



**SILICON VALLEY**  
LEADERSHIP GROUP

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**2022 CANDIDATE  
QUESTIONNAIRE**  
-General Election-

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# Candidate Questionnaire Summary

6 candidates running in 4 different races responded to our 2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire this year, answering questions relevant to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group member's policy priorities.

The Leadership Group makes our questions, and the candidate's responses, public documents in an effort to provide information that will help voters make informed choices. We believe in the integrity of this process, and expect all candidates to be forthright and utilize appropriate language in their submitted responses.

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
- One submission from a Oakland Mayoral Candidate was not included due to inappropriate content within their questionnaire responses

# OAKLAND MAYOR

Tyron Jordan

City of Oakland Mayoral Candidate

Current Paralegal

***What do you see as the key challenges for the business climate in the Bay Area and what are your proposed solutions?***

During the peak of the pandemic a large number of small businesses closed. A significant number of these businesses were owned by people of color and women. This tells me something significant, to preventing this to happen again, during a natural disaster, a pandemic, or any tragedy which impacts small businesses- it is necessary to provide these business the means to withstand this. Many of are small business' here in Oakland, could have possible survived if they had enough capital, and ready substantial financial assistance to stay operating. Thus surviving the "storm". I would like to see a collaboration with the City of Oakland, and major banks- to provide low interest loans to small businesses most vulnerable to external forces. Not only loans, but I would like to see grants and other financial assistance provided,

***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 appoint several liaisons, with various backgrounds in sustainable healthy food industries , cybersecurity, tech, clean energy etc.- to serve as my "eyes and ears" as to their thoughts and proposals on how to retain a competitive edge. I would employ feasible proposals, and do everything within the power of Mayor, to ensure that our region is competitive- through ongoing education

***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?***

This pandemic ripped off the band-aid and fully exposed people to the true inequities in this society. The positive note, since these inequities are fully exposed, perhaps a more aggressive plan is now necessary to attack inequities, systemic racism. Those who were once indifferent or in denial, may just possibly, become willing partners in bringing about inclusion, equity and true diversity

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

Elected officials should be working partners with the business community. Strong healthy businesses are essential to a strong local economy. As Mayor of Oakland, I will meet with business leaders on an annual basis. A type of roundtable. I and or my representatives, will work closely with business leaders to not only to discuss my wish for diversity in leadership positions, but I would use every option available to make it into a reality. The leadership ranks of companies in a city like Oakland, should reflect its diversity

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

Elected officials should feel it is their responsible to provide housing. They need to revisit/ and modify zoning laws;(ie, upzoning) to make it possible to construct more multi-family homes, unoccupied structures must be rehabilitated for occupancy. In addition, it is essential to keep those who are in danger of losing their homes IN their homes. The rental assistant program prevalent during the peak of covid, need to be reinstated and expanded; same as the mortgage assistance program. Both market rate and below market rate homes should be constructed,

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

People have been hit hard economically by the pandemic. Public transportation is a less expensive way to travel; particular those who are low income. I would also like to see more affordable housing located near public transit areas. I strongly support investment in public transportation. I think, first, from an environmental point of view, anything that takes more cars off the road is a good thing. Oakland, particularly West Oakland, has very poor air quality. Less polluted air, less cases of respiratory problems such as asthma, and other various elements requiring expensive medical care

***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, because our environment is already in peril. Nobody benefits from poor and toxic air quality. In addition, the medical cost associated with those suffering from illness because of poor and toxic air quality, makes zero emission proposal, a common sense one.

***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 certainly will. Silicon Valley Leadership has a strong reputation and track record. It would be to my benefit, and benefit to all, to secure additional funding.

***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 will have to give this question more thought

***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 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 will do everything within my power, to give students the tools they need without any financial burden. I will work with the State to ensure funds to alleviate access and costs of attending a college 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?***

The office of Mayor of a major city such as Oakland, has a vast platform. Although I have no direct power in the public education system, I can express my views and set the tone of my administration, as to how I stand on equity in every aspect of public education.

# Assembly District 20

## Shawn Kumagai

AD-20 Candidate

Current District Director (Office of Asm. Bauer-Kahan), Councilmember (City of Dublin), Master Chief Petty Officer (US Navy Reserve)

***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?***

Through partnership and open community with our businesses and innovation economy leaders. While on City Council I have been a proactive member of Innovation Tri-Valley and East Bay Leadership Council to work with our local business community to advance their strategic priorities. One of my primary areas of focus has been on housing policy. We simply must do more to address the housing affordability crisis as its becoming harder to attract and retain top talent to our area. As a formally trained instructional designer, I am also interested in working with our local business community on career technical education and vocational training programs so that we can move our



local workforce into 21st century jobs that support our local innovation economy.

