

Candidate Guide

2024

A Public Information
Resource for San Mateo
County Businesses



First
Edition

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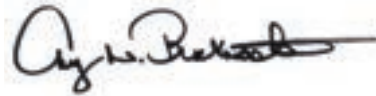
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER SAN MATEO COUNTY PRESIDENT & CEO



Dear Chamber San Mateo County Members and Supporters:

As we approach the 2024 general election, we are making a new resource available to assist our Chamber family in being more informed about the candidates seeking elective office at the various levels of our government. This election cycle, we are pleased to publish this Candidate Information Guide as a non-partisan tool to assist in evaluating the qualifications, attributes and ideas of candidates and how candidates are approaching the role of business and economic vitality for our communities and county.

We hope you find this Guide as a useful resource as you fulfil your civic duty and vote in this upcoming election. The participation of all of our citizens in choosing our elected leaders who will provide a vision and leadership for our future and model behaviors of which we can be proud is our key responsibility as voters. Thank you for doing your part!



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Candidate Information Guide is a non-partisan, public information resource, produced by Chamber San Mateo County, to provide Chamber members with information about candidates running for various public offices in San Mateo County.

- **Chamber San Mateo County DOES NOT endorse candidates for office** and inclusion in this guide is not an endorsement of any candidate. This guide is simply a tool to help Chamber San Mateo County members as they evaluate candidates.
- All candidates running for offices representing areas served by Chamber San Mateo County were invited to provide responses for this guide:
 - U.S. Representative (Districts 15 and 16)
 - CA State Senate (District 13)
 - CA Assembly (Districts 21 and 23)
 - San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (District 4)
 - City Councils (Redwood City, San Carlos, Menlo Park and Belmont)
- Candidate responses are printed as submitted. **The Chamber DID NOT edit candidate responses.**
- All candidates who have filed for the offices above were invited to provide responses for this Guide. If no information is included in this guide about a particular candidate for the offices listed above, that indicates that the candidate chose not to participate and did not submit any information for this Guide.



Candidate: Anna Cheng Kramer

Office: U.S. House of Reps. - District 15

Website: ackramerforcongress.org

Email: info@ackramerforcongress.org

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I am Anna Cheng Kramer, a dedicated Housing Policy Executive and Businesswoman with deep roots in the Bay Area Peninsula since 1976. As an immigrant from Taiwan, I became a U.S. citizen out of love for America's freedoms and opportunities. My career began in the commercial real estate sector, where I eventually specialized in housing. I hold an MBA from the University of Santa Clara and have successfully managed housing units across the West Coast and nationwide. I have also served as Chief Operating Officer of a nonprofit, Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition, gaining extensive experience in safe, affordable housing finance, construction, and occupancy. My public service includes chairing North Fair Oaks and serving on the Economic Development Advisory Commission in San Carlos. I am running for U.S. Congress to address housing, public safety, and economic issues with local solutions, emphasizing bipartisan cooperation and effective government spending to reflect the will of the people.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

My economic development vision for San Mateo County focuses on fostering a thriving, resilient economy driven by innovation and sustainability. I will prioritize infrastructure improvement, supporting small businesses, and building safe, affordable housing as pillars of economic growth. To ensure policies reflect the needs of the community, I will actively engage with Chamber members and other stakeholders through regular consultations, town halls, and advisory committees. By listening to the voices of local business leaders and residents, we can create a collaborative environment where businesses flourish and contribute to the overall prosperity of our area.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As an elected official, I will prioritize open communication, respect, and collaboration with my colleagues to foster strong relationships. I believe in the power of consensus-building, where diverse perspectives are valued, and common ground is sought. By focusing on shared goals and maintaining a commitment to transparency, I will work diligently to bridge differences and develop policies that benefit our entire community. My approach will be rooted in active listening and a willingness to compromise, ensuring that we create solutions that are both effective and widely supported.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

My top two policy priorities are public safety and the economy. For public safety, I will work to enhance local law enforcement capabilities while fostering community-based initiatives that build trust and collaboration between residents and police. We must provide sufficient training and resources for law enforcement to do their job. To ensure a thriving economy, I will encourage the elimination of bureaucratic regulations and elimination or reduction of fees that stymie business growth to stimulate the economy. The impact of these policies will be a more secure, inclusive, and vibrant community where everyone can thrive.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

To address regulatory challenges facing local businesses, I will advocate for streamlining processes to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles. I plan to sponsor policies that simplify permitting, reduce redundant regulations, and promote transparency in regulatory requirements. By creating a more business-friendly environment, we can encourage entrepreneurship, attract investment, and support the growth of small businesses, which are the backbone of our local economy. My approach will involve close collaboration with business owners, local government, and industry experts to identify specific areas where reforms are needed most.



Candidate: Kevin Mullin

Office: U.S. House of Reps. - District 15

Website: kevinmullinforcongress.com

Email: Not provided

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I was honored to be first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2022 after representing San Mateo County in the State Assembly for 10 years and previously as a Mayor/Councilmember and small business owner in South San Francisco. As the #2 officer in the Assembly, I was part of the leadership team and presided regularly over floor sessions. In this role, I made rulings on parliamentary inquiries and helped ensure bi-partisan cooperation and civility during Assembly business. In the California Assembly, I authored more than 60 bills that were signed into law including landmark legislation pioneering all vote-by-mail elections and combating dark money in state campaigns. Expanding access to the ballot box and strengthening our democracy was one of the top priorities in the Assembly. I championed for climate resiliency as one of the architects of the \$3.7 billion climate resilience package that helped ensure funding was allocated for Caltrain electrification, and worked to ensure the creation of San Mateo County's OneShoreline, the agency that will help fight sea level rise and work to protect local, state, and federal assets and infrastructure.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

I believe strongly that we need to have an economy that works for all. California has historically given more money to the federal government than we receive back in federal support. The San Francisco Bay Area is an economic engine for our nation. I will continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to create bipartisan solutions that support economic growth, job creation, and business advancement. It is important to work with local government officials, industry leaders, and the Chamber of Commerce to promote partnerships and collaboration. Seniors, working families, and low-income communities in California's 15th Congressional District should not have to struggle to afford basic needs. I am focused on reducing the cost of living for hard-working Californians. I support a progressive, equitable tax code that keeps costs down for working families while ensuring that large corporations and the wealthiest 1% pay their fair share.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

