

South Bay Progressive Alliance Candidate Questionnaire For Mayor and City Council 2024



Please download and complete the questionnaire and email the completed document to info@SouthBayPA.org. By submitting your responses to this questionnaire to the South Bay Progressive Alliance (SBPA), you agree that your responses are public and that we may share your responses with others.

Name: Pamela Campos

Mayor Jurisdiction or City Council District: San Jose, District 2

Phone(s): 650-810-5649

Email: Pamela4SJD2@gmail.com

Website: <https://pamela4sj.com/>

Line of Work: Nonprofit Consultant

Candidate Pledge:

If you cannot make the following 4 affirmative pledges, the SBPA cannot endorse you at this time.

CORPORATE-FREE. CORPORATE-FREE. CORPORATE-FREE. As a corporate-free candidate, in order to avoid conflicts of interest and maintain financial and political independence, I commit to refuse donations from corporations, industry lobbyists, corporate representatives, and Political Action Committees (except for union PACs and PACs that refuse corporate donations) and further, to publicize that I am a corporate-free candidate in my campaign literature, website, and social media. ✓ YES NO

PLEDGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY. I commit to publicize and hold regular listening sessions with my constituents, to stay in touch with their needs and concerns. ✓ YES NO

PROGRESSIVE POLICIES. I commit to author, co-author, support, promote and defend people-focused progressive policies and practices that incorporate [SBPA core values](#) to improve communities and the quality of life for my constituents. ✓ YES NO

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION. I commit to help level the playing field for ALL people and prioritize the development of leadership among under-represented communities. ✓ YES NO

General Questions:

1. **Endorsements—**

a. **Who are you endorsing, from national races all the way down the ballot to local races?**

National: CA Senator - Barbara Lee

County: BOS D2 - Betty Duong

City Council: D4 - David Cohen; D6 - Alex Shoor; D8 - Domingo Candelas; D10 - Lenka Wright

b. **Who has endorsed you?**

Susan Ellenberg - Supervisor, Santa Clara County

Noelia Corzo - Supervisor, San Mateo County

Blanca Alvarado - Former Supervisor, Santa Clara County; Former Councilmember, City of San José

Ron Gonzales - Former Mayor, San José

Lisa Gauthier - Former Mayor, East Palo Alto

Karina Dominguez - Former Vice Mayor, Milpitas

Emily Ramos - Councilmember, Mountain View

Sergio Lopez - Councilmember, Campbell

Zachary Hilton - Councilmember, Gilroy

Rob Moore - Councilmember, Los Gatos

Isabel Jubes Flamerich - President, Sunnyvale School District Board of Education

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo - Vice President, San José Unified School District Board of Education

Carla Collins - Trustee, San José Unified School District Board of Education

Randi Kinman - Trustee, West Valley-Mission Community College Board of Education

Andres Quintero - Trustee, Alum Rock Union School District

Jaria Jaug - Trustee, Berryessa School District Board of Education

Alejandro Reyes - Bay Area Region Representative, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Santa Clara County Democratic Party

South Bay Labor Council

Run For Something

Democratic Activists for Women Now (DAWN)

Silicon Valley Young Democrats

Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 332

c. **Whose endorsements are you seeking or expect to receive?**

Our team is currently working on earning the endorsement of several community groups including: OE Local 3, South Bay YIMBY, AFRO-Upris, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, Bay Rising Action, Latino Victory Fund, National Women's Political Caucus, Emily's List, IJFF Local 230, among many more.

2. **Campaign Funding** —How much money do you plan to raise for your campaign? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any). How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from?

Our goal is to fundraise \$75,000 by March 2024. We have currently fundraised \$37,000 and our campaign is taking a grassroots approach to fundraising, employing various digital fundraising techniques and has been successful in reaching many first time political donors. Our campaign is committed to only accepting money from donors that align with my progressive vision and values. We have declined funding from the Santa Clara Association of Realtors and will not accept contributions from oil companies, big tech, and similar corporations.

City Council Questions:

1. **Motivation:** Why did you choose to run for this office?

I chose to run for office because San José has shaped me; from the streets and roads to our schools and parks, it's all I've ever known. 30 years ago, my newly immigrated parents struggled to make ends meet while raising me and my sisters, and today our families are facing the same issues: unaffordable housing, inaccessible child care, and wages that can't keep up with the rising cost of living. The only community that I know and have surrounded myself with—my friends, family, and neighbors—are at risk of dislocation every day. Those who are closest to the problem are closest to the solution, and that is why I am the most qualified candidate running in this seat. I know this district and have directly served the community as an early childhood educator, political organizer, and policy professional. I've worked on the most pressing issues the city council faces on a daily basis: accessible transit, early childhood care, and homelessness. I have played an active role in my community through volunteering, political activism, and my professional career. As a lifelong resident of San José, I understand the needs of our neighborhoods and with a strong community of resilient neighbors, together we are and will make a better San José for all to live and thrive in!