***What issues that you have championed make you stand out from other candidates and elected officials in this office?***

*As an elected Councilmember, I've delivered on my promise to create thousands of affordable housing units for seniors and working families. In the Assembly, I'll make delivering housing for seniors, teachers, nurses and firefighters my number one priority.*

*As a councilmember, I've balanced my city's budget 4 years running, secured for my city the highest possible credit rating, cut waste and duplication and got more out of every hard earned tax dollar, that's how you know In the Assembly, I'll tackle inflation, keep taxes low, and treat your hard-earned tax dollars with respect.*

*As an elected Councilmember, I have made funding public safety to protect our families a top priority. I passed tough gun safety ordinances, prioritized funding for public safety, and worked with police to lower crime and make my city one of the safest in California. You can count on me to continue to make public safety my focus in the Assembly.*

*Getting results on homelessness means making tough, compassionate decisions to take back our public spaces so seniors, children, and families can feel safe again in our public spaces. Here's how: move people out of encampments and illegally parked RVs and into housing now. And I'll pass a strict conservatorship law to mandate hospitalization and long-term treatment for homeless people living with mental illness and addiction."*

***As an elected official, what do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?***

The biggest area of opportunity is that we are actually having the conversation in a meaningful and constructive way. We need to continue taking action to

remove systemic barriers to access to opportunity. I have been proud to work alongside Asm. Bauer-Kahan to advance a suite of pro-equity legislation, including passing bills that address gender inequities and expand access to reproductive healthcare.

***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 be working in collaboration with Silicon Valley corporations to best understand the needs of industries and companies and bridge the gap with our K-16 public education system and our various government agencies and community based organizations.

***What are the biggest problems facing residents in the district you are running in? How would you meet or solve those problems?***

*Increase funding for our public education system to ensure that all of our students (including our Veterans) have pathways to 21st century jobs. Education is the economic engine of this great state and we need to invest more.*

*Take on the affordability crisis, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve financial security. We need more housing across the spectrum, from market rate to subsidized affordable housing.*

*Revive our economy in a way that creates good paying jobs in the clean energy sector and critical infrastructure and creates pathways into critically under-staffed professions in healthcare, tech, and education.*

*Protect our environment by providing resources to our local agencies to address water and air pollution and address climate change through investments in cutting-edge technology.*

*Commit to meaningful criminal justice reform WHILE keeping our communities safe from crime. I believe we can and MUST do both of these things and that they are not mutually exclusive.*

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

The fundamental issue is decades of underdevelopment of housing. In the legislature, we must streamline and prioritize development in our urban cores and along high-quality transit (i.e., zoning reform, CEQA exemption, by-right/ministerial approval processes, lower/eliminate parking requirements, etc.). We also need to limit the tools that housing opponents use to slow or block housing by reforming CEQA. However, at this point I don't think we can build our way out of this problem. We also need the legislature to provide additional funding to localities so that they can subsidize affordable housing, get involved with some form of social housing program, and provide additional services and guidelines to prevent displacement, including some eviction protections.

***What role do you think public transit plays in Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?***

I absolutely support new investment in public transit and I would propose that we expand our public transit system to give commuters that pass through this district additional transit options. We need an integrated, more equitably priced, zero-emission public transit system. We also must expand active transportation options, particularly for last-mile connections to public transit. By expanding these transportation options we can get more single-occupancy vehicles off the road and decrease emissions. However, we need to recognize that private motor vehicles are going to be part of our overall transportation mix, so I am also a strong proponent for policies that incentivize zero emissions passenger and freight vehicles. We need to drastically expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure and green hydrogen infrastructure. We need to drastically expand ZEV infrastructure to make this a more viable option for more people, including people who live in existing and future multifamily residential. Finally, we need to incentivize denser, mixed-use development so that people can live/work within close proximity to vital services.

***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. We need to move towards zero-emission transportation, including battery powered electric and hydrogen fuel cell.

***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. In Assembly District 20 we have many environmental justice issues. We have major arterial interstates crossing through the district, many of which bisect urban unincorporated areas. This has detrimental impacts to air quality. To address this issue I would propose that we expand our public transit system to give commuters that pass through this district additional transit options. We also must expand active transportation options, particularly for last-mile connections to public transit. By expanding these transportation options we can get more single-occupancy vehicles off the road and decrease emissions. I am also a strong proponent for policies that incentivize zero emissions passenger and freight vehicles. We need to drastically expand ZEV infrastructure to make this a more viable option for more people. We also have sensitive shoreline areas in this district that will be impacted by climate change and rising sea levels. We need to bring more resources to protect critical infrastructure and communities in this area.