While in the State Assembly, I built relationships across the aisle. In Congress, there are ways to work together. Despite rising polarization in Congress, legislative effectiveness is heightened when members build bipartisan coalitions around the bills they sponsor. Reciprocal relationships are key to increasing bipartisan support and legislative effectiveness. Members of Congress should be willing to support well-thought-out proposals across party lines and in turn receive bipartisan support for their best policy solutions.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

In Congress, I have continued to defend our democracy from those who ignore the will of the people and the rule of law. I am a leader on the Task Force on Strengthening Democracy and have pushed for the passage of H.R.11: the Freedom to Vote Act. I pledge to work in a bipartisan way to rebuild public trust in Congress and ensure we have a democracy that delivers on our biggest challenges. I serve on the House Natural Resources Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I will ensure the country follows California's lead to fight climate change and electrify public transit as CalTrain plans to do in its modernization plan. I have introduced the Weatherization Resilience and Adaptation Program (WRAP) Act to assist low-income homeowners and affordable housing providers in making their properties more resilient to climate change. I have supported legislation tackling gun violence and protecting reproductive freedoms and brought in over \$14 million in federal funding for community projects to improve flood controls, bikeways, roads, and trails and am advocating for an additional \$13 million. Additionally, I authored the Poverty Line Act to modernize the federal poverty formula to include housing, child care, and health care costs so that we may build an economy that works for all.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

As the founder and previous owner of a small business, I know the challenges facing entrepreneurs. Small businesses are the backbone of our country. Small businesses make up 99% of all businesses yet receive about one-quarter of federal government contracts. Despite government goals of awarding contracts to small businesses, the \$500 billion federal marketplace remains largely closed. I believe that Congress must come together and work to provide critical financial support to small businesses by opening the federal contracting system and increasing access to capital to help increase new opportunities, cultivate existing businesses, and enhance our economy. I want to level the playing field, making sure everyone has a fair shot at being awarded a federal contract.



Candidate: Sam Liccardo

Office: U.S. House of Reps. - District 16

Website: www.SamLiccardo.com

Email: sam@samliccardo.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I have served as Mayor of San José (2015–2023) and on the San José City Council (2007–2015). As Mayor, I took a pragmatic approach to tackling tough issues. We found innovative solutions for affordable housing and homelessness, rebuilt our police department, reduced City debt by \$3 billion, protected hillsides and open space, decarbonized our grid, and engaged proactively with the tech community. In my final year, I left my successor with a \$30 million surplus, reduced street homelessness by 11%, and recorded the lowest homicide rate among major U.S. cities. I collaborated with Supervisor David Pine on Measure RR to expand and electrify Caltrain service, and with other regional officials on Measure AA to restore our wetlands. I have served as a board member of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. I am endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Realtors, and four San Mateo County supervisors, including Jackie Speier. Prior to elected office, I served as a prosecutor in the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and the Southern District of California. I am a graduate of Harvard Law School, Harvard's School of Government, and Georgetown University.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

In Congress, I will work to reduce the costs of living and doing business, which needlessly stifle our innovative region. At SamLiccardo.com/plan, I advocate restoring R&D expenditures for small companies and increasing high-skilled immigration for our employers who need more talent. Through creatively expanding our housing supply, we can allow our companies to hire and retain a strong workforce. I also propose a federally-backed financing program for energy-efficient utilities and risk-reducing retrofits, which will empower small businesses to reduce their burdensome utility bills and insurance premiums. I have learned much from community members and relevant stakeholders on the campaign trail by starting every conversation with a question—the same way I intend to govern.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

I will bring a results-oriented approach to Congress, reaching across the aisle to tackle our region's pressing challenges like homelessness, crime, and the cost of living. I will join the Congressional Problem Solvers Caucus, which requires each new member to recruit a member of the opposing party upon joining. I look forward to working with the Caucus to exchange ideas, find common ground, and advance common-sense solutions to critical national issues. From my first day as Mayor, I worked to build consensus amid pension reform battles that had left San José City Hall with 1,000 fewer employees. I spent the next year negotiating a reform measure with 11 city unions, ultimately saving taxpayers \$3 billion over 25 years, while restoring services and City staff.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

Reducing the punishing cost of living. At SamLiccardo.com/plan, I propose creating a financing program for energy-efficient utilities and retrofits to reduce utility bills and insurance premiums; eliminating agricultural subsidies and tariffs to cut grocery costs; and promoting transparency and competition in prescription drug pricing, among other ideas. These policies will enable our residents to live comfortably and our businesses to attract workers, helping our regional economy thrive. Addressing our affordable housing and homelessness crises. At SamLiccardo.com/plan, I propose providing tax credits to convert underutilized commercial buildings into multifamily housing, creating a federal financing program for backyard homes, supporting the quick-build housing industry, and investing in homelessness prevention. These policies will support our rent-burdened residents while helping the unhoused enter dignified shelter.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

In my policy agenda at SamLiccardo.com/plan, I acknowledge that California is overburdened with regulatory constraints that hamper our local businesses. I advocate using federal tax credits and funding as a lever to cut through red tape. For example, I propose a tax credit to help finance the costly conversion of vacant commercial buildings to housing. Congress could condition these dollars on the city and state's commitment to streamline approvals, allow by-right zoning changes in downtowns, waive or reduce local fees, and exempt the projects from onerous environmental review. In doing so, we will improve the climate, create jobs, reduce crime, and revitalize our downtown areas, while building housing quickly and at a lower cost.



Candidate: Evan Low

Office: U.S. House of Reps. - District 16

Website: www.evanlowforcongress.com

Email: evan@evanlowforcongress.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

Elected as the youngest Asian American and LGBT mayor in the country, Evan Low entered public service to champion the middle class. During his ten years as an Assemblymember, he was named California's most effective lawmaker, delivering more signed bills than any other member. He helped secure over \$40 billion to build more affordable housing, increase funding for public schools, provide free community college, and support families struggling with the cost of living. When reproductive rights were under assault, he co-authored legislation to enshrine reproductive freedom in the California Constitution. Evan's commitment to safety is personal. As the proud brother of a police officer serving this district, he led the charge to increase law enforcement funding and keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people with mental illness. He was named "Legislator of the Year" by the California Police Chiefs Association. Evan will hold oil companies accountable and fight against pharmaceutical companies' price gouging. He is committed to making our region more affordable for middle and working-class families. Evan is the only candidate in this race endorsed by the California Democratic Party, labor unions, firefighters, police, nurses, and teachers, and he holds a 100% score from Planned Parenthood.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