2. **Priorities:** What do you believe are the major issues facing residents of your district? What are some specific tasks (e.g. specific legislation, policies, etc.) you intend to accomplish while in office?

My top three major issues facing residents in my district that I will fight for if elected on the city council are housing, childcare, and mobility & transit. On housing, I'd strengthen tenant's rights and increase landlord accountability through landlord registries and providing legal counsel to residents. To address San Jose's recent ranking as #1 in youth homelessness, I would propose a guaranteed income for families and seniors and ensure the funds are accessible to all residents regardless of federal residency status. I'd propose that those who are fortunate enough to purchase a second home—which they do not intend to live in full-time—shall pay a tax to fund acquisition of permanent affordable housing. I would also prioritize local hires for all projects the city is involved in. On childcare, the City of San José should act as a partner for parents and caregivers by reallocating developer impact fees to preserve and fund new child care facilities, as well as set aside funds for a child care coordinator who supports our residents through the process of finding and financing local child care. I'd also propose a local ordinance for large employers that expands paid family leave to 24 weeks. I would promote the development of early care and education (ECE) facilities by requiring the inclusion of ECE facilities in housing developments that create 40 new family-sized homes, as well as in transit-oriented development and communities. On mobility & transit, accessible public transit is fundamental for reducing greenhouse emissions, promoting walkable neighborhoods, and uplifting socio-economic growth. The City of San José has also had a concerning amount of pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in recent years. I will push the city council to take real steps towards achieving Vision Zero by expanding bus and light rail services, and involving local residents to collaborate in street planning that re-imagines their local roads, ensuring the safety of our pedestrians and transit riders, while preparing for future climate funding.

3. **Qualifications:** Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a City Councilmember, and include any community volunteering or activism. If you're an incumbent, how would you assess your own job performance? Please give some specific examples of accomplishments and setbacks.

As the only educator and youngest candidate for City Council, I am running to ensure our youth have a champion in City Hall. San José is my hometown, and unfortunately, for many of my loved ones, the city we've grown up in may not be the city we can raise a family in. 30 years ago, my parents struggled to make ends meet and it hasn't gotten much better for families. For over a decade, I have served our community as an educator and my career has always been rooted in education, equity, and supporting our youth and their families. In January of 2022 I joined the MTC Policy Advisory Council, and in May of 2023 I became Vice-Chair. More recently, I was appointed as a City of San José SJ4ALL Advisory Member in June of 2023. Over the past decade, I have also volunteered my time with several nonprofit organizations, including Parent Voices, Saved By Nature, and Child Advocates of Silicon Valley. But my proudest accomplishment was working with Parent Voices to grow a grassroots base of empowered parents that began with 2 advocates and is now standing strong at 40+ parents who are continuing the work to champion the needs of our families and children in local government.

4. **Housing:** If elected, what policies and programs would you put in place to address affordable housing, market-rate housing, and homelessness? What incentives or policies would you propose for first-time home buyers? How would you improve city rental ordinances? Would you implement rent control in your city? If so, what would your rent control policy look like? Do you support Opportunity Housing?

Our homelessness crisis is caused by an affordable housing shortage, and I would work to build high-density permanently affordable housing, especially for low-income and ELI households. To maintain levels of affordability for families, I would propose the City look at proven solutions, such as community land trusts and social housing policy to support stable permanent affordable housing. The vacant office buildings downtown and around the city are great opportunities to develop housing, and by streamlining these projects through a ministerial review process, we can incentivize developers to build more housing in San Jose. I will also work to protect renters, who are an overwhelming majority of the residents in San Jose. We must establish rent control because the cost of living has risen at a pace that wages have been unable to keep up with, and our city's rental ordinance must be improved by including buildings that were built and occupied in 2010 and prior. I am supportive of Opportunity Housing and know of several neighborhoods that would benefit from this policy, if there were also public resources accessible to support residents who are interested in developing housing but don't have the financial means to pay for the permitting, engineers, and construction fees.

5. **Public safety:** How would you prioritize and address the most important public safety issues facing the residents of your district? Consider community trust, racial tensions, police conduct, use of force, etc. What can be done to improve our local criminal justice system?

Building relationships between our neighbors and public safety officials is a proactive approach that promotes a stronger sense of community and fosters cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. By identifying opportunities for constructive and quality engagement with youth and other neighbors, SJPD officers will develop partnerships in communities to solve and prevent problems before they occur. Effective community policing means residents and business owners know who their local police officers are and feel

confident enough to call their District Captain to address their concerns when needed. Building relationships is an investment of time and resources that will pay its dividends when SJPD officers have the trusted community partnership of all our neighbors.

