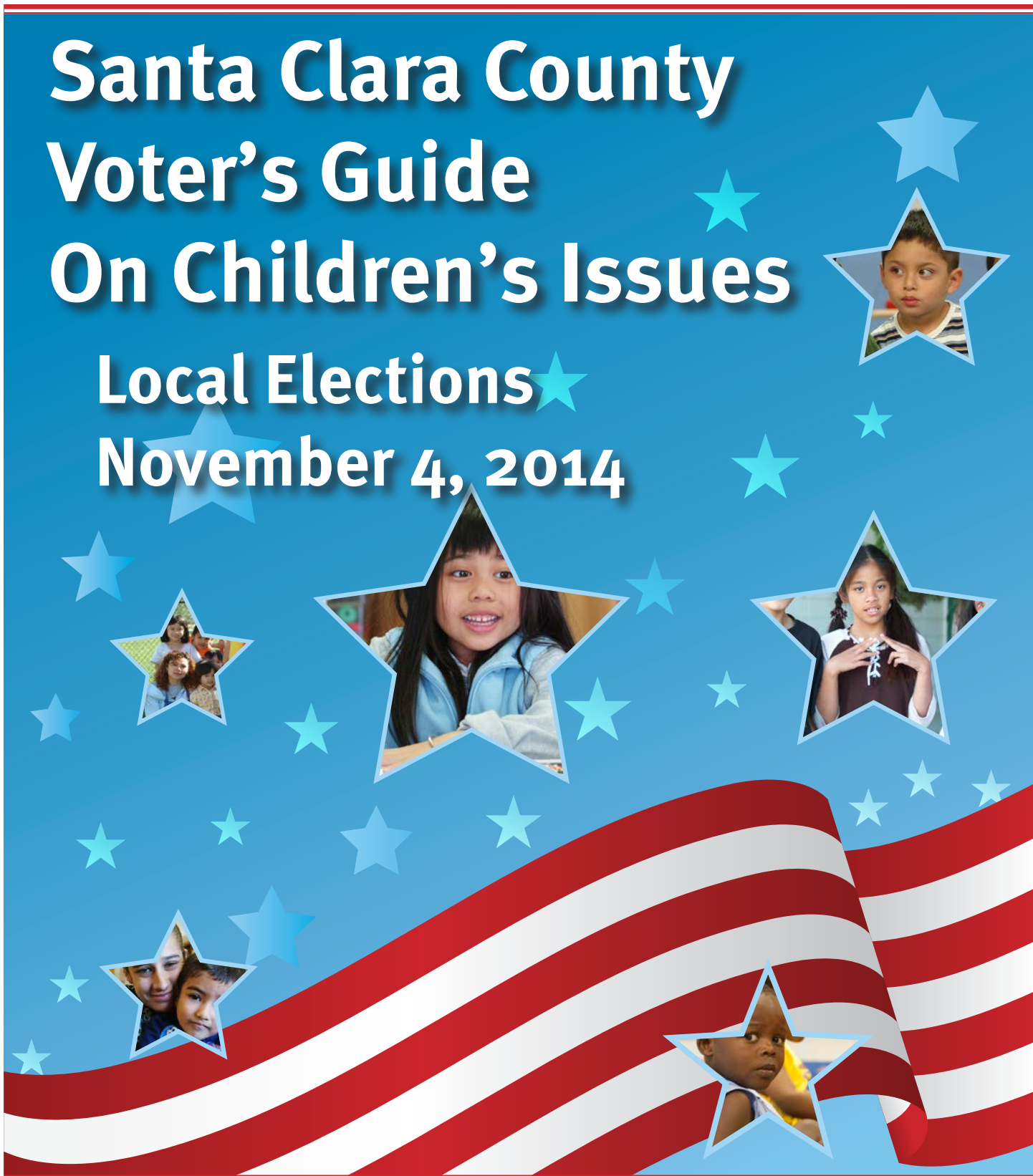


Santa Clara County Voter's Guide On Children's Issues

Local Elections
November 4, 2014



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Children under 18 make up 24.3% of Santa Clara County. However, children don't vote and elected officials must consider the impact policies and investments they are voting for have on nearly one-quarter of our population. The nearly 440,000 children living in Santa Clara County deserve elected officials who understand and remember that their decisions impact them. Too often, children are lost in a long list of priorities. However, decisions made today about investing in children's safety, health, education and economic security have long-term effects on our community's future. Our community's and our nation's current and future prosperity will be decided by our elected officials.