I believe the federal government needs to do more to help uplift low-income communities in the district while offering more resources and support for businesses of all levels to thrive. As my father was President of the Campbell Chamber of Commerce and deeply involved in the community, I grew up seeing the critical role Chambers of Commerce have in fostering vitality in our community. If elected, I will continue working with chamber members and community leaders to build consensus on creating targeted policies.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

In my work on Campbell City Council and the State Assembly, I have a proven track record of reaching across the aisle to pass bipartisan legislation. The key to success in working in Congress and supporting our local business community is through coalition building. As co-founder of the California Technology & Innovation Legislative Caucus, I have built productive working relationships with fellow legislative colleagues, business owners, and workers to understand the unique challenges we face in our area. Transportation, housing, and our economic environment depend on regional collaboration and fostering dialogue to identify effective and balanced policy solutions.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

My top priorities in Congress would be tackling the high costs of living and public safety, which significantly impact businesses' ability to hire and retain experienced staff and foster a safe environment for businesses and customers, respectively. Especially in our district, the high costs of living has exacerbated by COVID, and I have heard from many small businesses about how they still have not been able to fully recover. The federal government must continue investing in small businesses, by eliminating regulatory red tape that is costly while providing more tax deductions for startup costs. If elected to Congress, I will work on the federal level to support law enforcement while also delivering common sense criminal justice reform to minimize violent crime.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

Serial ADA lawsuits have affected our region and has forced many small businesses to shut down because they cannot afford the legal costs of a lawsuit. I want to work with small business owners, disability advocates, and state and federal partners to help streamline business regulation that offers more time and financial support for businesses who are working in good faith to have their business become ADA compliant. According to California, businesses in non-English speaking neighborhoods or non-franchise businesses are disproportionately targeted, which is a stark illustration of how Congress needs to help provide more education and resources to help uplift all types of businesses.



Candidate: Diane Papan

Office: CA Assembly - District 21

Website: www.dianepapan.com

Email: Not Provided

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I was first elected to the California State Assembly in November 2022 to represent the 21st Assembly District, which includes the entire Bayside of San Mateo County. In the Assembly, I serve as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife and on the Committees on Transportation and Governmental Organization & Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Previously, I served as mayor and city councilmember for the City of San Mateo where I championed investment in infrastructure, transit and climate adaptation among many policy pursuits. In the State Assembly, I am focused on investing in strategies to address climate change and the related challenges of flooding, drought, and wildfires, as well as water quality, women's health, accessible and quality healthcare services, gun safety, affordable housing, and access to quality public schools. I hold a B.A. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles and a J.D. from the University of California Law (formerly Hastings). Professionally, my experience includes working as an attorney in several different firms, including my own private practice representing small businesses. I also work as an executive director of the nonprofit John's Closet in Daly City, providing new clothing to children in need.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

San Mateo County is fortunate to have a dynamic business environment with small businesses and global brands alike. Throughout my time in office, I have regularly worked with our business community directly or in concert with local and regional organizations. While in the State Assembly, I have had the opportunity to engage on many fronts both in Sacramento and locally. This includes events, tours, supporting state or federal grants, resolving issues with state bureaucracies and carrying legislation to provide greater opportunity to conduct business in California. Our state and local businesses provide jobs, support public services and are critical to our region's economic success. I will continue to engage and work to support the needs of California and San Mateo County businesses.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As part of an 80-member body, I continue to engage and build both personal and professional relationships with my colleagues and all stakeholders. Knowing and understanding the needs and philosophies of all stakeholders is incredibly important to advance public policy. I was fortunate in my first term to be appointed Assistant Majority Leader which allowed me to engage regularly with my colleagues as part of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas' leadership team. Subsequently, I was appointed as chair of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife where I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of colleagues and stakeholders on a broad spectrum of issues including helping to shape the \$10 billion climate resiliency bond on the November General Election Ballot now known as Proposition 4. Collegiality, listening carefully and an openness to compromise have served me well in my first term and I look forward to the opportunity to another term to advance legislation that meets the needs of my constituents and those of all California residents.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

Building on my work as a local elected official in San Mateo County, I knew that climate resilience will continue to be a significant focus. San Mateo County is the most at-risk county in California to the threat of sea level rise with two coasts, hundreds of thousands of residents and billions of dollars in assets exposed. That is why I co-authored legislation to place Proposition 4 on the state ballot and embed within it opportunities for our county and cities to compete for dollars to support projects that will protect our communities from a variety of climate related threats including flooding fire and drought. In addition to climate resiliency, I will continue to work to improve the lives of women and families. This includes authoring legislation to remove dangerous chemicals from women's health products; increasing access to Paid Family Leave benefits; create new incentives to build affordable housing; and addressing increasing mental health issues among children and youth.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

Promoting a functional regulatory environment is a priority and I took the opportunity to do just that by authoring Assembly Bill (AB) 1359, recently signed by the Governor into law. Under prior law, drilling exploratory wells for geothermal projects was treated as a separate project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) designated as the lead agency. However, due to CalGEM's resource constraints, geothermal exploration projects faced multi-year delays. With the approval of AB 1359, project applicants can now request that counties in which projects are located act as the lead agencies for CEQA review. This change enables geothermal project developers to proceed efficiently, facilitating the exploration and development of geothermal resources essential for California's clean energy future.



Candidate: Marc Berman

Office: CA Assembly - District 23

Website: www.voteberman.com

Email: elise@voteberman.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

Assemblymember Marc Berman has served in the California State Assembly since 2016. A corporate lawyer by training, Berman served on the Palo Alto City Council from 2012 to 2016. Berman currently serves as the Chair of the Business & Professions Committee, one of the biggest and most influential committees in the Assembly, which oversees all entities that are regulated by the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Berman has one of the most prolific legislative track records of success in the legislature. This year the Governor signed all 17 bills Berman passed out of the legislature. Berman worked with business organizations, including the CA Chamber of Commerce and the CA Retailers Association, to pass first-in-the-nation laws to create a Retail Theft Restraining Order to crack down on retail theft across California, and to integrate AI literacy into our K-12 classrooms so the next generation of workers knows how to use AI both ethically and responsibly.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

My economic development vision for our area is not only to continue to nurture and support the thriving business community we have, but to create the broader ecosystem that our businesses need. One of the biggest concerns I hear from business owners is how hard it is to hire and retain talent. For decades we have been wildly successful at creating jobs, but have failed miserably at building the housing needed to provide a roof for all of the workers. That has led to a cost-of-living crisis in this region, and every level of government must do more to build more housing. Having an open-door policy and attending chamber events to develop relationships with business leaders across my district is a big priority of mine.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

I am proud that the vast majority of my bills, including many of my education and workforce development efforts, have received strong bipartisan support from colleagues who represent districts across California. I have developed strong personal relationships with many of my colleagues, including many Republicans, and seek out their input for my ideas. California is a huge, diverse state, with many different communities. It's important for me to understand how my legislative proposals impact every region of California, not just the Bay Area.

