

DEAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SILICON VALLEY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley endorses Democratic candidates who are socially progressive and fiscally responsible, support environmental protections and fair elections, and appeal to the grassroots. If you would like to apply for the Dean Democratic Club's endorsement, please complete the form below and e-mail to John Comiskey at [REDACTED]. We will then contact you to schedule an interview with our Endorsement Committee. not

Name: Lucas Ramirez

Office you are seeking: Mountain View City Council

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Lucas@RamirezforCouncil.com

Address/phone:
P.O. Box 390211
Mountain View, CA 94039
[REDACTED]

Campaign Manager/contact info:
Emily Ann Ramos
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Occupation/educational background:
Digital Product Manager, Online Sheet Music, Inc.
B.A. Music, Santa Clara University

Previous public office/community experience:
Mountain View Human Relations Commission, Chair
VTA 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee/Citizens Advisory Committee, Member
League of Women Voters observer to the Mountain View City Council
Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning, "Core" Member
Carbon Free Mountain View, Member
Mountain View Historical Association, Life Member
Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters (former board member)

What are the top three issues that you plan to address if elected?

- 1) Housing affordability and displacement - implement solutions that address the problem comprehensively:
 - a) The root of the problem is the regional jobs/housing imbalance. The long-term solution is to address this problem through land use planning that prioritizes housing over office development. Job growth increases the demand for housing, and when supply is limited, housing costs skyrocket.

- b) In the medium-term, promote policies that increase affordable (below market rate) housing. I support inclusionary zoning (including rental housing if and when Palmer is fixed) and impact fees on new development, especially office space, to increase funding for affordable housing.
 - c) Support short-term anti-displacement policies and tenant protections that help people stay in their homes. I support relocation assistance for displaced tenants and rapid rehousing policies to prevent homelessness.
- 2) Traffic congestion and safety:
 - a) Implement and enforce strong transportation demand management policies with aggressive "mode shift" goals (reducing the number of people who drive alone and increasing use of alternative modes of transportation).
 - b) Invest in bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, especially routes to schools and trails used by commuters.
 - c) Support impact fees on new development to fund improvements to transportation infrastructure. Measures to mitigate the negative impacts of development should be required.
- 3) Expand opportunities for civic engagement and resident participation in critical decision-making:
 - a) Release council agendas earlier and encourage publication of agendas in the local newspaper (the Mountain View Voice).
 - b) Enhance noticing requirements to ensure that residents have access to timely information and ample opportunity to provide public comment.
 - c) Create an Open Data policy and portal, and make publicly available in machine-readable formats government data that would be valuable to the community.

Provide example(s) showing how you are socially progressive.

For the past year and a half, the Mountain View Human Relations Commission (HRC) has been working on a recommendation to the city council to become a Human Rights City. The HRC is recommending that staff reports include an evaluation of policy proposals through a human rights framework. Currently, staff reports include a summary of fiscal impacts of a given policy to the city and environmental impacts when relevant. The HRC is interested in expanding this concept to make more explicit the social impacts of policies, not unlike how the County has done with statements of impacts to certain vulnerable populations. For example, when the council discussed raising the minimum wage, the staff report included a summary of fiscal impacts to the city. The report did not delve into impacts to the community - which were the focus of significant public input.

I have spoken in favor during City Council meetings as a member of the public for the following progressive issues:

- I was the only member of the public who spoke in favor of Councilmember Chris Clark's proposal to raise the Pride Flag in June. There were two other speakers before me, both strongly against the proposal.
- I strongly and successfully advocated for the disclosure of the top five contributors to political committees making independent expenditures in city elections on all mass communications sent directly to voters. I also co-wrote an op-ed with this position.

- I was one of the many people in the successful grassroots effort who spoke in favor of raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2018.

Provide example(s) showing how you are fiscally responsible.

I've served on the HRC since January 2013. The HRC makes recommendations to the council on how best to allocate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funding that the city receives from the federal government. These grants, and supplemental money from the city's General Fund, are distributed to affordable housing developers/operators and nonprofit agencies that serve low-income and under-privileged people. CDBG and HOME funding has been declining over the past several years, but the need for this funding remains very high, and requests for the funding typically exceed the amount of money available. The HRC has to be judicious in its recommendations, and we carefully vet the applications we receive for CDBG/HOME/General Fund money to ensure maximum benefit to the community within the budgetary constraints imposed on us. The council has accepted our recommendations with minimal changes.