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

No. Now is not the time to raise taxes on businesses. The economy needs to stabilize and businesses need some time to adjust and recover from the pandemic.

***What would you say to a small business owner faced with the difficulty of additional regulations due to legislation impacting the business communities?***

I will always keep in mind how regulations impact our small businesses. As a Councilmember I have worked closely with small businesses to craft policy that enables them to recover and thrive in our city. That is why I am supported by the Dublin, San Leandro, and Hayward Chambers of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and many business and industry associations that represent small businesses.

***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 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?***

Absolutely. We must do more to enable access to our public higher education system. From the assembly, the most promising method is through program funding, but the other key is collaboration. I will work closely with our local elected officials, community college system, local industry, and our community partners to address these issues. As an elected official I have demonstrated a collaborative approach to policy making and that is exactly the type of legislator I will be.

***How would you work to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?***

I would continue to support efforts through our California state budget to expand funding for TK, pre-school, and childcare programs. We must also increase our public education system to allow for more programs that assist with student readiness. We must also expand free or inexpensive recreational programs and CBO support systems that help students to overcome barriers to success.

# Assembly District 21

## Diane Papan

AD-21 Candidate

Current San Mateo Deputy Mayor

***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 a small business owner, myself, I am sensitive to what it takes to run a business. I bring a fiscal acumen to public service that others don't have. As a result, I work with the business community to make decisions that consider the impacts on business and the economy. I will continue to work with the business community and develop a closer relationship with the SVLC to make decisions that help us remain strong. As an Assemblymember, I will invest in game-changing strategies to address climate change, neighborhood safety and wildfire prevention, accessible, quality healthcare services, affordable home ownership, and access to amazing public schools and college programs to every Californian.

***What issues that you have championed make you stand out from other candidates and elected officials in this office?***

The San Mateo County Daily Journal said it well: Diane Papan is a fighter, does her research and is passionate about constituent service. She is incredibly skilled at balancing ever-competing needs to come up with a solution that works best for everyone...

She can move us forward while striking a balance that makes the most sense to most of us. She would hit the ground Running.

Here are some of the highlights of the things I have championed. During my tenure on the City Council, 3,000 housing units have been permitted or built. The City used its own land to build 300+ units of all affordable housing. I helped to create the first of its kind Flood and Seal Level Rise Resiliency District called

One Shoreline. I helped to create the JPA that runs our express lanes to ensure that there was an equity program for those that may not be able to afford driving in the lanes.

Please see my website [dianepapan.com](http://dianepapan.com) for the other things I have championed.

My strong record of accomplishments is why I won with 42% of the vote in a 7-person race. My remaining opponent has closed her campaign.

***As an elected official, what do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?***

I have long thought that the fastest way to equity is economic equity. Economic equity and generational wealth in particular comes with home ownership. Low interest loans are the fastest way to ownership and I believe that as an elected official we should work toward the goal of the availability of loan interest loans.

***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?***

The key is in working together to advance educational and training opportunities for women and people of color.

***What are the biggest problems facing residents in the district you are running in? How would you meet or solve those problems?***

Affordable housing and the infrastructure to support it are the biggest challenges in this District. This District is an economic engine in this State. However, there is great wealth disparity here and the State needs to help this District provide more affordable housing and the infrastructure to support it. The State should explore a housing bond and some smaller form of re-development agencies. Public transportation must be enhanced to support the housing. They go hand in hand.



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

We should consider either a state housing bond or some smaller form of re-development agencies. Encouraging the re-purposing of underutilized land is also a priority.

***What role do you think public transit plays in Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?***

Public Transit is hugely important and I absolutely support greater investment in it, including implementation of MTC's Blue Ribbon Transportation Recovery principles, continued work on seamless legislation and long overdue projects like the Dumbarton crossing, and to dealing with grade separations which will negatively impact all our cities . I helped create the JPA to own and run our express lanes. I also worked on the financing for their construction. It is a \$480 million project, \$65 million of which came from the private sector. We are all in this together and this project is shining example of what we can achieve when we work together. Thank you MTC, CCAG, and Silicon Valley.

***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 do support it and I think it is achievable.

***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 have spent the last 5 years creating the first of its kind district to combat the effects of sea level rise. One Shoreline has several projects underway that cross jurisdictional boundaries as water knows no boundaries. We have been

creative with the financing for these projects and I will continue to work on such endeavors.