What are your top two policy priorities? What do you hope will be the impact of implementing these policies?

While I have passed legislation across many policy areas, two major priorities have been strengthening our democracy and ensuring that today's students get the skills they need to thrive in tomorrow's economy. On the education front, just a few of these efforts include expanding access to computer science education, media literacy, and AI literacy, as well as reducing barriers in higher education so students can get their degrees faster and get into the workforce. Regarding elections, I have written laws to create the Office of Elections Cybersecurity, create the Where's My Ballot tracking system, and make California a permanent vote-by-mail state, among many others.

How do you plan to address regulatory challenges facing local businesses? What specific policies would you sponsor to streamline business regulations?

This is a hard question to answer in 125 words, but at a high level I am always interested in learning about what barriers our local businesses are facing, and how I can help them thrive and succeed in our communities. Both of my parents owned and operated businesses in the area while I was growing up, one as an art gallery owner turned residential realtor and the other of a manufacturing plant, and I saw firsthand how outdated regulations could stifle productivity and expansion. As we enter the fall and begin considering legislation for next year, I am always open to suggestions from the business community about how we can remove unnecessary barriers at the state level that stifle their success.



Candidate: Lisa Gauthier

Office: Board of Supervisors - District 4

Website: www.LisaGauthier.com

Email: info@lisagauthier.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

My name is Lisa Gauthier. I have over 11 years of experience in city government, including as Mayor and vice Mayor, and I'm currently serving as a council member. I am also the Senior Vice President of Inclusion and Belonging at Silicon Valley Leadership Group. I pursued higher education in adulthood, earning a degree in Business Administration and Marketing Management, all while working full-time and fulfilling my mayoral duties. The urge to make a positive difference in my community and encouraging words from my daughter pushed me to run for the city council in 2012. I proudly belong to The Links Incorporated, Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Health Trust. I am also a founding member of One Shoreline and am an engaged board member of Live in Peace. I have staunchly advocated for affordable housing, ensuring everyone in East Palo Alto gets a fair chance. At the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, my primary objective is to pave the way for underserved communities, ensuring they have avenues for career growth, especially in leadership roles. If elected as Supervisor, my approach will be no different. I will advocate for and support policies that promote equal pay for equal work, ensure healthcare for everyone, and catalyze social equity.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

Despite a robust local economy, many of our residents struggle. Fortunately, our county is investing resources to provide opportunities to those struggling to have mobility. Last year, the Board of Supervisors appropriated funding to support free community college for local residents at our three campuses. This effort, led by our colleges, provides educational opportunities and aligns those opportunities with the needs of local employers. The County has also invested in trade programs with our local unions to help connect residents to training and apprenticeship programs. The County has also invested in our Renaissance Center, which provides material support for local residents' launches of businesses. These are the kinds of investments we must continue to make and expand.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As an elected official, I have and will continue to focus on building solid and respectful relationships with my colleagues by seeking common ground on shared priorities. My approach will be collaborative, emphasizing open communication to understand different perspectives. I believe that trust and mutual respect are vital to achieving consensus, and I will work to foster those qualities in our interactions. By staying focused on the needs of our community and finding practical solutions that address our constituents' concerns, I will advocate for my ideas while being flexible and willing to compromise when necessary. My goal will always be to move our district forward to benefit everyone.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing San Mateo County, and how do you propose to address them?

In my opinion, the two most important challenges facing San Mateo County are access to affordable housing options for both low-income and middle-income families and public safety. To increase affordable housing, we must leverage modular building techniques to reduce construction costs, utilize public land for affordable housing developments, and revise zoning laws to allow for higher density in areas close to transit and amenities. Secondly, I will advocate for preventing violent crime and holding violent criminals responsible, stringent gun control measures – from comprehensive background checks and mental health evaluations to gun buyback programs and mandatory waiting periods and ensuring our police, sheriffs, firefighters, and first responders are well-funded and prepared to protect our community.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in San Mateo County, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

To recruit and retain businesses in San Mateo County, I propose targeted incentives like tax breaks for small businesses, streamlined permitting, and partnerships with local chambers of commerce to attract high-growth sectors such as tech, biotech, and green energy. For workforce support, I'd expand job training programs in collaboration with community colleges and industry leaders, focusing on emerging industries and local needs. Additionally, we should prioritize affordable housing initiatives and improve public transportation to ensure workers can live and commute within the county. Despite budgetary challenges, strategic public-private partnerships and federal grants can help finance these initiatives while fostering a strong local economy.



Candidate: Davina Hurt

Office: Belmont City Council

Website: davinaforbelmont.com

Email: davinaforbelmont@gmail.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

My scientific and humanities background, focused on human rights protection, informs my governance philosophy and my ability to engage diverse perspectives. With over 15 years of experience in law, public service, and environmental advocacy, I have proudly served as Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Planning Commissioner of Belmont, leading initiatives that enhance land use and environmental policies to improve the quality of life for all residents. As the SVCW Commissioner, I promote sustainable practices and foster community engagement in regional governance. Currently, I serve on CARB overseeing a \$2.7 billion budget and guiding climate action and clean transportation regulations. My leadership with AB617 implementation has been vital in advancing health-focused policies in our communities. I also had the honor of serving as President of Samaritan House, championing programs for vulnerable populations, and now advocate for access to justice as a board member of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. As a corporate attorney, I am passionate about uniting diverse stakeholders around common goals. Since elected to the Belmont Council in 2015, I have focused on housing, economic recovery, and sustainable community development with open dialogue, transparency, and collaborative action to create a vibrant, inclusive future for Belmont.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

My economic development vision for our area centers on sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. I aim to foster a vibrant village economy by promoting green technologies, supporting existing businesses and embracing local startups across key emerging sectors. Engaging with stakeholders will be crucial to this vision by individual stakeholder meetings, while also attending luncheons and hosting forums and workshops to gather input and better understand community needs and priorities. Collaboration will be key; I'll continue creating partnerships between the public and private sectors to drive job creation and enhance community well-being. By prioritizing social equity, I want to ensure that economic growth benefits all residents. Together, we can develop a roadmap that balances progress with environmental stewardship, positioning Belmont for long-term success in a sustainable future.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

Success hinges on collaboration and the ability to build support for initiatives. I prioritize fostering relationships by actively listening to my peers, understanding their priorities, and finding common ground among our visions. By reaching out to various council members on different topics, I ensure that all voices are heard. Flexibility is crucial; while our goals may not always align perfectly, a willingness to compromise can lead to mutually beneficial solutions. As chair of the Bay Area Air District, representing nine counties, I've learned the value of inclusivity and empathy. I emphasize establishing thoughtful connections and engaging in regular discussions, as trust is the foundation of effective teamwork. Together, we can align our goals with community needs, fostering a sense of shared ownership.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Belmont, and how do you propose to address them?

