

# South Bay Progressive Alliance Candidate Questionnaire For County Board of Supervisors



Please download and complete the questionnaire and email the completed document to [info@SouthBayPA.org](mailto: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.

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BOS District: 5

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Line of Work: Member, CA State Board of Equalization

## 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, and Political Action Committees (except for union PACs and PACs that refuse corporate donations) 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 ☐

## General Questions:

### 1. **Endorsements**—

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

Barbara Lee for U.S. Senate, Lateefah Simon for Congress, Diana Reddy for RWC Council, Clay Hale for SJ Evergreen, Babu Prasad for San Jose City Council

- b. Who has endorsed you?

Dolores Huerta, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, San Jose Councilmembers Omar Torres and Peter Ortiz, the Mountain View Housing Justice Coalition, and other Councilmembers.

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

Labor, environmental organizations, DSA Democratic Party, and other progressive organizations

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?

I expect to raise up to the \$250,000 limit. I am requesting individual donation and union contributions. I am not accepting corporate, or developer contributions.

## Board of Supervisors Questions:

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

I care about maintaining and enhancing the progressive stance of our county and have deep policy experience in the areas that the county has jurisdiction in or can influence.

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?

High rents, evictions and displacement affect this district greatly, as does a lack of affordable housing, safe parking for vehicle dwellers, a lack of environmental justice, transit justice, and more.

3. **Qualifications:** Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for being a County Supervisor, 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.

I have served as a City Councilmember, Mayor, County Commissioner, State Assemblymember, and on many regional boards. I have also been a progressive activist my entire life.

4. **Housing:**

- a. 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 local rental ordinances? Would you implement rent control in the County? If so, what would your rent control policy look like? Do you support Opportunity Housing?

I put a high value on establishing a range of affordable housing, including compact studio efficiencies, family housing, safe parking, and protection of mobilehome parks. I strongly support rent control, preservation of rent controlled and naturally affordable units, and opportunity housing.

- b. Do you support large-scale preservation of unsubsidized affordable housing as a key part of an affordable housing strategy?

Yes, I have been a longtime activist for anti-displacement policies and preservation of existing affordable housing.

- c. Would you support a Community Opportunity to Purchase Act policy in County unincorporated areas?

Yes, absolutely. There are many opportunities for this.

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

Santa Clara County should take the lead on real incorporation or mental health, disabilities, and rights training, as well as not hiring/removing offending officers, and in responding to the closure of the state DJJ.

6. **County Jails/Juvenile Detention:** What reforms need to be made in our county jails to improve inmate safety and outcomes? What changes need to be made to improve safety and outcomes for juveniles who are detained by the County?

The Board should work to reclaim the strength of its oversight capacity, restore productive rehabilitation, strengthen drug treatment, and strengthen diversion programs and courts, as well as working productively to meet the needs of families of system-involved youth.

7. **Immigration:** Do you support the current county sanctuary policy?

Yes, absolutely. I have been a long-time activist for sanctuary policies, and abolition of ICE.

8. **Health/Mental Health:**

a. The largest line item in the County's budget is supporting Valley Medical and health programs. What changes would you make to better support residents? What programs would you support to improve mental health in-patient and out-patient services in the County?

**We need more integrative health programs, more support for quality staffing of facilities, more and better homelessness service providers, and a return to empowered social workers.**

b. Do you support Healthcare for all? What do you see your role in helping it to pass? Would you pledge to be a champion speaking out in the public, participate in town halls.

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

8b: Yes, I support Healthcare for All and have been a co-author, supporter, and engaged in all of the above.

9: We need to make sure that we are recruiting, retaining, promoting, and acting on the issues that diverse candidates and communities care about, and recruiting and appointing diverse representation on boards.

10. **Domestic Violence:** Do you support any changes or enhancements to County services to victims of domestic violence? If so, what changes would you support?

**We need more accessible housing and open employment so that victims of violence have a chance to escape, given the constraints of this economy. We also need immediate drug treatment upon demand.**

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

Access to open space, prevention of toxics, dense affordable housing near transit, services and jobs, are key issues. I am and will reach out to the community for input, and will consider the longterm needs of the community as a primary driver.

12. **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 the County?

Big business and funded start-ups are growing rapidly in our district. I will be a watchdog for the interests of small and micro-businesses. I won't add tax expenditures to advantage large corporations, but will instead invest in people.

13. **Transit:** What specific proposals do you have to alleviate traffic? What do you think of our current public transit system and how would you propose improving it

We need more emphasis on 'neighborhood centers' that can be walked or biked to. We also need to fight for restoration of transit funds.

14. **Environment:** What local policies would you propose to locally address climate change and the environment? What is your target date to make Santa Clara County a zero-carbon county?

We must do everything in our power to reduce climate destruction quickly, including reducing consumption, and reducing needless, polluting activities. 2030 must be the absolute deadline.

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

I would restore safe levels of staffing and traditional standards of services. I would increase corporate and real estate (luxury) transfer taxes.

16. **Youth:** What are your priorities and policies for youth in the county and how would you implement and finance them?

Untangling the current foster care supply crisis; increasing the availability of adolescent mental health services; increasing access to quality childcare and affordable housing; greater support for families that are involved in multiple systems. To do any major new services, additional funding would need to come from multiple sources.

17. **Education:** How could the County improve education opportunities for young people?

The County should seek to play a leadership role in strengthening the educational continuum from pre-k to community college and beyond. A special emphasis should be placed on justice-involved families.

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

Yes, absolutely. We need contribution and spending limits at every level. We have high community participation in my own City, and have worked in multiple ways to achieve that.

19. **Access:** How do you propose to make yourself accessible and accountable to the residents of the County ?

I have always been very accessible through precinct walking, tabling, street outreach, phoning and community meetings, both through campaigns and during my terms of office.

20. 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)?

We should ban payday lending, provide space for community lending and other programs, ban gun retailing, and vaping stores, accept dispensaries, and highlight retailers with good environmental practices, and incentivize community spaces.

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

I have been a lifelong advocate for empowering people with disabilities, for including and respect, for healthcare parity, support for refugees and immigrants, and equity for all.

## Positions on Issues

**Please answer YES or NO for each statement.**

- Do you support raising the minimum wage in Santa Clara County?  
To what amount? 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 County budgeting)? YES ☐ NO ☐
- Would you support an elected rent board? YES ☒ NO ☐
- Do you support a civilian review board with subpoena power of the Sheriff's Office? YES ☐ NO ☐
- Will you support County 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 "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 County funds to develop worker-owned cooperatives? YES ☒ NO ☐
- Do you support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a public bank for your Santa Clara County? YES ☒ NO ☐