Voters have a chance to speak for children at the ballot box. That is why the Santa Clara County Local Early Education Planning Council, the Inclusion Collaborative and Kids in Common, a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, came together to create this Voter's Guide on Children's Issues.

This Voter's Guide is informational only and no endorsement of any candidate is intended. For this guide we asked each candidate competing to represent Santa Clara County in a state senate, state assembly, or City of San Jose' council or mayoral seat to answer five questions about their priorities for children. Candidates were given several weeks to respond to the survey and we had twenty candidates respond. The responses are in their own words and are unedited.

Don't Know Which District You Live In? . . .



-  To find your State Senate and Assembly Districts go to:
http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/districts/assemblydistricts.html
-  To Find your San Jose City Council District go to:
<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/districts>

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Congressional District 17

Mike Honda

Democrat

<http://www.mikehonda.com/>

Education is the foundation for opportunity. We must all work together to ensure excellent public education for every community. We safeguard America's founding values by ensuring that each and every child is inspired and equipped to succeed. When public education is equitable, the American Dream endures.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

- 1. Strengthening STEM Education: I have been on the forefront of establishing strong STEM programs in our public schools. I have introduced innovative legislation to improve teacher preparation and fund the development of educational technologies.*
- 2. Education Equity: I have fought for an excellent education for each and every child. I helped create and fund the Equity and Excellence Commission, which convened leading experts to outline a plan for a first-rate public education system.*
- 3. Bullying: I founded the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, which is committed to the idea that we need solutions that stop bullying online and offline.*

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

In Congress, I bring my commitment to children, and the need to improve students' education, to the Appropriations Committee on which I sit, advocating for increased funding for education and responsible education reform. In particular I have focused on the issue of equity in our public education system. Disparities in our educational system have detrimental national consequences when all students are not provided with the equitable resources essential for a high quality education. I am dedicated to ensuring that each child receives the resources they need to succeed.

What are your views on universal preschool?

As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, I created the Equity and Excellence Commission. The commission produced the landmark report, For Each and Every Child. I am working with educational leaders in Congress, the Administration, and at the state and local level to implement the report's recommendations – to provide universal access to quality early childhood education, enact changes in school funding formulas, and mitigate the effect of poverty on educational opportunities. I am working with President Obama to secure an unprecedented \$75 billion investment in early childhood education.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

The federal government has consistently failed to live up to the funding promises it made in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Through my work on the Appropriations Committee, I have been leading efforts to fully fund IDEA, which would help ensure that schools have the resources to hire enough teachers and aides and train them properly so that suspensions and expulsions are reduced. My Equity and Excellence Commission recommended this and other measures, including access to high-quality programs, quality teachers and technology, and in have introduced legislation in these areas in an effort to achieve educational equity.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

Through my position on the Appropriations Committee, I have worked to fund programs and projects that support youth employment. I secured funding for the California Construction College, which is preparing youth for careers in construction management. I am fighting for \$1.78 billion for Job Corps, a free education and training program helping youths learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. I am also fighting for \$4.985 billion for Workforce Investment Act Title I funding to help youth get training so their skills match the needs of local businesses.