Belmont faces two significant challenges: economic diversification and aging infrastructure—much like the age-old question of “What comes first, the chicken or the egg?” We need to modernize our infrastructure for safety and quality of life, yet funding is tight. Securing resources while reducing reliance on property taxes is essential. Attracting a diverse mix of businesses will create jobs and stimulate smart growth. Investments in roads, sewer systems, digital connectivity, and safe multimodal transportation are vital to enhancing our appeal to new businesses and improving residents' quality of life. I encourage community engagement through town hall meetings and surveys to determine infrastructure priorities. Together, we can build a vibrant, resilient city that meets today's needs while laying a strong foundation for future generations.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Belmont, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

As we strive for a vibrant town center, Belmont has a unique opportunity to attract/retain businesses by promoting our high quality of life, tight-knit community, safe neighborhoods, and excellent schools. Embracing the Grand Boulevard Initiative and California Communities Sustainability Plan, we can strengthen our collaboration with the Chamber, local businesses, and unions to develop tailored resources and incentives for businesses. The HIA/east of the 101 are locations well-suited for business development. Streamlining permitting processes, reducing regulatory burdens, and creating incubator spaces will attract emerging industries and innovative companies. Sustainability and green practices will foster new partnerships. My initiative to create a placemaking committee has led to meaningful investments in public spaces and community engagement, further positioning Belmont as a competitive and attractive location.



Candidate: Cathy M. Jordan

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I've lived in Belmont since 1997 and my children attended the local public schools. During that time, I've represented the community on the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District Board of Trustees and the Belmont City Council. I currently serve as Vice-President on the Mid-Peninsula Water District Board of Directors. Additionally, I have volunteered at our schools, in our community and as a youth basketball coach. My involvement in the community, and serving on all three elected bodies in Belmont uniquely qualifies me to serve our community once again. I have a degree in Speech and Communication Studies. My career in the private sector has primarily been working for software companies. I am a focused, results-driven Customer Advocacy Program Director with 20 years of B2B software experience in leadership and a range of roles with an emphasis on project management, targeted plans, productive operations, and superior service. My management style is to lead by example, build consensus through listening and collaborating to successfully achieve common objectives. I want to leverage both my private sector and public sector experiences - all that I have learned in elected office - to help address many of the issues facing Belmont and the region.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

Cities need a growing and diverse tax base in order to continue to provide high quality services. It is important to engage the community, solicit ideas and feedback, as well as maintain open lines of communication. As a council member, I will continue supporting the goals of the downtown specific plan, providing incentives and opportunities to develop the downtown with new residential and mixed use development. The same is true for our transit corridor area so that we support greater density to include more affordable housing and mixed use development to both meet our housing goals and to provide a natural customer base for business activity within the corridor. The Harbor Industrial Area is another opportunity for redevelopment of an underutilized part of the community.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

Having served on three elected bodies that serve Belmont, I have a wealth of experience in building consensus and successfully collaborating. It's vital to approach each situation with an open mind and respect the input of our constituents, staff and colleagues. My experience has taught me to operate as a team, which means collaborating, exhibiting empathy for the desires of constituents, listening to everyone's opinion, hearing every voice, and taking all of the information given to come to a solution. This collective approach ensures that we will reach the best possible decisions given a range of opinions and needs.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Belmont, and how do you propose to address them?

Economic development is vital to our community. Stanford's potential presence is exciting, adding the possibility for more jobs and revenue for the city. Stanford's developments will also affect the updates to the Barrett Community Center, which is in the early planning stages of a full revamp. In partnership with Stanford, we must work together to gain maximum benefits for our community and the Stanford students who will become part of our community. There are many potential benefits including use of the facilities, additional walking trails and spaces for families to enjoy. Traffic and infrastructure are issues that we must continually address. I want to continue to improve our roads with Measure I dollars while looking for creative solutions to smooth traffic flow.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Belmont, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

The City plays a multifaceted role in supporting economic vitality by both zoning and approving development and by attracting investment. Such investment is a catalyst for workforce development that the City can help incentivize through workforce agreements and by supporting the creation of new businesses that will hire new employees. The City itself is an employer and has a number of contracts through which it can influence the quality and development of employment opportunities. We must also continue to support workforce development. This means ensuring that the City itself as well as City initiatives includes requirements to the greatest degree possible the investment in its workers. This includes apprenticeships, recruitment from underrepresented communities and working with contractors that operate under similar policies.



Candidate: Tom McCune

Office: Belmont City Council

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I am an architect by background. Part of my experience has been in traditional building design and construction roles. Other areas have included marketing, financial management, permitting, and federal government service as a federal procurement official. I have created and managed 4 companies as either CEO or CFO: 1 online retail and 3 professional services consulting and design firms. I have served on the Belmont city council since 2019. Before that I served on the Belmont planning commission and the Belmont finance commission. During my time in Belmont city government, we have modernized the city's general plan, greatly improved the city's financial reserves, and dramatically improved street pavement quality (the most frequent complaint expressed by residents). I am licensed as an architect in California and 5 other states. I hold the following degrees: MBA, BS. Engineering, B. Architecture.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

We need to strengthen existing businesses while encouraging new, small businesses that can grow into global leaders. About every 25 years throughout recent history, the bay area has been home to a fundamentally new industry that has driven a whole new economic cycle. These new industries have usually started from technical innovations that quickly developed into global enterprises. In addition to being successful in their own right, these new companies have facilitated the created of numerous subcontractors and service providers, such as two of the companies I founded. We are ready for a new industry to lead a new business cycle. I will work vigorously with chamber leaders to facilitate this next business cycle while support existing businesses.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

This is something I have worked toward throughout my 12 years in Belmont city government. In "the bad old days" Belmont city council sometimes had a culture of dissention and argument for no discernible reason. Some members seemed to just want to argue for no reason. This was counterproductive and gave the city a bad reputation among individuals and companies that did business with the city. In more recent years, we have developed a culture of sticking to the issues and avoiding any personal recriminations. I will do everything possible to continue this culture of collaboration.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Belmont, and how do you propose to address them?