6. **Immigration:** Do you support the current sanctuary policy of your city and the current county policy?

Yes, I currently support the sanctuary policy of San Jose and Santa Clara County regarding sheltering undocumented immigrants. If elected on the City Council, I will continue to champion humane policies and protections that ensure our neighbors who are labeled undocumented do not get treated as second class citizens.

7. **Diversity:** What policies and practices would you implement for inclusiveness and diversity in city government, particularly for women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community?

If elected to the City Council, I will work on policy that is centered on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and Immigrant families to build a just and caring community which ensures all of our children—especially those who are growing up in historically underserved neighborhoods—have the resources they need to live peacefully and safely. Ensuring that working families have access to quality child care, family-sustaining wages, and permanent affordable housing in neighborhoods that feel safe through placemaking are the policies I will prioritize. Specific examples include piloting social housing, universal child care, and guaranteed income for families in San José, as well as fully funding our public libraries and youth and community centers with diverse staff and programming that is representative of the residents they serve.

8. **Land use:** What are the most important land use issues facing your district? How would you reach out to your district residents for their input?

Protecting Coyote Valley from development, building housing on our VTA parking lot sites, and developing emergency interim housing at several sites are our most pressing land use issues in District 2. To gather resident's input on these important community decisions, I would recommend employing a strong community outreach plan that includes online surveys, robust community forums, as well as canvassing the community through phone calls, door knocking, and meeting our neighbors where they are at by hosting information booths at schools, parks, libraries, and shopping plazas.

9. **Business:** How do you view business growth in your jurisdiction? What, if anything, would you do to ensure residents are not displaced? Under what circumstances would you support corporate subsidies, tax breaks, and credits, to attract business to your city?

District 2 is one of the only city council districts without a dedicated business association for local small business owners, and I will establish this much needed community space for our business owners to discuss their needs and concerns from our city. With a D2 Small Business Association, we can work together to spotlight Small Business Saturday, and host community fairs in areas that will attract our residents to local businesses. In return, protecting workers' rights, promoting fair wages, and enforcing compliance are the basic standards of conducting

fair business practices that I will hold our business owners accountable to.

10. **Transit:** What specific proposals do you have to alleviate traffic? What are your views and positions on public transit-oriented development?

Promoting transit-oriented communities is essential to ensuring that our neighborhoods thrive. The development of TOCs will result in accessible job and education opportunities, affordable housing, and walkable and bikeable communities that reduce car travel and greenhouse emissions. In order to promote transit ridership, I would work with developers and VTA to ensure residents are provided VTA passes and guidance for using public transit to meet their travel needs. Roughly 80% of our federal transportation funding is directed towards maintaining highways and roads, while the remaining 20% is dedicated to public transit. As a city, we need to shift our commitment away from over-funding highways and towards expanding public transit operations. Underfunding public transit results in low-quality service and low ridership, which in turn forces people with low incomes to buy cars and encourages increased carbon emissions. To improve our community's access to public transportation, we should support a regional transportation measure in 2024 and advocate for increased funding at the state and federal level.

11. **Environment:** What local policies would you propose to address climate change and the environment? What is your target date to make your city a zero-carbon city?

The Governor's goal to make San Jose carbon neutral by 2045 is ambitious, but necessary and I would work to reduce our community's carbon footprint by improving our public transit system. Ensuring San Jose is building more light rail infrastructure and increasing service, especially bus lines and developing high-density housing at the VTA parking lots are my goals for District 2. Our community would greatly benefit from developing more walkable, bikeable neighborhoods and I will work to ensure we are improving pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit access throughout San Jose to create green union jobs better connect our residents to groceries, schools, employment centers, local services and amenities all while reducing reliance and personal motor vehicles. I also look forward to planting more trees in District 2 and investing in our parks to maintain open spaces for recreation.

12. **Budget:** If you were on Council, what decisions would you make differently from this year's budget? Do you think the city needs additional revenue, and if so, how would you generate it?

If elected to the City Council, I would take a values-based approach to our city budget, ensuring community services and staff are fully funded. As we enter a likely budget deficit, I would suggest canceling non-essential out of state travel for City Council and staff. Additionally, I would also advise against the purchase of new technology and to reevaluate expensive IT projects, new contracts, or leases. Before proposing this idea to council and city staff, I would consult with workers to ensure my plan for managing a lean budget is one that will create the least amount of impact to them. To generate additional revenue for our city, I would consider progressive taxes, such as a corporate business tax or wealth tax on incomes over \$200k.