State Senate District 10

Bob Wieckowski

Democrat

<http://bobwieckowski.com>

Rising income inequality is the central challenge of our time. As your Senator, I will continue to work to ensure that education is a pathway out of poverty, not into poverty. We need to address the crisis of student debt, hold for-profit colleges accountable, and expand early childhood education.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

*1) Income inequality: Many Santa Clara families struggle to meet basic needs because the cost-of-living is growing rapidly and incomes for many workers are staying flat. I supported an increase in the minimum wage and I've authored bills to assist the working poor.
2) Early childhood education: I strongly support the expansion of early childhood education, which has been proven to reduce the achievement gap between low and high income students.
3) College affordability: My Student Bill of Rights legislative package addresses some of the problems presented by rising student debt and accountability at for-profit colleges.*

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

I've supported increased funding for K-12 and higher education and will continue to do so. I also believe in working closely with local elected officials to make sure that their unique needs are being met. I led an effort to strike a deal between the state and the Santa Clara Unified School District to purchase the Agnews Hospital property and now that property will be developed into new schools and a park. In addition to providing more funding through the budget, we need to fund new facilities to meet the needs of our growing population.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I support universal preschool. Investment in early childhood education pays huge dividends for individuals and society in the long run. I will continue to support expanded funding for early childhood education programs.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

We should do more to educate administrators about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the protections provided to disabled students under the act. The unfortunate truth is that during the recession, special education services were cut in many districts, and as our budget improves, we need to ensure that services are restored so that districts are adequately provided specialists with the proper training to address behavioral issues..

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

My Made in California jobs program is already creating jobs in the 10th Senate District, especially in growing fields like high tech manufacturing. I was awarded Legislator of the Year by TechAmerica, a leading high tech association, and the highest possible magna cum laude score by California's Small Business Association. I will continue to work closely with business leaders to ensure that the State is doing more to make it easier to start in grow a business in our state.



State Assembly District 24

Richard Gordon

Democrat

<http://www.richgordon2014.com>

Government should provide the support needed to assure that all children have access to quality education and healthcare and can grow up in safe and secure communities. Families need support for housing and economic security. All children should be able have loving and supportive families.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

The top three issues are:

- 1. The growing income gap that is leaving too many children and families in poverty.*
- 2. Access to quality childcare and education.*
- 3. Affordability of housing.*

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

I have served four years in the State Assembly. During my first two years, we cut critical programs. In the last two years, we have been able to re-invest in childcare and education. I was a strong supporter of the Local Control Funding formula, which is intended to address the achievement gap. We have also taken steps to restore cuts to supportive services for low-income families. I authored legislation that provided more affordable housing funding to local housing trust funds such as the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I fully support universal preschool. I support mandatory kindergarten and would like to see all four year olds in an educational setting. A move to universal preschool needs to take into account adequate facilities, teacher training, and the current network of home based childcare providers.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

My concern about the excessive use of suspensions and expulsions for special education students and students of color began when I served on the San Mateo County Board of Education. That Board heard appeals of expulsions from local school districts and it was clear that there were patterns of abuse in many local districts. There are legislative efforts to eliminate the use of "willful disobedience" as criteria for suspension/expulsion as this is a subjective criterion often over used. I am supportive of these legislative efforts.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

The recession of the past several years reduced the number of entry level jobs and made these jobs more attractive to unemployed adults. It is my hope that an improving economy will create more job openings for young people. I am more than happy to use my office to promote the hiring of youth with businesses and chambers of commerce. I have a long history with the San Mateo County Jobs for Youth program which specifically promotes summer youth employment. In the legislature I have been supportive of Career Technical Education that can create internships and other work related opportunities.



State Assembly District 25

Kansen Chu

Democrat

<http://www.kansenchu.com>

Children are our future! We need to make sure that our public education systems produce a all rounded workforce to fuel our economic engines and to raise the standard of lives for all. Education is the best equalizer!!

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

Opportunities to excellent pre-school to college education. Health care for all. Healthy eating and active living. School and community safety.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

I support universal preschool and Common Core curriculum for k-12 students. We need to find ways to make college education affordable. Continue expanding Cover CA. to more families. Increase reimbursement rate for Medi-Cal. Build more parks and trails. Make fresh and health food more available to lower income families. Have more sensible gun control laws. More character building, anti-bullying and health education in schools.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I have been a strong supporter for preschool education back in the days I was on Berryessa School Board. I started two preschools in the District and a two-week pre-kinder school in the summer.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

I was selected by the League of CA Cities to work with CSAC and CSBA on the Community School initiative. We need to make social services easily accessible to students and families.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

I have been a strong advocate for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum in lower ed. I also support more funding for Career Technical Education.