The two most important are: approval of new biotech facilities and continued development of affordable housing. We have had 8 different biotech facilities proposed for different sites in Belmont. I have worked with city staff to expedite approval of these facilities wherever possible. These facilities will create numerous jobs and, hopefully, lead to new biotech innovations that will solve medical problems and initiate a new economic cycle. To staff the new companies located in these new facilities, we need affordable housing in reasonable proximity to the jobs. Belmont has made excellent progress on affordable housing, but we still have good sites available close to some of the proposed biotech facilities. I will continue working to develop those affordable housing sites.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Belmont, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

The continued development of affordable housing will help support the workforce. We have had excellent results developing affordable housing. More projects are under construction and still others are in the permitting pipeline. City budget challenges are not impacting affordable housing at this time. Our proposed revision of the business license tax (which is on the ballot this year) will encourage the development of new, small business by reducing the BLT on those small and start-up businesses. Larger and mid-sized businesses (such as my own) my pay a somewhat larger BLT, but the difference is not substantial. The larger BLT we will pay is still smaller than we would pay in some other cities.



Candidate: Jennifer Wise

Office: Menlo Park City Council

Website: JenniferMenloPark.com

Email: JenniferMenloPark@gmail.com

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I am the best candidate for Menlo Park District 5 because I have deep local roots and commitment to this community. As a lifelong Peninsula resident, I appreciate what has always made the Peninsula an attractive place to live and want to maintain that. Additionally, I hope to live in Menlo Park for the rest of my life and am therefore personally invested in making sure our community and schools are the best they can be. I have worked at both the federal and county levels of government, and as an estate planning attorney, I listen to what local families care about most every day.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

Menlo Park is centrally located on the Peninsula and has huge opportunity to be a very attractive destination for residents throughout the Bay Area. I would like to work with small businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and local stakeholders to revitalize our downtown and make it a more exciting option for families on the Peninsula.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As neighbors, I believe we all want Menlo Park to thrive and be a wonderful place to live. I believe we have much more in common than not. I look forward to working with all members of the City Council, City Staff, and members of the public so everyone's voice is heard and considered.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Menlo Park, and how do you propose to address them?

(1) Implementing the Menlo Park housing element, especially considering how this impacts not only housing but transportation, workforce, the economy (i.e., downtown), and climate. (2) Balancing Menlo Park's budget, especially given that it'll be important to have priorities while also maintaining services that make our community amazing (such as library services and other community amenities).

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Menlo Park, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

Implementing our housing element would go a long way in being able to attract and retain a workforce to Menlo Park. Additionally, implementing transportation incentives for public transit has proven effective in local communities and would be a great thing to consider in Menlo Park as well.



Candidate: Jeff Gee

Office: Redwood City Council

Website: Not Provided

Email: Not Provided

Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

The need for experience is critical these days. As a three-term councilmember, two-term mayor, and proven business leader, I bring fiscal responsibility and practical solutions to meet the needs of District 1 (Redwood Shores) and Redwood City. I have served Redwood Shores on the City of Redwood City's Architectural Review Committee and Planning Commission. I was president of Redwood Shores Community Association, and I am currently president of my homeowner's association. Redwood Shores has unique issues as Redwood City - public safety, encampments, sea level rise, and aging infrastructure. As a Director on the Joint Powers Board, electrified Caltrain is happening. As the Vice Chair of SamTrans, we have restored bus ridership to pre-pandemic levels. And as a champion for the replacement of the 101/84 interchange, full funding is close and once completed the interchange will reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and provide bike and pedestrian access to the Port and Bayfront. My experience working across the region allows me to work on behalf of Redwood City, especially on issues such as fiscal responsibility, climate change, flooding, and transportation. With your support, I will continue working hard to make Redwood City a great place to live, work and raise a family.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

In 2008, I was the Vice Chair of Economic Development for the Chamber and presented to the City Council on the economic development needs of Redwood City - which still ring true today - 16 years later. One of the greatest strengths of Redwood City is our diversity of businesses! This diversity has served Redwood City well. To preserve and promote continued diversity in our businesses, we must be present and listen. When businesses reach out, we need to respond as elected officials, listen and understand the challenges that they are facing. While the City does not control or influence the Federal Reserve, there are things that the City can control and influence to keep businesses, promote new businesses and enhance the economic vitality of Redwood City.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

The most essential element on Council is the ability to count to four. It takes a minimum of four votes to enact any new policies or approve any new initiatives. While each councilmember may be passionate about an issue or an advocate about a subject, if there are not at least four votes, then nothing will move forward. As councilmembers, like mindedness is not a policy platform. It is important to listen, listen to understand, do your homework, ask questions, then make the best possible decision for Redwood City. This takes respect for each other, civility, and professionalism. While we may disagree with one another, we should not be disagreeable in doing so.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Redwood City, and how do you propose to address them?

The City needs to amplify its economic development activities with the initial focus on keeping existing businesses, and then fostering a culture and attitude of attracting new businesses. Businesses have choices these days - especially those that still allow a hybrid work environment for most of the work week. Staff needs to stay in close contact with businesses to understand what they are thinking and what the City can do to keep them here. The second issue that is not being given enough attention is the aging infrastructure especially buildings, streets, and other non-utility infrastructure. These facilities are continuing to age, replacement and repair costs keep increasing with no dedicated funding source. This is a major issue that is not receiving enough attention. Every year that passes, deferred maintenance, repair and replacement costs continue to increase.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Redwood City, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

Showing up regularly, listening, being proactive, and doing what the City can do to support and attract. The priorities should be about streamlining the permitting process, providing a high degree of certainty in the planning process (time and money), and prioritizing economic development amongst the council's strategic priorities. From the heavy industrial base at the Port, the auto dealers along 101 and El Camino Real, to the technology centers at Seaport Center and Redwood Shores, the service sector in downtown and the restaurants and the emerging life sciences sector - all are important and will serve the future of Redwood City well. Emailing the City Council or the Mayor asking for an update on the status of their permit should be an exception - not the norm.