The VTA 2000 Measure A Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) conducts an annual audit of 2000 Measure A expenditures to ensure that the funds generated are spent in compliance with the intent of the voter-approved measure. It is our responsibility to prepare a public report with our findings. Although the audits have consistently revealed that the funding is spent appropriately, the CWC has been diligent in ensuring maximum transparency of expenditures, most notably in complex funding swaps, to help keep VTA accountable in its fiscal practices.

The members of the CWC concurrently serve as the VTA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC weighs in on a number of VTA proposals, including certain capital and operational investments. When the CAC discussed the sales tax measure that will now be on the November ballot, I advocated for project category expenditure caps to ensure that funding would not overwhelmingly be directed to just one or two projects. This will ensure that a variety of projects will be funded even if there are cost overruns in one of the priority capital improvement projects (like the BART extension to San Jose/Santa Clara), which could jeopardize funding for other projects in the event the VTA Board of Directors decides to allocate additional revenue generated from the tax to address the overrun.

Provide example(s) showing how you are an environmentalist.

I have been active in the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) and in Carbon Free Mountain View (CFMV), organizations that advocate for environmentally sustainable policies. In MVCSP, I've supported transit-oriented, green certified development proposals. I've also supported land use planning that promotes alternative modes of transportation and jobs/housing balance - both of which are important long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CFMV has been one of the earliest and most important local champions for Community Choice Energy in Santa Clara County. CFMV most recently successfully advocated for the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA) to offer 100% carbon neutral electricity (at rates lower than PG&E!) and for Mountain View to take the more aggressive 100% renewable electricity option from SVCEA.

Also, on the VTA CAC, I advocated for the proposed tax measure to fund projects that have the greatest positive environmental impact. Investment in transit and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure will help us achieve regional greenhouse gas reduction targets. Investment in car-oriented infrastructure may provide some traffic congestion relief, but it increases greenhouse gas emissions.

What role will the grassroots play in your campaign?

The campaign is built on a strong field plan. I will be going door-to-door as often as I can, and I am developing a large and consistent volunteer base to help me. I am accepting the city's voluntary expenditure limit, which means I will not be spending more than \$24,073, excluding filing fees. Most of the money I've raised comes from small donors.

How will DDCSV's support **help** in your race and what assistance would you like?

Dean Club members have invested thousands of hours volunteering to help likeminded candidates get elected to local, state, and national offices. Should I have the good fortune to earn the Club's endorsement, I would greatly appreciate volunteers! I will need a lot of help canvassing and phonebanking.

What other endorsements have you received? (List at most 10 or provide an attachment.)

State Senator Jerry Hill
State Senator Jim Beall
State Senator Bob Wieckowski
Assemblymember Paul Fong (ret.)
Mountain View Councilmember Mike Kasperzak
Sunnyvale Councilmember Jim Griffith
Mountain View Whisman School District Board Trustee José Gutiérrez, Jr.
Mountain View Whisman School District Board Trustee William Lambert
Mountain View Whisman School District Board Trustee Ellen Wheeler
El Camino Healthcare District Director Julia Miller

Complete list: <https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/endorsements>

What are your largest sources of campaign funding?

Almost 100% of the donations to the campaign come from individuals (non-corporate persons). Here are my top 10 donors:

Name, City, Occupation, Employer - Amount

Deborah Henigson, Mountain View, Team Manager, Google Inc. - \$1,000
Yekaterina Downing, Palo Alto, Lawyer, ServiceNow, Inc. - \$1,000
Max Beckman-Harned, Mountain View, Software Engineer, Microsoft - \$500
Donna Yobs, Mountain View, Product Owner, Hitachi Data Systems - \$500
Nicole Fernandez, San Mateo, Community Programs Specialist, San Mateo County - \$500
The 2013 Lorz-Shreve Trust, Los Altos, \$500
Edith Keating, Palo Alto, Business Analyst, Camino Insurance - \$500
James Griffith, Sunnyvale, Senior iOS Software Engineer, Apple - \$500
Lucas Ramirez, Mountain View, Digital Product Manager, Online Sheet Music, Inc. - \$495
Erica Schaefer, San Jose, Communications, Intuitive Surgical \$400

Complete list of contributions: <https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/transparency>

How much do you expect to raise/spend?

I will adhere to Mountain View's voluntary expenditure limit, which is \$24,073 this election cycle. I have raised just over \$24,000. I may not spend that amount, but I will probably come close.

Thank you!

Endorsement Committee

Dean Democratic Club of Silicon Valley