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

I do not believe that now is a good time to raise taxes.

***What would you say to a small business owner faced with the difficulty of additional regulations due to legislation impacting the business communities?***

As a small business owner, I am sensitive to the difficulties that may arise because of additional regulations. It is why I have reservations about imposing them and would try to provide as much support as possible to assist with compliance.

***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 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. San Mateo County has three community colleges. I was supportive and excited about Senator Becker's SB 893, recently signed by Governor Newsom. This will allow students in our county to attend community college for free. This should be a model for other community colleges throughout our region. I will work on ways to continue these efforts to eliminate fees for CC students.

***How would you work to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?***

More funding for school counselors. They provide key in school support. More funding for public libraries and after-school study programs as they provide key out-of-school support. As the director of a non-profit, John's Closet, I see first hand the benefits of programs like ours to the students. I believe we can all do more by working to support more public/private partnerships to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems.

## Assembly District 28

### Gail Pellerin

Candidate - Assembly District 28  
Former Santa Cruz County Clerk

***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?***

Our Assembly District 28 contains some of the smartest and most talented people in the state. I look forward to working with SVLG and leaders across the innovation economy to help inform me on the issues, opportunities, and solutions before us. Businesses need to be at the table and involved in the discussions around our economy and issues impacting the business community. California has a complex set of rules and regulations unique to our state that need to be streamlined and rationalized. California is home to more than 4 million small businesses which employ 7.1 million people, which is almost half our workforce. We must work to ensure that new and established businesses can continue to work and thrive in California. I would also support a business portal that provides easy to follow steps on how to establish a small business in California. We need to make sure businesses have the right resources to help them get what they need and to make sure they are complying with the laws. Another key piece to supporting California's businesses is the creation of more affordable housing so people who work in our communities can afford to live in our communities.

***What issues that you have championed make you stand out from other candidates and elected officials in this office?***

My 35 years of public service at the state and local levels uniquely qualifies me to serve as State Assemblymember. I started my career in the California State Assembly, and for more than 27 years, I served as the county's chief elections official. Given this experience, I know what the job requires, and I am ready to lead on day one.

I am dedicated to creating a more sustainable, equitable and healthier community and improving government access, especially for those who are most in need of vital services. Make no mistake. Democracy is on the ballot in November. I have been a fighter for democracy most of my life protecting voting rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, and the right to live in safe, affordable communities.

I served on the Planned Parenthood board, and have been a supporter of reproductive rights my entire adult life. I support the passage of Proposition 1, and will be a strong advocate for abortion rights in our state and nation.

I have been an outspoken proponent of marriage equality, and when it became legal the first time, I made sure we were able to marry anyone who wanted to get married on that first day. After Proposition 8 passed, I continued my advocacy for same sex marriage, and I was elated when it was legal once again. I am now very concerned due to the recent Dobbs decision if there will be efforts to make same sex marriage illegal once again.

I have championed women's issues and have worked with groups like Breaking the Glass Ballot, Women in Leadership for Diverse Representation, Girls Inc, Women's Educational Success at Cabrillo College, and Rising Worldwide.

I served as President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials from 2010 to 2012 and served as co-chair of the Secretary of State's Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. I was a founding member of the Future of California Elections, a nonpartisan network of election officials, reform advocates, civil rights organizations and civic engagement groups collaborating to advance effective and inclusive election policies and practices. I am a graduate of the California Professional Election Administrator Credential

program and have taught credential courses on Voters with Specific Needs and Budgets.

Some major accomplishments while serving as County Clerk include: authoring several election guidebooks to assist voters in navigating through various election procedures including initiatives, recalls, and referendums; implementing innovative voter outreach programs targeting high school students, college students, people living in residential care facilities, voters with disabilities, voters who speak a language other than English, new citizen voters; mitigating the physical access to polling places so they are accessible to persons with disabilities; obtaining a VoteMobile to provide mobile voting services to voters throughout the county, especially those displaced by the CZU fires in 2020; converting the county's voting model from a polling place system to a 4-day vote center system authorized during the pandemic where any voter could vote at any location; and establishing Passport Saturdays to provide additional convenient hours for people to apply for a passport.

This year I was honored to be recognized as a 2022 Democracy Hero by California Common Cause who has been fighting for voting rights, redistricting reform and government transparency for over 50 years!

I am deeply concerned that people don't believe that the government is working for them. Whether it is unemployment checks not being processed in a timely manner, issues with health insurance coverage, or delays in obtaining nursing licenses so healthcare professionals could get to work, people are struggling and need these systems to work for them. As I did when I was County Clerk, I want to focus on making government more accessible and ensure that it is working for the people.

