associated with VTA are entirely too high - \$600 per VTA light rail train car. We need to reel in costs as a first step to investing in public transit moving forward.

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)? Why or why not?

I support zero emission buses moving forward. We need to work together to lower emissions.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes, I will work with all groups and agencies to protect our region. We should also ensure we are doing all we can for the Alviso area/port too. It is important to work together regarding climate change.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I do not support raising taxes on businesses. We need to keep taxes low for businesses and residents. We need to a better job of managing the taxes and fees we do have instead of mismanaging our funding and asking our residents and businesses to pay more in taxes and fees.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I attended community college and state college. I paid for my entire college education on my own by working and going to school. I am first generation

to attend and graduate. I recognize the high costs associated with college. We need to provide financial education to students so they can learn how to budget their earned income and any borrowed monies they receive through loans. Giving away money without financial education will not help alleviate access or costs. We need to empower students with financial education.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

We need to ensure that parents and guardians are involved with their children's education. Parents and guardians should be included with the discussion of what assistance is needed for support systems.

Johnny C. Khamis

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors - District 1 Candidate
Current Business Owner/Father

Why are you running for this office?

I'm running because our county deserves competent planning, better fiscal management and greater accountability so we can get needed services faster and more efficiently. As your supervisor, I will take my experience from San Jose City Council and VTA to Santa Clara County to deliver solutions for the community problems and issues we collectively face. Too often legislation is rushed to respond to political pressure without taking the time to ensure taxpayers are getting results.

What is your campaign budget?

\$250,000

What are your key endorsements?

We have a huge list of supporters starting with: Sam Liccardo, Mayor San Jose Marie Blankley, Mayor Gilroy Don Gage, Former, SCC Supervisor and former mayor Gilroy Steve Tate, Former Mayor Morgan Hill Chappie Jones, Vice Mayor San Jose and Councilmember District Dev Davis, Councilmember San Jose, District 6 Dion Bracco, Councilmember Gilroy Carol Marques, Councilmember Gilroy Gino Borgioli, Councilmember Morgan Hill log on to <https://www.johnnykhamis.com/endorsements/> for a full list

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

COVID has wreaked havoc with our economy and small business community. Post COVID recovery, especially for the small business owner, is currently one of our key challenges. As a business owner and the former chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the City of San Jose, I have a deep understanding of how constantly changing regulations has hurt the American idea of owning your own business. In my roles as a small business owner and former City Councilmember, I have worked with our business chambers and small business owners to fight against confusing and costly

regulations. I have advocated against higher fees and taxes. I have fought for changes to streamline the building and permitting process. I have started several businesses, promoted commerce on behalf of the Silicon Valley to many countries around the world and hosted Smart City Expos at San Jose City Hall.

I lobbied Congress for the US Patent and Trademark office in San Jose. I also helped many entrepreneurs navigate the city permitting process.

As your Supervisor, I will insist that our employers and entrepreneurs have a voice when creating laws that affect their businesses. I will continue to look for ways to streamline the permitting process for our restaurants and small business owners.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I will meet regularly with business leaders to address issues affecting their growth and the needs of their employees. I will work on ideas to solve our most troubling issues that employees face like affordable housing and transportation.

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

We must work on the education gap. We also need to partner with employers to train and hire people from underserved communities as well as at risk youth. In the city of San Jose, we created relationships with major employers like Microsoft, Cisco and Google to help train youth at public libraries and community centers for future corporate careers. We have also worked to provide computers, WIFI and summer jobs for underserved youth in partnership with many local employers. I will continue to support current programs as well as expand them into south county.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

We need to bring business into the discussion on recovery. Many political decisions affecting small business owners (like Shutdowns, and mandates) are made without input from these employers. If elected, I will fight to give these businesses a voice.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Employers should look locally to educate, train, and hire. I will use my past experiences to bring employers and educators together to create more opportunities for those who are underserved.

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

I have written several articles. This article highlights changing state laws like CEQA and reducing bureaucracy and fees at the local level could expedite the building of new homes.

<https://www.sanjoseinside.com/opinion/opinion-why-does-housing-take-so-long-to-build/>

In this article, I write about working with JPAs to allow them to buy and build workforce housing and working with school districts to rezone underutilized lands.