Candidate: Elmer Martínez Saballos

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I'm Elmer Martinez Saballos, and I'm proud to represent District 4, which includes the Palm Park, Stambaugh, and Central neighborhoods. Redwood City is my hometown—I was born here, graduated from our schools, and I'm committed to making a positive difference in our community. I know firsthand the challenges our neighbors and families face to live and work in Redwood City; and resolving these challenges ignited my career in public service. After becoming the first in my family to graduate from college, I worked with Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, helping residents navigate state resources like unemployment and rental assistance. That experience deepened my passion for public service and showed me where government can work better for people, especially our most vulnerable. In 2022, I was unanimously appointed to the City Council after serving on the Planning Commission. Since then, my work at City Hall is focused on addressing the obstacles impacting all residents, protecting our most vulnerable neighbors, and improving the quality of life in every neighborhood. My proudest accomplishments include raising the local minimum wage, investing in long-standing neighborhood and road safety improvements, maintaining public safety services, and creating more affordable housing and childcare opportunities for families.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

My vision centers on creating sustainable growth that benefits all members of our community. This means fostering an environment where small businesses can thrive, attracting innovative industries that provide good-paying jobs, and ensuring that our workforce is prepared for the evolving demands of the market. To maintain a competitive city, I'll promote affordable housing options, improve transportation infrastructure, and enhance community safety to support both local businesses and employees, and advocate for inclusive economic opportunities. I'll actively engage with stakeholders such as Chamber of Commerce members, local business owners, and residents. By leveraging these partnerships and building new ones, I'll ensure that our economic policies are shaped by those who are most impacted, and champion foster a resilient, inclusive, and vibrant local economy.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

I'm honored to have been unanimously appointed—my colleagues recognized that I look to build bridges, keep a cool head and work through big emotions to get to the issue behind them that needs to be solved. The issues that we talk about are important, and we can have strong feelings about the right way to move us forward. But we can disagree without being disagreeable. We have to put previous disagreements aside, come back to the table, and find the solutions our shared community is facing—they depend on our ability to collaborate and find compromise. I'll maintain my style of leadership, and will also work with my new colleagues so Redwood City maintains its reputation as a great place to work and do business.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Redwood City, and how do you propose to address them?

Two of Redwood City's most pressing challenges are the high cost of living and our multi-year budget deficit. The rising cost of housing puts immense pressure on residents, forcing many to leave or struggle to make ends meet. I'll continue to prioritize increasing affordable housing, and supporting policies that reduce barriers for working families and our essential workers. The city's budget deficit further complicates our ability to deliver the essential services that attract so many people and businesses to Redwood City. We need a balanced approach that includes optimizing city operations to reduce costs, and exploring new revenue streams, such as attracting sustainable businesses and fostering public-private partnerships. By doing so, we can create a more affordable and financially stable future for all residents.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Redwood City, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

To recruit and retain businesses, and remain competitive, we need to continue streamlining the permitting process and explore targeted incentives for critical businesses. Supporting businesses with resources such as grant programs and fee incentives can help weather economic uncertainty. Additionally, fostering collaboration between the city, the chamber, and business leaders will help us address the shared and changing issues we face. To support our workforce, I'll advocate for workforce development programs that align with industry needs, focusing on skills training, career pathways, and partnerships with educational institutions, like Cañada College. Despite budget challenges, we can allocate resources efficiently by seeking public-private partnerships and creating solutions for our shared problems. By investing in both businesses and our workforce, we can build a resilient, thriving local economy.



Candidate: Marcella Padilla
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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

Marcella Padilla is a dedicated community leader with deep roots in Redwood City. She holds a B.A. in Politics from the University of San Francisco, with minors in Criminal Justice and Latin American Studies, and has received recognition for her extensive volunteer work, including the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award. Marcella's career spans labor organizing to private sector roles managing budgets and working in eCommerce and aviation. For the past 12 years, she has served as a Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commissioner, remaining deeply engaged in Redwood City's local schools and community. As a mother and woman of color from a family of educators, her background informs her commitment to addressing issues such as education, economic development, public safety, and climate action. Marcella's top priorities include creating opportunities for small businesses, enhancing public transportation, expanding childcare, and supporting equitable growth. She has worked with local stakeholders to advocate for policies that benefit children and families. Her vision is to bring practical, inclusive solutions to the City Council that improve the quality of life for all residents.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

My vision for economic development centers on creating a vibrant, thriving community where businesses of all sizes can succeed. I will champion policies that attract new industries, support local entrepreneurs, and promote inclusive growth for businesses. By collaborating closely with the San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders, I will facilitate open dialogue, host regular roundtables, and seek input to understand the unique needs of our business community. Together, we will prioritize workforce development, equitable access to resources, and strategies to revitalize commercial areas, ensuring that our economy remains resilient and sustainable for all.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As a City Councilmember, I will prioritize building strong, respectful relationships with my colleagues by actively listening, being open to diverse perspectives, and seeking common ground. I believe collaboration is key to effective governance, so I will approach each issue with an open mind and a commitment to finding solutions that work for everyone. I'll work to foster a culture of trust and transparency by engaging in honest dialogue, supporting data-driven decisions, and encouraging mutual respect. By focusing on shared goals and the needs of our community, I will build consensus and ensure that my ideas contribute to the collective vision of a stronger, more united Redwood City.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Redwood City, and how do you propose to address them?

The two most important challenges facing Redwood City are economic development and infrastructure improvement. For economic development, I will focus on creating a thriving environment for businesses by supporting local entrepreneurs, attracting new industries, and ensuring equitable access to resources for women and BIPOC-owned businesses. Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, we will prioritize job creation, workforce development, and revitalizing commercial areas to foster long-term growth. Regarding infrastructure, I will advocate for strategic investments to modernize our aging systems, including transportation, water, and public facilities. This will involve expanding public transit options, enhancing road safety, and improving parks and recreational spaces. By investing in resilient infrastructure, we can support our growing population and build a foundation for sustainable economic progress.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Redwood City, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

To recruit and retain businesses, I propose offering targeted incentives, such as streamlined permitting processes, tax credits for local hiring, and support for small businesses, including women and BIPOC-owned enterprises. Collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, we can create business-friendly policies while promoting workforce development through job training programs, partnerships with local schools, and apprenticeship opportunities. Given current budget challenges, I will focus on optimizing resources by pursuing public-private partnerships, leveraging state and federal grants, and prioritizing investments that have long-term economic benefits. By supporting entrepreneurship, enhancing workforce skills, and fostering a vibrant local economy, we can create sustainable growth while being fiscally responsible.