My family has been profoundly impacted by mental health. After my husband's suicide in November 2018, I attended a talk on suicide and the speaker encouraged us to put our grief to work. That resonated with me, so I joined the Board of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and have been an outspoken advocate for expanding mental health care and resources in our communities and suicide awareness and prevention. As your State Assemblymember, I will continue to be a strong advocate for mental health resources. California is experiencing a mental health crisis. After more than 2

½ years into the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health issues are being identified in record numbers, especially impacting our children and teens. Mental health has been neglected for too long, and as a result, there is an insufficient number of mental health workers, there is a lack of affordable and accessible services, and there is a huge shortage of mental health facilities.

***As an elected official, what do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?***

It is our responsibility to create policies that provide equal opportunity for everyone. This includes gender equity in the state legislature, and my campaign would bring us one step closer to that. I will continue that fight in Sacramento by working to bring to California the work I have done in Santa Cruz County. As County Clerk, I implemented innovative voter outreach programs targeting voters with disabilities and voters who speak a language other than English, new citizen voters and people living in residential care facilities. Having received the Hammer of Justice Award from the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the ACLU, I will continue to protect marriage equality and LGBTQ+ rights. I will fight to ensure women have equal rights including protecting a woman's right to choose, access to health care, workplace safety, domestic violence policies and equal pay for equal work.

There are many areas of opportunity to address the issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion. From our workforce to the development of policies that take into consideration all members of our society.

The global pandemic has revealed that there is much to be done to address these issues. As the saying goes: We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some have yachts, some have canoes, and some are drowning.

We need to build a supportive and inclusive workplace culture that embraces diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. It's not just about hiring more women, BIPOC, non-binary and diverse people. It's about embedding these values into the fabric of our organizations and everything we do.

As the state recognizes the critical need for workforce development, I am hopeful that we can make great strides in creating strategic plans, achieving

pay equity, recruiting and promoting more people with diversity, establishing mentorships programs, providing ongoing training and employee engagement programs, addressing the needs of employees who have caregiving responsibilities, and making leaders accountable.

The biggest challenge is that these best practices may seem overwhelming. So, it's important to take on one thing and do it well.

One project I have been involved with is encouraging more women to run for office and serve in leadership roles. WILDR, Women in Leadership for Diverse Representation, has been offering workshops and forums to raise awareness about representation and to provide information and practical tools for women to run for office or serve in leadership roles.

And, issues of race, diversity, equity and inclusion go beyond the workplace. It is important to keep this in mind when formulating new policies from health care to climate change and beyond. Specifically, the impacts policies will have on all members of our state and the need to include diverse perspectives in the formulation and implementation of those policies is critical. I intend to encourage and seek broad input during my tenure in the legislature.

***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 will work closely with Silicon Valley to increase representation in the workforce and leadership ranks. I will want to meet regularly with your organization so I can listen and learn about the issues impacting our workplaces. As legislation comes up, I will want to get your feedback and thoughts. If amendments are needed to make a bill proposal more effective, I will want to hear from you. We must work together to ensure that California remains the vibrant economic leader in our country. Partnerships with community colleges, universities, and K-12 schools will be imperative to ensure that our future workforce has the skills, knowledge and abilities to meet the changing needs of our businesses. Organizations (like the SEMI foundation) are key to creating pathways and opportunities for job seekers and connecting them with industry leaders looking to attract, develop and retain a diverse, innovative and skilled workforce.

***What are the biggest problems facing residents in the district you are running in? How would you meet or solve those problems?***

I believe the biggest problems facing residents in Assembly District 28 are: housing affordability and homelessness, accessible and affordable mental health care and physical health care, and emerging impacts of climate change. We can now also add the overall escalating cost of living and the potential for a global recession. In all of these areas I will evaluate existing policies and programs, and work with policymakers, subject experts, and the community to identify new ideas to increase efficiency and effectiveness. My work will be informed by organizations such as yours. I believe the work of the legislature requires the input of constituents and experts with feet on the ground who know the issues.

California is in a crisis on all three of these issues.

