

D4 Supervisor Questionnaire

A. General Questions

1. **Why are you running for office and what are your top goals that you would like to accomplish?**

I'm running for office for two main reasons. First, I believe the challenges faced by our region are greater now than at any time in our history, and we need strategic and courageous leadership to meet those challenges. I feel driven to help provide that leadership, both out of gratitude for all the opportunities that I have had access to because I grew up in Santa Clara County and out of a desire to pass along those opportunities and preserve our quality of life for the next generation, including my three kids. Second, I derive a great deal of professional satisfaction from tackling the toughest problems faced by our community. I have a record in San Jose of taking on hard problems, and have always found it very rewarding when I can help make progress in solving them on behalf of residents and taxpayers. I want to bring the same approach to the County.

I would have many priorities as a Supervisor, but the following issues would be among the most important:

Housing Affordability and Homelessness: I will implement the Measure A affordable housing bond and aggressively pursue other means to promote affordable housing production. I have a record of accomplishing such efforts in as a City Councilmember.

Traffic and Growth: I will look to lead on countywide transportation investments and planning, and continue my record of a strong focus on traffic safety and a regional approach to development.

Public Safety: I will continue to support efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified public safety personnel, and ensure that they had the training and support necessary to meet the challenges of modern policing. I would look for potential partnerships and collaboration between our County and City governments to enhance neighborhood policing.

2. **In your prior public service roles, what policies that you championed and that were implemented make you most proud?**

I have served both as a member of the governing board for the Cambrian School District and, for the last eight years, as a San Jose Councilmember. I am most proud of the following achievements:

1. Helping to broker a pension reform agreement that both saves taxpayers a great deal of money and gained the support of San Jose's employee unions.
2. Designing the regulatory program for medical marijuana in San Jose that succeeded in moving dispensaries out of our neighborhoods.
3. Passing a housing impact fee that requires new market rate residential development in San Jose to make contributions to affordable housing.
4. Helping to modernize San Jose's business tax. The tax hadn't been updated for inflation in 30 years and had lost a significant amount of value. In 2016, I initiated the City's

effort to update the tax. The effort eventually gained the support of the business community and the voters, and generated much needed revenue improve public safety staffing in San Jose.

5. Working very closely with community groups in my district when new development proposals come forward to ensure that the public has a voice in City Hall.

3. What do you see as the most significant future changes that will impact our valley?

The most significant change, by far, will be our growing population. The housing and transportation infrastructure needed to accommodate this population will place huge demands on local government, as will the increasing demand for public services and resources such as water. I believe it's possible to meet these challenges, but it will require vigorous and far-sighted leadership. My desire to help provide that leadership is one of the main reasons I'm running for office.

B. Housing & Land-Use

1. What creative and practical ways should the County use to leverage the \$950M bond measure passed by voters?

The obvious strategy for leveraging the bond is to bring in as much affordable housing money from other levels of government (Federal, State and local) to help make Measure A money go further. In addition to this strategy, I think the County can leverage the money by working closely with local jurisdictions. The County may have the money, but cities still have land use authority and can decide where and how to approve affordable housing projects. Some of the land use policies I pushed in San Jose, such as allowing affordable housing on parcels where market rate housing isn't allowed, could make development of affordable housing easier and stretch dollars farther if implemented countywide.

The County is also a major land owner. I've been a strong advocate for the County to develop affordable housing on its own land (for example, the old city hall site on North First) as a way to save money and build housing for less.

C. Parks & Public Spaces

1. **What should the County do to reduce trash and litter that is way too common along our creeks and waterways?**

At the City, I have focused on building partnerships with Caltrans, the Water District and community groups to address this issue (for example, I helped secure funding in the City budget for nonprofits to organize creek cleanups). I would continue and build upon that focus on partnerships at the County. I would also point out that much of the problem with litter in creeks and freeways is the direct result of homelessness. Addressing the homeless problem would help make progress on this issue as well.

D. Health, Public Safety & Resilience

1. **There has been a lot of troubling news about workers on downtown developments being locked up and forced to work without pay. In a sense, this is talks to the broader issue of human trafficking. What experience do you have addressing and preventing those kinds of issues?**

I have broad experience with this issue at the City. On the issue of construction labor, I have been a champion for establishing protections for construction workers to ensure that they receive a fair wage and are not exploited. Human trafficking also extends into other areas, including prostitution. I have extensive experience working with the San Jose Police Department to root out prostitution operations, especially those that are operated through the front of a massage business, and punish those responsible for human trafficking. I have also built partnerships with other members of the Council to address this issue from a policy standpoint, as is [outlined in this memo](#).

As a Supervisor, I would seek to be a leader on this issue through the County's Human Trafficking Task Force. As with many other issues, the County has the opportunity to convene cities to develop a comprehensive strategy to address this issue.

2. **How have you partnered with law enforcement and justice systems to work alongside neighborhood groups on public safety?**

As a City Councilmember, I see it as part of my job to be the bridge between the Police Department and the community. San Jose's Police Department is made up of many fine officers who work very hard to protect the public, but in past years the department has been stretched for officers and hasn't been able to provide the level of service that our residents expect. I've addressed this issue by working very hard to increase our police staffing, but I've also worked to enhance communication between our community and the police department.

Residents can become very frustrated when they feel that the Police Department is not keeping crime under control. When I encounter a neighborhood that had these concerns, I often suggest that we organize a meeting to bring out senior members of the police department to engage with them. When we can bring our police staff and the community together, even when the community is a little bit angry about the situation, I find that residents are very impressed with the commitment of our police staff and we can almost always find ways to work together. I would bring this approach to the County.

E. Transportation & Environment

- 1. With the State of California's goals of reducing Greenhouse Emissions, what steps can the County make, through its own operations, through policy or partnership to reduce Greenhouse Emissions?**

The County should take the following steps:

1. Pursue green energy facilities (solar arrays, for example) on property that it owns.
2. Convert its automobile fleet over to green energy vehicles.
3. Pursue land use policies that avoid long commutes and thereby limit carbon emissions.
4. Support transit service on transportation facilities that it controls (namely, expressways.)
5. Ensure that new county buildings are constructed to the highest green building standards.
6. Aggressively implement energy efficiency measures to reduce energy use in county facilities and along county right-of-ways.
7. Maximize water efficiency in county parks (our water supply system uses lots of energy, and therefore contributes significantly to carbon emissions.)
8. Continue to support trail facilities that provide safe commute options for cyclists.

2. There are huge differences in job-housing imbalances, which is a huge source of traffic. How can the County help balance traffic flows?

The County doesn't have direct control over land use policy in cities, but as I have mentioned multiple times in the questionnaire it does have the power to convene cities. I would support the establishment of a County land use policy task force that would bring together representatives of all the cities in the County to develop a joint strategy to accommodate growth in an efficient and equitable manner.

I also believe that the County can be an advocate with the State and MTC on how land use is governed at higher levels of government and how financial resource flow down to cities based on land use decisions. I would seek to be a leader in developing advocacy strategies for the County on these issues.