<https://sanjosespotlight.com/khamis-yosl-yes-on-school-land/>

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

Public transit has been plagued with issues long before COVID hit. We must look for ways to move people quickly and efficiently. We should not invest more money in modes of transportation that do not work, like Light Rail. Instead, we should look at improving and increasing bus routes, which can

cover more communities and are more cost efficient. We also need to create more transportation options for those who live in south county, including increasing bus routes and offering more rail trips.

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)? Why or why not?

Yes. VTA has gone down this direction and I have supported it to help keep our air cleaner. We must also look at new hydrogen fuel cell technology as an option.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

I will Lobby Congress and the state for funds and grants. I will not ask for more tax dollars. We have already passed measure AA in 2016 to protect the bay and we have not seen any results for the taxes that are already being collected. I also would like to create oversight for all monies to make sure that they are being judiciously and for the projects they are intended for.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

NO. Businesses always pass on their cost increases to their customers. Any taxes raised on business will make it even harder for our residents to live here.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

I would continue expand the work of Mayor Sam Liccardo including business leaders to help us deal with the growing education gap. I want to continue the programs that offer job training and summer jobs for underserved and

at-risk youth. I would like to expand the free community college tuition program to include students living and attending school in south county.

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I will work with school districts to implement or increase mental health service at all schools. I want to support programs that will curb the rise in student depression and drug use.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - DISTRICT 4

Susan Ellenberg

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors - District 3 Candidate
Current Vice President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for re-election because the work is not done. I now have three plus years of experience in the best job I have ever had. As noted above, the responsibilities of County Supervisors are very broad but we also have the opportunity to focus on issues that are most important to each of us. Over the next year, the bulk of my work will be across three areas: 1) expansion of mental health and substance use disorder facilities, treatments, programs and services to eliminate wait lists, ensure that people in crisis are not housed in jail as a facility of last resort, and provide access to treatment where people are; 2) reform of the criminal-legal system by focusing on safe alternatives to pre-trial incarceration in order to promote smooth, successful and productive re-engagement in community; and 3) a children's recovery road map that encompasses access to sufficient nutrition, stable housing, childcare, developmental screening & health care, mental health care at schools and more.

What is your campaign budget?

would have been \$250k if opponent drawn

What are your key endorsements?

Congressmember Zoe Lofgren, Congressmember Anna Eshoo, Congressmember Ro Khanna, Congressmember Adam Schiff, Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis, Controller Betty Yee, State Treasurer Fiona Ma, State Senator Dave Cortese, State Senator Scott Wiener, State Senator Josh Becker, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Assemblymember Evan Low, All 4 colleagues on the SCC Board of Supervisors, All members of the Campbell City and Santa

Clara City Councils, All 10 members of the City of San Jose City Council. See more: <https://www.susanellenberg.com/endorsements>

What are the key challenges you see for the business climate in Silicon Valley and what are your proposed solutions?

Child Care: the pandemic showed everyone what so many parents, particularly mothers, have known for decades: when childcare isn't available, the economy grinds to a halt. Childcare isn't a perk or a luxury: it is a necessary component to employers' retention of employees & productivity uninterrupted by missed work days or employee departures; it is essential to parents who seek to build careers, improve economic stability and afford to live in this Valley; and it is a benefit to children to have access to high quality care and learning environments which also offer early detection of potential developmental, cognitive or physical delays. I have already begun to work on solutions, beginning with adding a childcare benefit to County employees (SCC is the 3rd largest employer in the County so the impact of this benefit is substantial). I am partnering with the County Office of Education and First 5 Santa Clara County to increase the number of accessible seats, heighten the quality of both home based and center based care, identify and build new facilities and, in partnership with our local colleges and universities, build a pipeline of childcare and early childhood learning educators. I am in the planning stages of a workshop with workers in the nonprofit sector to examine the co-op model for accessible, affordable childcare. In my second term, I intend to turn to the private sector to work in partnership to increase access to childcare, expand family leave policies and make certain that the lowest paid employees, often contracted by large employers, are not left behind. A related issue I'm working to solve is breaking down the barriers that parents (again, mostly moms) face when trying to re-enter the workforce after taking time away to care for children or other dependent family members. I led the County in creating a "returnship" program that is designed particularly for this population with the goal of easing their return to the workplace and, in turn, improving their family's economic stability.

Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Treatment: the stigma around mental health is at long last receding and it is crucial to build on this growing acceptance of mental health as a component of overall health care. The County is doing more than ever before to expand services, construct new facilities and build a workforce pipeline. I hope private employers will make

clear to their employees that seeking help is not only acceptable but lauded as pre-emptive or intervening care. I led my colleagues in declaring mental illness and substance use disorders a public health crisis in January 2021 with the goal of building a whole county response, not unlike our coordinated response to the CoVid pandemic. This has meant prioritizing the creation of a strategic plan, allocating additional funds and continuing close oversight on County administration to ensure that this crisis remains top of mind and top of priorities until we have reached a place where any resident can access the appropriate level of treatment within 24 hours of requesting or being determined to be in need of such care.

Homelessness/Affordable Housing: As much as my focus will be on expanding services and slots for the treatment of mental illness and substance use disorders, we must be clear that addressing those crises will not alleviate our other existential crisis - that of the thousands of County residents who are entirely unhoused and tens of thousands more who are housed but unstably so or under conditions where more than 35% of their monthly incomes are going to rent or mortgage payments. Housing solves homelessness (and in many cases, housing in conjunction with onsite, supportive services) and more housing results in greater affordability. The County's role is more limited than cities' in this sector, but I will continue to advocate for increased density in both downtown areas and in residential neighborhoods, continue to support investments of measure A dollars to add permanent, supportive housing units, and work with private and public partners to identify locations that are suitable for adding housing inventory.

If elected, how would you work with businesses in the innovation economy to ensure that our region remains competitive for startups and established companies alike?

I want Santa Clara County to continue to welcome businesses, new and established and I want those businesses to understand that this is a community that needs to serve everybody. Huge influxes of employees need places to live without displacing current residents, many of whom provide essential services in the retail, hospitality, restaurant, and janitorial industries, in addition to teachers, firefighters, and government workers. Our economy depends on healthy tax revenues from commercial operations to provide municipal services, public transit, clean streets and public safety and I would like to see more engagement from employers to help the public sector

address some of our greatest challenges. I would welcome opportunities to partner on these issues, as well as to discuss the best paths forward to creating local talent pools from current residents who could advance their own economic stability by being trained for careers in the innovation economy. There is lots we can do together!

What do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity for elected officials when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?

Biggest areas of opportunity: 1) approaching every funding decision, every new policy through a lens of equity by asking who would benefit from this decision and who may be directly or indirectly harmed by it? Would this policy or funding decision help to break down or perpetuate systems that have consistently led to disproportionately negative impacts on BIPOC? 2) increasing our employee recruitment efforts to ensure that previously (and currently) underrepresented groups have ample opportunity to apply for open County positions. 3) Redoubling efforts to contract with local businesses/vendors that are BIPOC or women owned. 4) Expanding opportunities for internships and apprenticeships and being intentional about what qualifications are actually necessary to the work at hand and which we have expected out of habit, regardless of whether they are indicators of success in a particular role.

Biggest challenge is that the law does not permit us to weigh more heavily the applications of people who have been historically excluded from or underrepresented in a wide variety of sectors. Opportunities and access have not been evenly distributed and we must be relentless in identifying and employing legally permissible tools to bring some balance.

How can elected officials work to ensure an equitable economic recovery post pandemic?

We know, through both anecdote and data, who was hit hardest by the pandemic and who essentially held steady or even thrived. We also know that our County was plagued by inequities in access to childcare, internet, employment, wealth building, education, the criminal-legal system, and the health care system. Small businesses and communities of color suffered the most both economically and physically. Our recovery efforts and dollars must now put them first. I am working on all of these issues and intend to ensure

that we build not “back” but “forward” to a community that better serves ALL of our residents.

What are some ways that you think elected officials can and should be working with Silicon Valley corporations to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks?