California's current housing supply and affordability crisis has been decades in the making, and it will take a diverse and multi-faceted approach to find solutions. Housing costs are rising faster than wages. Our children and grandchildren often can't afford to live in the community where they were raised, workers performing vital services are spending much of their paychecks on rent, and the dream of buying a home remains elusive for many. Developing more affordable housing is a start, along with addressing the root causes that lead to homelessness and providing transformative services for those without housing. As your State Assemblymember, I will champion efforts to preserve and expand the affordable housing stock, provide financing assistance to create more homeownership opportunities for modest wage earners, expand services and permanent year-round emergency shelter capacity, and secure funding for permanent supportive housing. California's homeless population is continuing to grow and we can't keep up with providing necessary shelter and services for the estimated 173,800 people in the state without a stable place to call home. 2.5 million homes are needed and we must look at different sizes, compositions, needs and means. This crisis is decades in the making, and will require everyone working together to make an investment in housing affordability and development.

California is experiencing a mental health crisis as more people are in need of services and there are not enough trained professionals, programs and beds to provide continuum of care. Affordable and accessible mental health care and physical health care are essential services to provide in order to have a thriving community. There needs to be mental health parity where mental health is covered by insurance companies equal to physical health.



Finally, we must protect and preserve California and continue to lead the nation in sound environmental policy. In the Assembly, I will join our steady leadership in supporting policies that protect our environment, promote sustainability, address climate change, and invest in clean energy. I will work to:

- Lower greenhouse gas emissions through policies that further our renewable energy goals. California has led the other forty-nine states in setting and meeting these goals, but studies show we have to do much more.
- Secure strong coastal protections and be ready for the rising sea level.
- Provide meaningful safeguards to our air and water quality.
- Minimize loss of life and property by providing critical funding for forest management and wildfire response.

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

The housing supply shortage and affordability has become a statewide crisis. Elected officials, at all levels of government, need to help solve this problem. I will work with our federal, state and local representatives, who I have developed meaningful and strong relationships with, to ensure we are all working together. This is a statewide issue and deserves statewide investments and solutions. I look forward to working to improve communications across those agencies and programs and to working with the agencies and our communities to find efficiencies of delivery and innovative ways to identify investment. Community representative organizations, such as SVLG, can play an important role in helping to rethink this issue and identify solutions.

***What role do you think public transit plays in Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?***

Public transit is critical to the future of our state, both for reasons of servicing the needs of a growing population and to help mitigate the issues of climate change. I support investment, public and private, in transit systems. By

identifying and creating transit systems alongside increased housing densities, we have an opportunity to reshape our communities. Our transit systems will need to be well designed, attractive, efficient, electrified and capable of servicing the needs of commuters. They will also need to be accessible and affordable to all.

***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?***

California is an innovation state. Public transit, including buses, should be zero-emission by 2029. This is a challenge that we can meet, however there is much to be done to create a robust grid that can handle the increased electrical load. Zero-emissions should be our goal on every front for the health of our communities and to help combat the escalating impacts of climate change. Silicon Valley is a world innovation center. This is one more area where we can step up to the challenge.

***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?***

Climate change and rising waters are a great threat and deserve the brightest minds to be engaged in innovating mitigation and adaptation approaches. Nowhere can you find a concentration of such intellect and technology as Silicon Valley. This region can step up to lead the global response and provide the tools needed in the coming decades. In Silicon Valley, SVLG brings together that talent. I will work with SVLG to help clarify the threats and to help convene the experts and stakeholders. It will be important to identify tangible and realistic approaches with increasingly short timelines. As your State Assemblymember, I will be prepared to help shape a policy environment that will support effective, equitable approaches and solutions and to secure the funding to pursue these efforts.

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

Emerging from an unprecedented global pandemic, the last 2 ½ years have tested us in extraordinary ways. We are all feeling the effects of an unsteady economy and increased gas and food prices here in the 28th Assembly District and across California. In the State Assembly, I will support policies that encourage business development and innovation and ensure workers have the benefits and protections they deserve. My priorities include:

expanding local job opportunities and prevailing wage, so our workforce can afford to live in the area where they work; supporting local business, expanding our local economy, investing in workforce development and supporting workers; and investing in infrastructure improvements that will attract new businesses to our area.

No one wants to raise taxes, especially not on the heels of a global pandemic. And, as your questions above highlight, we have escalating challenges that will require more investment on many fronts. To address housing affordability and accessibility, to develop state-of-the-art transit systems, and to combat escalating climate threats still unknown, we need to be prepared. And that preparation means we need money in the bank to both proactively invest in our communities and to be prepared to respond to a disaster. Things are changing rapidly in our world. The wealth divide is threatening our democracy. I believe those of us with the means, including our larger businesses, have an obligation to support our public infrastructure. As we are seeing on an ever-shifting global playing field, California is a state that continues to provide a stable environment in which to grow our industry. That comes with a price tag that includes tax increases. With that said, we need everyone's input at the table, and it needs to be sustainable, especially for businesses that continue to struggle to recover. I will be open to hearing the concerns of the SVLG membership and working with that input to help shape a common sense approach to serving the needs of our region and constituents.