I would make a few different budget initiatives: First, I would prioritize the options in the order of raising revenues, reducing staffing levels, furloughing workers, and as a last resort reducing benefits. Before proposing this idea to council and city staff however, I would consult with workers to ensure my plan for managing a lean budget is one that will create the least amount of impact to them. Second, I would propose changes in our tax policy as one of the most critically damaging tax laws in the state, Prop 13, disincentivizes housing production and is a part of the reason why California is in the housing crisis it is in today. I would work to find alternative tax solutions that expand wealth to marginalized communities who have been explicitly excluded and obstructed from property ownership and generational wealth building.

13. **Youth:** What are your priorities and policies for youth in your city, and how would you implement and finance them?

My policies will always center our city's most vulnerable community members, which include our youth. My priorities include funding the strategies outlined in the Youth Master Plan and investing in preschool education, youth employment programs, family recreation opportunities, job training and retention, as well as access to mental health services and permanent affordable housing. To reach this vision, I will advocate for a just city budget that funds safe youth spaces and partner with foundations and business groups to ensure we are investing in our youth as our next generation of Silicon Valley's workforce and leaders.

14. **Education:** How could your city improve education opportunities for its young people? What is your position on charter schools?

Establishing Universal Child Care for all families in San Jose that live or work in San Jose is what I will work on everyday of elected office to ensure our youth are starting life with a strong foundation. Our K-12 schools need to be safe spaces for youth where students are learning the skills that will help them be successful in life such as cooperation, emotional self-regulation, and fostering intrinsic motivation. We can achieve this by investing in early education. As youth transition into adulthood, our schools must be the vehicle that supports students in developing a career path that will lead them to earning a family-sustaining wage and affording a comfortable retirement. I understand some charter schools with specific focuses, such as serving our youth with physical disabilities, are very beneficial to families, however, we need to invest our public funds into public schools so they can be the top choice for parents.

15. **Elections:** Would you support electoral and campaign finance reform? If so, what kind? How would you propose to improve civic participation in your city?

I would work to increase public participation by allowing all residents, regardless of immigration status, to be able to donate to political campaigns and PACs, which will entail persistent advocacy to our federal legislators. Locally, I will work with the city and community-based nonprofits to ensure our residents know about opportunities to serve on local boards and commissions., as well as how to prepare for community-based leadership.

16. **Access:** How do you propose to make yourself accessible and accountable to the residents of your city?

In addition to holding monthly office hours and attending neighborhood meetings, I will keep an open calendar where residents can book meetings with myself and our council staff throughout the week. I look forward to building up our neighborhood associations with new members and engaging with our neighbors through community resource fairs.

17. What type of retail establishments should or shouldn't be in your district (e.g. what is your position on payday lenders and marijuana dispensaries in your district)?

I would not encourage payday lenders to be established in District 2, as it is a business that relies on financially vulnerable clients. I would support more small businesses to develop in District 2 and would be open to cannabis dispensaries located in areas outside of a school or public library zone.

18. **Anything Else?** Is there anything else you would like to share?

Universal Child Care is one of my main campaign promises because access to affordable early care and education is a resource proven to be successful in recruitment, retention and overall job satisfaction of employees. It is also a system that is currently broken, and barely surviving on the underpaid labor of predominantly immigrant, indigenous, and women of color. Access to child care is the missing piece in our community infrastructure and the City of San José can act as a partner for parents and caregivers by reallocating developer impact fees to preserve and fund new child care facilities as well as set-aside funds for a child care coordinator that supports our residents through the process of finding and financing local child care. As a former preschool teacher, I am the only candidate who is proposing Universal Child Care as part of our solution to addressing a better quality of life for all of our residents. If we want to invest in our current and future workforce, then we must think and work critically to develop access to universal, high-quality child care for all families in San Jose and I am ready to lead that work.

Positions on Issues

Please answer YES or NO for each statement.

Do you support raising the minimum wage in your city? YES NO
To what amount?

\$25

Do you support a restorative justice program in lieu of prosecution? YES NO

Do you support ending bail bonds? YES NO

Do you support participatory budgeting (citizen involvement in city budgeting)? YES NO

Would you support an elected rent board? YES NO

Do you support a civilian review board with subpoena power of your police department?

YES NO

Will you support City divestment from fossil fuels?

YES NO

Do you support funding projects to reduce the number of cars on the road?

YES NO

Do you support Ranked Choice Voting?

YES NO

Do you support Proportional Representation?

YES NO

Do you support “amending the Constitution to make clear that corporations and other artificial entities do not have Constitutional rights, and that money is not speech and campaign spending should be limited through regulation”? Pledge from MTA (<https://movetoamend.org/take-pledge-amend>)

YES NO

Do you support free public education from pre-school through graduate studies?

YES NO

Do you support legalization with a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.?

YES

NO

Do you support marriage equality and the right of transgendered individuals to use the restroom of their choice?

YES NO

Do you support the use of city funds to develop worker-owned cooperatives?

YES NO

Do you support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a public bank for your city?

YES NO

Do you support Medicare for all?

YES NO