Elected officials can and should lead by example. We should be elevating the voices of traditionally underrepresented groups, including those with atypical abilities. We should engage in hiring practices that are designed to cast wider nets to encompass those with nontraditional resumes or nonlinear life/work experiences. My office has created a blind hiring process that does not seek to know someone’s post secondary degree or school but to determine whether, through whatever avenue, they have acquired the skills to do the particular job at hand. Corporations should reach out to local community groups to ask, who do they see as their next leaders and add those people to their boards. Companies can offer more internship programs and engage with local high schools and community colleges to nurture local talent pipelines. Elected officials can serve as connectors for companies - we know our communities, we know who to turn to for recommendations and we can make meetings happen!

What role do you believe local and state elected officials can play to address the housing supply shortage and needs for all people of all incomes?

Support increased density in urban areas and residential neighborhoods. Cities can and should streamline entitlement, permitting & building processes so we can build more, faster. The state moved into this arena because “local control” resulted in extraordinary deaths in building housing, particularly multi-family. Funding is so complex and often elusive for building anything below market - local and state governments need to help fund gaps in the funding stacks to get more inventory built. I think some exploration of regulations or laws surrounding residential units that sit vacant for more than some period of time should be considered. And companies should receive some sort of incentive for creating workforce housing for the 20% lowest paid employees (including contractors).

What role do you think public transit will play in a post-pandemic Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?

This is one of the toughest nuts to crack. Santa Clara County was not built with public transit in mind and re-design now faces not only barriers in physical infrastructure but in mindset and habit. As long as public transit is used only by those who have no other options, we will remain trapped in a cycle of: I don't use transit because it isn't convenient and it isn't convenient because not enough people use it to warrant expanded service. I don't have the answers here and as a Supervisor who doesn't currently sit on any of the regional transit boards it hasn't been a primary focus, but I do believe we need to keep moving forward, both with local buses and with city to city rail.

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)? Why or why not?

I believe so. If we have a deadline and federal funds to make the purchases, I don't know why this would be objectionable but, again, this isn't an area of expertise and I would be glad to learn more to understand the pros and cons of this proposal.

Climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region. Will you work with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to secure additional funding to protect our region and help advance a common vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay? Why or why not?

Yes. Because - exactly as you said - climate change and rising waters are a serious and increasing threat to our region.

With state budget surpluses, local assessed land values and property tax revenue at all time highs, do you think right now is the right time to raise taxes on businesses as we recover from the pandemic? Why or why not?

I don't believe now is precisely the right time but I think we need to watch carefully over the next couple of years to see how the funds are used and whether there are still gaps in areas that haven't benefited from this current

surplus. I'm thinking particularly about childcare, early childhood education and the rapidly declining Prop 10 (Tobacco Tax) revenues that fund a "First 5" agency in every County in the state that provides critical care, services and programs for children and their young families. If that revenue is not replaced, the "trickle down" from fewer services and supports for young children and their families will negatively impact the entire economy - there will be impacts on workforce retention, children's health, economic stability and more. We are a highly taxed community & region but children are often left out of the picture. We can't afford to go backwards and expect a better future for the County's children.

To diversify the innovation economy and increase economic mobility in our region, as an elected official, will you work to alleviate access and costs of housing, textbooks, food and transportation for community college students? What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

Our community college students definitely need more support to be able to learn while living in this expensive County. UBI pilot programs could be one way to address the needs of this population without risking the students' eligibility for other sources of aid, from scholarships to CalFresh. I'd love to talk more about this with SVLG folks.

What do you see as the most promising method to achieve this and how can you provide support as an elected leader?

See UBI comment above!

While cities and counties do not have direct purview over the public education system, they can be important partners to assist and supplement what is offered by the school districts. How would you work with school districts to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?

I ran for this seat in 2018 literally to improve in school and out of school student support systems. Since taking office, I have led on the development of the now state-wide universal meals program, on expanding access to mental health services to school campuses and to building wellness centers at a number of schools. I have championed the County's School Linked Services program and am working on expanding those services. As schools

add space for TK programs and contemplate how they will provide the additional 3 hours of supervised time on school campuses, I expect to work even more closely with our schools to ensure that all children are well cared-for and have access to whatever services are needed to support their healthy development. Separately, I think declining enrollment in and closure of some elementary schools may offer opportunities to expand early learning and childcare programs in areas that have other schools and likely unmet needs of both parents and school staff.