

South Bay Progressive Alliance Candidate Questionnaire For City Council



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.

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City Council Jurisdiction: D-7

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Line of Work: Public Affairs Director of SJ City District 5

Candidate Pledge:

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

CORPORATE-FREE. I commit to be a corporate-free candidate 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 underrepresented communities. YES NO

General Questions:

1. Endorsements—

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

Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom, Ash Kalra, Peter Ortiz, etc

- b. Who has endorsed you?

Peter Ortiz, Jeremy Barousse, Manny Diaz, SBLC, SCCDP, SVAPADC, Local Union 393, etc

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

SBPA, DAWN, PPNMM, etc...

2. Campaign Funding —How much money do you plan to raise for your campaign? \$50K - \$65K

Where will the money come from? *Community members, unions, small businesses, families, and friends*

Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

Corporate PAC

How much money do you currently have for this race? \$20 - \$30K

How much money do you plan to raise? \$50 - \$65K

Where will the money come from?

Community members, unions, small businesses, families, and friends

- a. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from oil companies, oil company associations, public utilities, and PACs which take money from any of the above including, but not limited to, Chevron, Valero, Western States Petroleum Association, and Sempra Energy? YES NO
- b. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from law enforcement groups? YES NO
- c. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from the Apartment Association of the Association of Realtors? YES NO
- d. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from for-profit health care entities and insurance companies? YES NO
- e. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from charter school associations? YES NO
- f. Will you reject campaign contributions and endorsements from corporate PACs? YES NO

City Council Questions:

- **Motivation:** Why did you choose to run for this office

I am running for San Jose City Council District 7 because our residents deserve leadership that listens, works hard, and delivers real results.

- **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?

If elected, I will work to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean, support small businesses, expand childcare and youth programs, and advocate for housing solutions for working families and seniors.

- **Qualifications:** Please give a 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.

I am a political refugee, a mother of two, a working wife, a businesswoman, and a community activist. As an immigrant, I understand firsthand the challenges of adapting to a new city and building a stable life.

I have raised a family and operated a small business in San Jose, and I've worked with the City of San Jose for many years, including with the Redevelopment Agency, and in Districts 7, 4, and 5. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of how our city operates, where it succeeds, and where stronger leadership is needed.

Since my college years, I have believed that real progress requires collaboration and action. Over the years, I have worked with the SBLC, both directly and indirectly, on key issues including immigration, ICE, rent control, Measure A, affordable housing, wage theft, etc. I value this partnership and have consistently supported the SBLC's mission and policy priorities.

As the next City Councilmember for District 7, I will continue to work closely with the SBLC and the SBPA to deliver meaningful results for our communities.

I respectfully seek your endorsement because I am prepared to lead on day one, and because I know that together, we can make a lasting and positive impact.

Housing:

If elected what policies and programs would you put in place to address affordable housing, market-rate housing, and homelessness?

- a. Higher-density housing in transit corridors
- b. Greater housing options for seniors and those with mobility issues
- c. Additional rental units
- d. Additional single-family units
- e. Additional multi-family units

I will continue to dedicate myself to helping relocate and empower unhoused individuals by connecting them with comprehensive support services.

What incentives or policies would you propose for first-time home buyers?

- a. Homebuyer education program and credit access
- b. Down Payment Assistance and short-term tax credit
- c. Rent-to-Own programs
- d. Zoning reform
- e. Anti-speculation

How would you improve city rental ordinances?

Clear and simple rental laws

Increase transparency in rent, fees, and lease terms

Enforce anti-discrimination housing law.

Maintain landlord rights for legitimate issues (non-payment, damages)

Penalize landlords who neglect necessary repairs

Would you implement rent control in your city? If so, what would your rent control policy look like?

YES. Annual cap 3 – 6% or tied to inflation.

Do you support Opportunity Housing?

YES. I support affordable housing in places that give our residents a real chance to thrive.

- **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?

Speeding, crimes.

Consider community trust, racial tensions, police conduct, use of force, etc. What can be done to improve our local criminal justice system?

Engage communities in crime prevention and policy decision-making

Increase transparency and independent oversight of law enforcement

Require de-escalation and bias training for officers.

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

100%. I currently work with CM Peter Ortiz of SJ District 5. Our office initiated and wrote three policies on this matter which were unanimously approved by the San Jose City Council.

- **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 am committed to ensure that everyone feels and is included.

- **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?**

Open spaces, and I would hold townhall to receive input from my residents.

- **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 will establish forgiving loan programs and grants to support our local businesses. And I will consistently seek advice from SBPA and host townhall meetings.

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

I will continue to encourage people to use public transportation.

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

I support open space.

2032.

- **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?**

I will put more money into housing.

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

I would review the PRNS

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

I will work with our local school boards and no on charter schools.

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

Rank choice voting (ICV)

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

Office hours and townhall meetings.

- **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)?**

No, I am not supporting payday lenders and marijuana dispensaries.

- **Does your campaign commit to engaging substantial numbers of new voters? If yes, what is your plan to make it happen?**

My campaign is focused on getting all voters to elect me.

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

I am prepared to lead on day one, and I am going to win.

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? \$20

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 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, 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 use of city funds to develop worker-owned cooperatives? YES NO

Do you support an ordinance or charter amendment to create a local public bank? YES NO

Do you support Medicare for all? YES NO