

**South Bay Progressive Alliance
Candidate Questionnaire
For City Council 2018**



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: Joshua Alan Grossman City Council Jurisdiction: Sunnyvale City Council Seat 2 (At Large Election)

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Line of Work: Technology Executive/Attorney

Candidate Pledge:

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

CORPORATE-FREE. As a corporate-free candidate I commit to refuse donations from corporations, industry lobbyists, corporate representatives, political bundlers, and Political Action Committees (except for unions) and publicize that I am a corporate free candidate in my campaign literature. 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

City Council Questions:

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

I'm running to ensure we can work to solve the housing crisis and ensure a good quality of life in Sunnyvale by mandating: We limit the influence of PACs, developers, and corporations on our city council, Stop dumping of airplane noise on Sunnyvale, Better Traffic Management, All new projects over 10 units have 25% affordable housing, Renters have rights to 12-month leases, We protect the mobile home parks in our city, We protect our parks, golf courses, and civic center, and that Sunnyvale launch a Smart City program that will make our city a role model for the inclusive and effective use of technology to solve a variety of problems from traffic to crime. I'm running to make sure that we protect Sunnyvale's parks, golf courses, and civic center. That's why I've co-authored a ballot initiative that mandates any sale of a park, golf course or our civic center is approved by a vote of the people. Most importantly, I'm running to represent the people of Sunnyvale. For far too long, big corporations, developers and PACs have controlled decisions in our city. I want to change that. I want a city council that stands up for the people of Sunnyvale not just billionaire developers and PACs. I'm only accepting campaign contributions from individuals, and I will accept no money from PACs of any kind.

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?

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Affordable Housing: Set an affordable housing requirement for a new developments
- Preserving Public Lands/Parks
- Renters' Rights by fighting to preserve mobile home parks and stop the unjust evicting of their residents
- Reduce Traffic through balance growth; balancing the building of business and residential space so Sunnyvale residents can work within the city resulting in much shorter commutes and better traffic since we won't have people from outside Sunnyvale commute into Sunnyvale for work which is now resulting in bad traffic with more people with long commutes crashing with Sunnyvale residents
- Reduce airplane noise
- Green Building Initiative: Enacting a solar panel requirement
- Fighting against Wage Theft

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 example of accomplishments and setbacks.

- Horicon School Board President (Sonoma County)

- Chair of Sunnyvale's Housing and Human Services Commission and Chair of the building appeals board
- Vice President Graduate Employee's Union (GEO) University of Michigan
<https://www.geo3550.org/>

4. **Housing:** If elected what policies and programs would you put in place to address affordable housing, market-rate housing, and homelessness? If Proposition 10 passes and repeals the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, would you implement rent control in your city? If so, what would your rent control policy look like?

Yes. I support rent stabilization for Mobile Home Parks specifically and have called for a study issue on rent control for apartments and single family homes in Sunnyvale as well as the implementation of 12 month mandatory leases.

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, police militarization, etc. On police militarization.

I'm opposing the building of a proposed drone fleet for the police. While I realized in light of recent events, drones may help the community in times of extreme crisis such as natural disasters (especially considering we're on the San Andreas fault where earthquakes are likely to happen) and in the more likely event of situations where hostages are being held by armed assailants; I fear a drone fleet would give the police too much surveillance power that will violate citizens' 4th amendment rights and would be expensive to maintain. I would support only a handful about a dozen drones max for the purpose of peacefully hostage situations and the gathering of intelligence and communication in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Another problem would be the increasing of drag races and other "fast and furious" style activities held at night in parking lots across the city that poses a safety threat to all citizens and this problem has been especially concerning for senior citizens who fear that sooner or later, a car would run into someone's house. If elected, I would work to improve police conduct and community trust in the police by working with them to quickly resolve this problem.

6. **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?

I would work to implement the ladder programs that cities like San Jose have implemented in Project Labor Agreements to give opportunity to under-represented minorities and the LGBTQ+ community.

7. Criminal justice: What can be done locally to improve our local criminal justice system?

Well in this field, most concerning for me is my community's attitude toward cannabis. The city unfortunately in part due to popular support based on outdated information has hostile laws on the books against cannabis going as far as banning home delivery of cannabis for medical purposes. One of my top goals if elected is the repealing of these laws especially those against the use of cannabis for medical purposes. My long term goal is to update people's attitudes toward recreational cannabis so we can finally start allow the opening of recreational cannabis vendors so we can finally tax and regulate them to raise more tax money to use to increase funding for worthwhile programs such as education.

8. Land use: How would you balance development vs. preserving and/or enhancing open spaces? What are the most important land use issues facing your district?

I favor balanced growth meaning as my city grows we must reserve room for affordable housing. I plan if elected to impose a 25% affordable housing requirement for new development along with a green building initiative that would require buildings going over 10 units to install solar panels. Most important is the preserving of my city's parks and public golf courses. My Republican opponent has taken thousands of dollars in campaign money from Billionaire Developers and in exchange he and his cronies on the city counsel has sell off many of our public parks so that these developers can build luxury apartments complex with no room assigned for affordable housing. He might as well as be Scott Pruitt or Ryan Zinke.

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?

I favor a Good Neighbor Initiative to tax our largest tech companies based on the Mountain View model which I proposed and support.

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

I favor building more affordable housing over businesses via a more balanced ration because right now we're building too many business zones (strip malls, etc) and not enough housing to catch up and that's causing more people to commute from outside Sunnyvale resulting in bad traffic since they're crashing with the outgoing traffic from people in Sunnyvale.

11. Environment: What local policies would you propose to address climate change and the environment? Do you think your city should be a zero-carbon city?

See my green building initiative under Land Use.

12. Budget: If you were on Council drafting the upcoming year's budget, what decisions would you make differently from those Council made last year? How much additional revenue should the city aim to take in, and how would you generate it?

12. Youth: What are your priorities and policies for youth in your city, and how would you implement and finance them? I would continue funding for Youth oriented program and look at creating new ones.

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

I'm a proud supporter of public school. My wife is public school teacher and both my daughters went to public school. On top of that I hate Betsy "Vile" Devos. So I think that should make my stance on charter schools clear. As for improving education opportunities for our young people I would increase funding for public education, increasing teachers' pay and benefits, and working with parents and young people to develop ways to improve our school.

14. 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 proudly support campaign finance reform especially considering the fact city counsel is currently in a pay to play deal with Billionaire Developers. I have ask them to join me and stop taking money from PACs and other special interests.

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

Thought my website, social media, and holding frequent town halls.

16. What is your position on payday lenders and marijuana dispensaries in your city?

See Criminal Justice

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

Positions on Issues

Please answer YES or NO for each statement.

- Do you support a living wage? YES NO
- 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 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 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 co-operatives? YES NO
- Do you support a policy to place city funds in a Public Bank? YES NO
- Do you support single-payer healthcare? YES NO

