

# DAWN Endorsement Questionnaire

\*Please format your answers in **bold**

Name:	<b>Lucas Ramirez</b>
Office Sought:	<b>Mountain View City Council</b>

## Personal Information

Address:	
City, State, Zip:	<b>Mountain View, CA 94040</b>
Phone:	
Email:	<b>Lucas@RamirezforCouncil.com</b>

Are you a registered Democrat?	<b>Yes</b>
If yes, since when?	<b>2006 - Lifelong</b>
Are you a member of DAWN?	<b>Yes</b>
If yes, since when?	<b>2014</b>

Previous offices held:	<b>none</b>
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Current job: **Digital Product Manager at Online Sheet Music, Inc.**

Other jobs held (feel free to just attach a resume):	<b>Resume attached.</b>
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## Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee:	<b>Ramirez for Council 2016</b>
FPPC ID#:	<b>1384620</b>
Campaign Manager:	<b>Emily Ramos</b>
Campaign Consultant:	<b>N/A</b>
Campaign Website:	<a href="https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/"><b>https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/</b></a>

November 2016 Elections

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Projected funds needed to win:	<b>\$24000</b>
Funds raised to date:	<b>\$25,127.53</b>
Are you an incumbent?	<b>No</b>
Opponents (to the best of your knowledge):	<b>Margaret Abe-Koga Thida Cornes Greg Coladonato Ken "Kacey" Carpenter Chris Clark Lisa Matichak John McAlister</b>

Prominent Endorsements:	<b>Jerry Hill, California State Senator* Jim Beall, California State Senator* Bob Wieckowski, California State Senator* Paul Fong, California State Assembly (Ret.)* Joe Simitian, Santa Clara County Supervisor* Mike Kasperzak, Mountain View City Council* Joan MacDonald, Mountain View Los Altos High School District Board of Trustees (Ret.)* Ellen Wheeler, Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees* Gary Kremen, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors* Julia E. Miller, El Camino Healthcare District Board of Directors* Cory Wolbach, Palo Alto City Council* Raul Peralez, San Jose City Council* Ellen Kamei, Mountain View Environmental Planning Commission*</b>  <b>*Titles for identification purposes only. Additional endorsements on the website: <a href="https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/endorsements">https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/endorsements</a></b>
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Top Priorities (3 or 4):	<b>My top priorities are addressing the housing affordability crisis and preventing displacement,</b>
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**reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic safety, and expanding opportunities for civic engagement and resident participation in critical decision-making processes. I am particularly interested in land use, transportation, and measures that make government more transparent and accountable.**

## Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions in 500 words or less

1. Discuss your campaign finances and structure. What percentage of women do you have in your campaign organization?

**I have raised over \$25,000, but I have agreed to spend no more than Mountain View's voluntary expenditure limit, which is \$24,073. Six of the top ten donors to my campaign, including the top two, are women. The breakdown of all contributions can be found on my campaign transparency page:**

**<https://www.ramirezforcouncil.com/transparency>**

**My campaign is completely volunteer run, and roughly two-thirds of the volunteers in my campaign organization are women. My campaign manager is Emily Ramos, who is also a DAWN member. Charisse Ma Lebron is the volunteer coordinator. Meghan Fraley is in charge of messaging. Nicole Fernandez handles social media. Most of the campaign's precinct captains are women.**

2. Please describe any prior service to your community. List any boards (non-profit, professional or governmental), community groups or commissions or in any elected offices or leadership positions in the community. What was your greatest success/achievement?

**I have served twice as chair (2015 and 2016) of the Mountain View Human Relations Commission, a council advisory body that makes recommendations on the allocation of certain federal grants that the city receives from the federal government. As an appointee to the VTA Citizens Advisory Committee, I have had the opportunity to influence regional transportation policy, including the sales tax measure that will appear on the November 2016 ballot. Having volunteered for the League of Women Voters local government observation corps for several years, I have a very strong understanding of the issues facing the city.**

**My greatest achievement would be my work in campaign finance disclosure for Mountain View. Money in politics, especially "dark money" spent by campaign committees with deliberately opaque names to conceal the identities and motives of donors, reduces the trust and confidence of voters in the electoral process and in**

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**elected officials. This happened recently with the 2014 elections in Mountain View. In 2015, Emily and I researched over 50 campaign finance ordinances across the state to find policy solutions to this issue. We gathered all the data and sent it to the council and the city attorney to advocate for those best practices that we found in other cities. We continued to advocate for stronger campaign finance reforms until this early year, when the council adopted one of the strongest municipal campaign disclosure ordinances in the state of California. The top five true contributors to political committees making independent expenditures in local elections are now required to be disclosed directly on all mass communications sent to voters (like mailers). The Council also closed a major loophole in which candidates did not have to count in-kind donations toward the Voluntary Expenditure Limit.**

3. What are some of the needs of women and girls in your community? How do you plan to address these needs and how will you use your position to advance the position of women and girls once elected?

