

Questionnaire: Santa Clara County Council Candidates

At the local and regional levels, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group focuses its work on what we call "THEE Issues", Traffic, Housing, Education, and the Environment. Please find below an incredibly brief "Candidate Questionnaire" of only 5 questions. It is my hope that you will submit your response no later than Monday, September 26.

We at the Leadership Group believe in full transparency. Therefore, we will post our questions and your responses on our web site, through social media and we will proactively send the completed questionnaires to our 400 Member Companies throughout Silicon Valley.

*Please note this questionnaire can not be saved and must be completed in one session.

* Required

City Council Seat *

Mountain View City Council

First Name *

Lucas

Last Name *

Ramirez

Email *

Lucas@RamirezforCouncil.com

MEASURE A - COUNTYWIDE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS BOND: To provide affordable local housing for vulnerable populations including veterans, seniors, the disabled, low and moderate income individuals or families, foster youth, victims of abuse, the homeless and individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses, which housing may include supportive mental health and

substance abuse services, shall the County of Santa Clara issue up to \$950 million in general obligation bonds to acquire or improve real property subject to independent citizen oversight and regular audits? *

Yes

In up to 100 words tell us why. *

I support Measure A, which will provide a much-needed regional source of funding for affordable housing that can be leveraged with municipal, state, and federal funds. There is an urgent and desperate need for affordable housing, and given the expense of land and construction, such a regional source would be invaluable.

MEASURE B - COUNTYWIDE TRAFFIC RELIEF & ROAD REPAIR

INITIATIVE: To relieve traffic, repair potholes; shall VTA enact a 30-year half-cent sales tax to: Repair streets, fix potholes in all 15 cities; Finish BART extension to downtown San Jose, Santa Clara; Improve bicycle/pedestrian safety, especially near schools; Increase Caltrain capacity, easing highway congestion, improving safety at crossings; Relieve traffic on all 9 expressways, key highway interchanges; Enhance transit for seniors, students, disabled; Mandating annual audits by independent citizens watchdog committee to ensure accountability. *

Yes

In up to 100 words tell us why. *

I support Measure B, which will generate significant funding for major and key transportation infrastructure and operational improvements throughout the county. Congestion is severe, and state and federal funding is extremely limited. Measure B includes a \$1 billion investment in Caltrain (\$700M for grade separation of the

corridor and approximately \$300M for capacity improvements), which will be immensely valuable for North County. It also includes several billion dollars for bicycle infrastructure, expressway improvements, highway interchange improvements, and streets and roads maintenance.

TAXES ON JOBS: There was a proposal earlier this year to impose a "Tax on Jobs" in at least two silicon valley cities, with suggestions that a tax, imposed annually, as high as \$1,000 for every job for employers with as little as 100 employees would be imposed - and that the tax would be "General Purpose," which means taxpayers would have no legally binding guarantee how those tax dollars would be spent, other than sent to a city's "General Fund." Would you support or oppose a "Tax on Jobs" in your city, to be used for "General Purposes," and therefore only requiring a 50 percent vote?

*

No

In up to 100 words tell us why. *

There must be a clear and justifiable nexus between new fees and taxes and the use of the revenue generated from those fees and taxes. Should a municipality impose a "tax on jobs," with extensive input from the business community, that tax should only be used to fund capital improvements or programs related to the impacts of job growth on that city.

EDUCATION AND LAND USE: Cities do not control public schools, but they do control land use decisions within their jurisdictions. For that purpose, city councils have a powerful voice in approving land use decisions to place charter schools, which are public schools but have more flexibility around hours and rules. Where do you stand on the

topic of public charter schools, and would you vote in favor or opposition to placing public charter schools within your city? *

No

In up to 100 words tell us why. *

Bullis Charter School has had an antagonistic relationship with the Los Altos School District (LASD) for many years, resulting in litigation at taxpayer expense. Bullis Charter test scores are not substantially better than those of other LASD schools. Rather than establish new charter schools, my preference would be to invest more in district/neighborhood schools to improve the quality of education for everyone.

ENVIRONMENT: Earlier in the year, the state had imposed water reduction rates of 20 percent for most of the state. The drought continues, but the reduction is no longer a mandatory requirement imposed by the state. Some of the earlier gains realized have started to slip. Do you support or oppose a mandatory reduction of 20 percent water use in your jurisdiction? *

Yes

In up to 100 words tell us why. *

Given the severity of the drought, I think mandatory water conservation is appropriate. I support a mandatory reduction of 20 percent water use in Mountain View.