***What would you say to a small business owner faced with the difficulty of additional regulations due to legislation impacting the business communities?***

This is a very broad question. I would first want to understand the issues and regulations that small business owners feel are most difficult. This will take hearing from those constituents or organizations, such as SVLG, that represent them. So, I would start with, "Tell me about your business and the issues you are facing." I would then want to understand which regulations they feel are impacting them and what they think are appropriate. I would weigh that information with input from a variety of sources to help formulate policy changes that may be appropriate. Again, input from the business community is key, and I want to make sure we are hearing from those who will be impacted.

***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 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 role of our community colleges in our state can not be undervalued. They are the gateway to education for our workforce, as another step to higher education, and play a critical role in our economy and communities. I share the concern about the affordability of housing, food, textbooks and transportation for college students, and we need to ensure that these are not hurdles to education. This is an issue that deserves to be looked at in detail. With the introduction of the California College Promise Program, some community college students will benefit from free tuition, and that has helped a great deal. I know some community colleges are exploring ways to provide on campus housing. And hopefully that will also help.

I have been actively involved in Cabrillo Community College in Santa Cruz County. I work with a group called Women's Educational Success that provides emergency grants to students to keep them in school. I also worked to create a local government fellowship program for first generation students who want to pursue a career in local government. The program will provide them with a scholarship, internship and mentorship. I serve on the Cabrillo College President's Circle. And, I have helped to pass AB 1919 to create a Youth Transit Pass Pilot Program to provide grants to transit agencies to create or expand free fare transit programs for college and K-12 students.

I am committed to working with educational and regional leaders to ensure that we are addressing the costs of textbooks, food, and transportation for our community college students.

***How would you work to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?***

Our schools continue to be underfunded, and we must make a greater investment in public education from early-childhood education through higher education in our Community College, CSU and UC systems. All children deserve an equal opportunity for a quality education, and we know that investments in early education and childcare, English as a second language programs, extra-curricular activities and after-school programs all play a critical role in improving outcomes for students and ultimately for communities. In the Assembly I will:

- Advocate for expansion of the number of slots, rates and wages for child care in California, as well as early childhood education - preschool and transitional kindergarten.
- Fight to increase funding for needed education programs, including special education, the arts, vocational training programs, and any other pathway that will prepare students for higher education or the job market.
- Expand funding for grant programs for tuition and other educational costs so students aren't drowning in loan debt.
- Work to ensure that our teachers and staff can afford to live in the communities in which they work, especially in this region where the cost of living is so high.

- Insist that we are paying our teachers a livable wage, especially those that are just starting out, and support affordable housing programs for our educational workforce.

It is critically important to provide as much support to our students as we can to help them get the best education possible. This is an area where issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion play a critical role. We must approach these support systems with the explicit goal of achieving equity and inclusion while addressing the specific needs of those we serve. Input from the school systems and the school professionals will be critical to help formulate the best and most effective policies.

## Liz Lawler

Candidate - Assembly District 28

Current Councilmember, City of Monte Sereno

***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 a pro-business candidate I will work to reduce onerous regulations and taxes that make it difficult to run a successful business in California. My dad was Commissioner of Corporations for Governor Reagan and wrote the Securities Act of 1968, which created the business climate in California for Silicon Valley to thrive. The amount of regulations we have today, over 395,000, is more than double the national average. This limits small businesses and is driving key sectors out of state, and along with them, jobs and revenue. We need to ensure we have a friendly business climate that will allow our innovation economy to thrive.

***What issues that you have championed make you stand out from other candidates and elected officials in this office?***

I am passionate about education. Our public schools are failing our children with literacy rates that are the worst in the country. There is a direct correlation between illiteracy and delinquency which then creates other issues such as public safety, homelessness and drug addiction. We must find new ways to ensure all children have a chance to succeed and it begins with school choice and promoting charter schools. School Choice gives families, especially those in poorly performing districts, the opportunity to pursue a much better education for their children. Charter Schools have a proven record of success. If we truly want to help our most disadvantaged students to become future innovators and fulfill their potential, we must act now.