**According to the State of Women and Girls 2012 Report, published by the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women, women are consistently more likely than men to be underemployed and living below the poverty line. As a city councilmember, I will work aggressively to increase affordable housing, as many working families are severely burdened by extraordinary housing costs. I support Measure E, the Opportunity to Work initiative in San Jose, and will support similar rights for workers in Mountain View. I will also support expanding child care options available to residents and city employees.**

**I believe it is crucial that women be represented in elected and appointed bodies. Five of the seven members of the Environmental Planning Commission in Mountain View are women, but there is only one woman serving on our seven member city council. I am committed to helping build a pipeline to leadership by recruiting and appointing many qualified women to advisory bodies and sponsoring women to run for office.**

4. Understanding the budget cuts are unfortunately part of governance and public service, please list your top three funding priorities:

**1) Continue to invest in recruiting and retaining first-rate public employees. Key positions have been vacant for some time, and the city has lost several talented employees to other agencies. It is even more important in a budgetary crisis to retain top-notch employees to provide the high quality services residents expect to receive from the city.**

**2) Implement anti-displacement programs, rapid rehousing, and other services to prevent homelessness and assist low-income people. It is imperative that the city continue to work aggressively to help keep people in their homes.**

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**3) Support infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Capital improvements provide good jobs, and deferring maintenance leads to greater costs in the long run. It is more cost efficient to fix small problems than it is to fix big ones.**

Indicate whether you support, support with reservations, or oppose the following issues:

## Reproductive Rights & Health Care Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
The right of a woman to choose to have an abortion up to the time that the fetus is viable, or at any time deemed medically necessary	X			
Preserving the right of all women and girls to have the full range of reproductive information and services	X			
Comprehensive coverage for contraception and abortion under public and private medical insurance	X			
Continued public funding for prenatal care, family planning and abortion services for low-income women	X			
A minor's right to confidential access to full range of reproductive information and services without requiring parental notification	X			
Continued public funding for low-income health insurance coverage	X			
Universal, government mandated access to a full range of health care services through insurance	X			

## Work-Place Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification

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Will actively create or support policies mandating equal wages between genders	X			
Will actively work to create or support legislation that increases pay and benefits for traditionally gender-specific careers	X			
Extension of benefits to heterosexual and LGBT partnerships	X			
Policies to ensure diversity of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, cultural background and other groups in public institutions	X			
An employee's right to organize into a union or cross a picket line without losing a job	X			
Labor practices that allow strikebreakers or replacement workers to be hired permanently		x		
The practice of replacing employees with contracted services		X		
Paid maternity/family leave	X			

## Family & Childcare Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Public funding assistance for childcare for low income families	X			
Employer tax relief if childcare facilities are provided	X			
Repeal of state-mandated child support collection		X		
Development and public funding assistance for women's shelters	X			
Comprehensive, coordinated programs to help reduce the incidence of domestic violence	X			

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## Educational Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservatio n	Need Clarification
Accurate, age-appropriate, state-mandated health and sex education in schools, with parent consent	X			
Increased financing for public education at all levels, including post-secondary education	X			
Censorship of the internet or books provided in public libraries		X		

## Equal Opportunity

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Eliminating social services for undocumented immigrants		X		
Denying citizenship to native-born children of undocumented immigrants		X		
Denying education to children of undocumented immigrants		X		
Establishing that LGBT individuals have the right to sponsor same sex partners through a legal immigration process	X			
Allowing HIV positive individuals the same immigration rights as other non-diagnosed individuals	X			
Legislation to end the practice of racial profiling in law enforcement	X			
State-mandated affordable housing and subsidized housing for people with disabilities	X			

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Equal rights for the LGBT community regarding employment, housing, the military, marriage and healthcare	X			
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## Governmental Reform & Finance Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Ethnic and gender diversity in all government appointments that are reflective of the community being served	X			
Simple majority votes on all funding issues (e.g. taxes and budgets)	X			
Binding arbitration is an unnecessary component of labor negotiations			X	
If layoffs are a necessary budget solution, they should impact management and line employees equally	X			

Please explain all your support with reservations

**While I understand that binding arbitration is intended to bring a neutral third party to facilitate a fair process and a best faith effort to reach an agreement, Mountain View has a long history and commitment to negotiating fair contracts at the bargaining table. I want to continue the tradition of negotiating in good faith and ensuring fair and competitive compensation for our employees. If, for some reason, there were a disagreement at the bargaining table and parties were unable to arrive at a mutually agreed upon arrangement, especially if it could result in a decline in the quality of public safety services, I would consider supporting binding arbitration. However, this is a last resort, and as a future council member, I would encourage all relevant parties to negotiate in good faith.**



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"By signing this questionnaire, you agree that you will run an honest and clean campaign and that you will fight to uphold the values and positions stated above and in your endorsement interview. You also confirm your understanding that any endorsement is contingent upon your upholding these values.

Signature \*

**Lucas Ramirez**

Date \*

**9/9/2016**