Candidate: Diana Reddy

Office: Redwood City Council

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I am a life-long resident of Redwood City. I attended local schools and raised my children in my family home where they, too, attended neighborhood schools. I served most of my 32 years for the Sequoia Union High School District supporting the Superintendent and Board of Trustees. While volunteering for what is now Faith in Action, I was trained as a Community Organizer. After retirement from the Sequoia District, I turned my Community Organizing skills to full time advocacy – mostly for housing. While city elections were still all city, I was elected to City Council in 2018. In 2022 I was appointed Vice Mayor. When the City turned to district elections, my house was located in a district that required me to stand down in 2022, and I am now seeking election in District 7 in 2024. I was a conscientious city councilmember, always accessible to constituents, business leaders, and staff. I was active and engaged, assisting in the distribution of 112,000 meals to seniors during the Pandemic. I rode buses with Redwood City school board members and helped with getting children to school safely as a volunteer crossing guard and through lobbying for a traffic light on Jefferson when several schools were closed and families were attending new schools for the first time. I am an active cheerleader and servant of my city. There are many complicated issues facing Redwood City, which I have the personality, commitment, and skills to address.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

If elected, I will not assume I have all the answers. As I depended on the business community to help us solve the issue of RVs on city streets, I will depend on business leaders to help me develop an economic development vision for our future.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

I can point to my service as a City Councilmember and Vice Mayor during 2018 to 2022 to demonstrate my aptitude and success in building consensus for my initiatives.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing Redwood City, and how do you propose to address them?

Though the Redwood City budget is in a much better shape than many cities in San Mateo County, there are several challenging years ahead of us. We also must address the retention and hiring of our greatest asset – our staff. In both cases, I do not assume I have all the answers. However, I will use my community organizing skills to find those answers.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in Redwood City Carlos, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

Similarly, I do not assume I have all the answers. I would like to incentivize empty store fronts to enable popup businesses to try out their business plans and work with businesses to optimize their space to provide a win-win for them and new businesses. Otherwise, I will work with the business community to research how I might best support our local workforce.



Candidate: John Dugan

Office: San Carlos City Council

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

I'm honored to serve as the Mayor of San Carlos since 2023, and a Councilmember since 2020. I grew up in Bettendorf, Iowa, a hard working small town with a warm and close-knit community very much like San Carlos. I played a lot of sports growing up, and my first job was as a summer field hand detasseling hybrid seed corn for \$4.11 an hour. After attending public schools, I earned a scholarship to West Point, where I studied political science and civil engineering. After West Point, I served in the U.S. Army leading Artillery units for four years rising to the rank of Captain. After the Army I earned a law degree at Stanford and have pursued a business career in Silicon Valley. I met my amazing wife Julia at Stanford, and we have made a home in San Carlos because we love the community, the schools, and all that Laurel Street offers. We have three great children, Jake, Jacqueline, and Joya, and also a great big basset hound named Juggernaut.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

I'm honored to serve as the Mayor of San Carlos since 2023, and a Council member since 2020. In that time, we overcame many challenges and made great progress on our initiatives and goals. We have: 1. Improved Safe Routes to Schools by updating and enhancing our sidewalks and crosswalks around our elementary and middle schools. 2. Enhanced public safety by building a new fire station on Alameda. 3. Strengthened our commitment to repairing and upgrading our infrastructure by allocating over \$45 million to our streets, sidewalks and bike lanes.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

Increased the amount of affordable housing in our community. 5. Protected our community character by mitigating new developments and negotiating over \$16 million in public benefits for our downtown, roads, and parks. 6. Expanded recreational opportunities and our many family friendly events and festivals. 7. Planned for the future by making our downtown pedestrian plaza permanent and launching a Downtown Specific Plan to make our fantastic downtown even better.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing San Carlos, and how do you propose to address them?

Experience matters, and the next four years are crucial to keep San Carlos the City of Good Living. I'm a father, small business owner, proud veteran, and experienced council member. I ask for your continued support.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in San Carlos, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

Please Vote John Dugan for San Carlos City Council - www.JohnDugan4SanCarlos.org/s/



Candidate: Neil Layton

Office: San Carlos City Council

Website: www.neillayton.com

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Please provide a brief biography/summary of qualifications.

Since 2008, I have worked as a Deputy District Attorney in both Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. I have worked closely with law enforcement agencies and community groups around public safety issues. My family and I moved to San Carlos in 2013. Since moving to San Carlos I have been involved at all levels of local government. I started as a Board Member of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Activities League in 2014. In 2015, I was appointed to the San Carlos Parks and Recreation Commission. From 2016-2018, I served on the San Carlos History Museum Board. Then in 2017 I was elected to the San Carlos School Board, where I have served as Board President twice, and currently sit on the 2+2 joint committee with the City and Facilities Master Planning Committee. In addition, I have coached my daughters AYSO teams, and continue to coach my daughters youth softball teams through San Carlos Youth Softball.

What is your economic development vision for our area, and how will you engage with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Chamber members) to gather input?

I believe San Carlos can become a regional destination on the Peninsula. Specifically, a city that attracts businesses large and small, due to a thriving downtown, well funded infrastructure, and a diverse offerings of housing. In order to achieve this vision, I hope to engage in consistent feedback with all stakeholders. As a council member, I want to have an open dialogue with stakeholders on a regular basis, not just around elections or after decisions are made.

As a member of an elected body, how will you work with your colleagues to foster relationships and build consensus for your ideas?

As a member of the Council, I will work to understand my colleagues on a personal level and find shared goals for the City. Through my experience on the San Carlos School Board, I have learned that working toward shared goals and outcomes is the best way to build consensus.

In your opinion, what are the two most important challenges facing San Carlos, and how do you propose to address them?

San Carlos and our surrounding region faces a shortage of diverse housing supply, particularly for our local workforce, teachers, hospitality workers and first-responders. This impacts our families, seniors and single-parent households. I'll work toward finding creative solutions for a variety of housing opportunities. I'll also work on behalf of homeowners to ensure that the City provides efficient timelines and processes for home improvements and home building. Second, San Carlos will experience large growth over the next decade due to demand for life science buildings and state mandated housing. I will advocate for cost-effective and timely solutions to address traffic, infrastructure, and other day to day safety issues.

What measures do you propose to recruit/retain businesses and to support our local workforce in San Carlos, particularly given current budgetary challenges?

We are fortunate that San Carlos is a popular local destination. The San Carlos downtown plan and the longer term San Carlos Northeast area specific plan must support a vibrant mix of retail, housing, restaurant, office, and public space that fully supports walkability, bikes, sustainable rent prices, and public accessibility. I will work proactively to provide real support to the business community, preventing unneeded bureaucracy and advocating for a variety of business as our city's commercial centers evolve.