***As an elected official, what do you see as the biggest areas of opportunity when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity, and inclusion? What is the biggest challenge?***

As an elected official, the biggest area of opportunity when it comes to addressing issues of race, diversity, equity and inclusion is providing for school choice, charter schools and public school reform. Every child deserves a good education and the same opportunities to excel. The biggest challenge is wresting control of our public school system out of the hands of the bureaucrats that have gotten us in this situation. To improve our public schools, we must explore new approaches such as "pay for performance" for our teachers and amend the tenure system- teachers should not be tenured at two years, but five, with a continued review process. This way we are ensuring our teachers are performing well for our students. School choice isn't just about vouchers or ESA's, its about intra-district and inter-district choice as well. And, going even further, if we transitioned our public school system to a charter school system, we will have much better outcomes for our students, particularly our most marginalized, as charter schools have a proven record of improving test scores, and in turn, outcomes.

***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 would like to work with Silicon Valley Corporations to find pathways for those under-represented in the workforce through school partnerships, internships and training to make sure they have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed and lead in Silicon Valley corporations. Education is key, and supporting students on a path beginning in high school, developing a clear pathway forward that is accessible, will help us achieve greater diversity, equity and inclusion in Silicon Valley.

***What are the biggest problems facing residents in the district you are running in? How would you meet or solve those problems?***

As I have been canvassing, the biggest issues are public safety, homelessness and local control. With respect to public safety, I would reinstate consequences for crime, reduce the larceny theft threshold back to \$400, reclassify certain crimes, especially ones California considers "non-violent" like sexual assault, as "violent", and stop the early release of repeat offenders. With respect to homelessness, our policies need to reflect and address the primary drivers of homelessness, in particular, mental illness and addiction. Expanding mental healthcare facilities, residential care and addiction treatment programs, especially for our adolescents and young adults is key, as well as compelled care, which the Care Court is designed to do. I also want to empower families to care for their loved ones, with temporary conservatorships. We must stop enabling destructive behavior, and start getting people the help they need. With respect to local control, "the one size fits all" approach the state has taken does not work. Rather, we need to address existing policies that have made affordable housing costly and time consuming to build, and allow local jurisdictions the flexibility to develop their communities thoughtfully with careful considerations of their challenges and carrying capacity.

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

The role I believe elected officials can and should play to address the housing supply is to re-visit existing policies dating back decades that have contributed to the high costs and lengthy approval processes that make affordable



housing difficult to build in the first place. We should not be taking away local control and the public's right to have a voice in their community. Local jurisdictions know their challenges and limitations, and know best how to have thoughtful and smart development, that takes carrying capacity and other issues into consideration.

***What role do you think public transit plays in Silicon Valley? Do you support new investment in public transit going forward? Why or why not?***

I think reliable and easily accessible public transit is necessary for Silicon Valley. We must provide our residents all options for mobility. I do not, however, believe we should be investing in the High Speed Rail in central California where it does not make sense. We have much more pressing issues especially with our water infrastructure.

***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 getting pollution spewing buses off our roads. My concern is the current regulations have not been adequately thought through. For example, how long does it take to charge the new buses, how many would we need to purchase in addition to make sure we have timely and available transportation when some of the fleet is offline for charging? Currently we do not have the charging infrastructure or the grid in place to support this. What are the maintenance costs, what happens when there is a power outage, and does this put undue pressure and costs on local agencies? I would more enthusiastically support hybrid buses to ensure seamless service until we are capable of fully supporting an all electric fleet.

***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 advance a vision for a healthy and resilient SF Bay, address the impacts of climate change and rising waters, protect and build healthy ecosystems critical to a healthy bay, and secure funding to support smart environmental policies that will result in long term resilience.

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

No, it certainly is not the right time to raise taxes on businesses, as this will further hurt businesses and potentially force closures, or movement out of state. The last thing we need to do is drive business out of state, and with it, jobs and tax revenue, especially when we will already be facing a decline in tax revenues in the near future. The best way to recover from the pandemic is provide tax relief, to free up businesses to hire new employees.

***What would you say to a small business owner faced with the difficulty of additional regulations due to legislation impacting the business communities?***

I will tell our small business owners facing onerous regulations that I will work hard to eliminate unnecessary regulations and taxes on our businesses. Our state was once very business friendly, but now ranks dead last in the country with over 395,000 regulations, more than double the national average. We are crushing our small businesses, the backbones of our communities, and that must change.

***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 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 I mentioned before, I am passionate about education, and I will work to facilitate access to all to find their greatness and personal fulfillment.

***How would you work to improve in-school and out-of-school student support systems?***

Having had a child who needed accommodations in school for learning differences, I will work to ensure all students have readily available access be evaluated for Individualized Education Programs, so they can have the help they need during the school day. Parents need to have access to support out of school, so they can best help their student(s) succeed.