State Assembly District 29

Palmer Kain

Republican

<http://www.palmerkain.org>

Education should be a bridge for the children of California's future. We need to address Access, and Student Poverty Issues. Equal access regardless of high or low income school districts. Access to textbooks, technology, and quality of teachers should be equal, not dysfunctional.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

1.) Access to quality public education 2.) Access to quality resources in after school learning. 3.) access to a sustainable feedback loop between parents, teachers, and school administrators .

My solution to these issues is outlined in my education plan. It calls for Access for all students in all school districts to be equalized, Pay equality for teachers, and active negotiations between the teachers, school administrators, and students to ensure needs are being met.

Please check out my website www.palmerkain.org to see how I will seek to serve Santa Clara County families, students, and teachers in Sacramento.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

Addressing the priorities of children and families in the budget process requires a three step process.

1) Audit our current education structure, to see where there is waste or redundancy. 2) Create and maintain local control over the funds found to be misallocated. So that in the future this does not happen. 3.) Create bipartisan legislation that will codify in law, the long term changes that are needed.

In the budget process, to gain bipartisan support will require compromise. Not overtime will get 100% of what they want. But with bipartisan action we can get them what they need.

What are your views on universal preschool?

Preschool is an important and vital piece of the K-12 platform . I feel that preschool should be taken into the equation when we are talking about long term solutions for California education.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

Special needs children need to be treated with a different standard than other school children.

Due to the individual nature of their disabilities requires a unique response, not a standardized one.

There should be a negotiation process between school administrators, teachers, parents, and students to find the constructive bridge to meet these children's needs.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

My education plan calls for small business incentives for local entrepreneurs to create after school learning environments. The youth that show aptitude could be offered job opportunities commensurate with their availability.

This would require a conversation and a coalition between state legislators, business, and students . Problems do have solutions . If we are willing to be creative in their design and implementation.



State Assembly District 29

Mark Stone

Democrat

<http://www.FriendsOfMarkStone.org>

If we focus on significantly improved outcomes for our children and families that need us the most--foster kids, struggling families, the poor, the disabled--then we will improve outcomes for all of our children and families.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

Poverty, the achievement gap, lack of family services, especially for the developmentally disabled and foster youth. Santa Clara County is much better off than most counties, but we struggle state-wide with these issues. I chair the Assembly Human Services Committee and the Ending Poverty and Inequality in California Legislative Caucus. I have worked on and will continue to work on policy matters that make the system work better for these populations and ensure more investments at the state and local level to provide resources.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

I remain a voice for more investments for our kids, the poor and our families, especially young families. I helped ensure that the Assembly's budget priorities include investments for my priorities. I am seen as a strong voice in the legislature for kids, the elderly, the disadvantaged and the disabled.

What are your views on universal preschool?

In all of the policy areas that I am deeply involved in: prison reform, ending poverty (or trying), closing the achievement gap, better support for the developmentally disabled, the most common thread is early care and education. As a former First 5 Commissioner, I have seen first hand how strategic and modest investments in the first five years can pay dividends towards my priorities. I am a huge believer in early care and education and all of the possibilities that it can offer for our future. Yes, I support universal preschool.

Students receiving special education services are disproportionately represented in school suspension and expulsions. If elected, how will you address this issue?

Boys of color are also disproportionately represented. Part of the issue is that it is easier to push these kids out than to address their underlying issues. We tried to redefine willful disobedience so that school districts could not use it as a pretext. We need to provide better policy guidance at the local level. We also need to provide more resources to address the real issues that kids are facing. Mental health in California is fractured and less than effective. We need to start, though, by educating legislators on this issue before we will see real policy changes.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

Education. Over the years of declining resources for our schools we have done a very poor job of matching educational outcomes with the needs of the changing workforce. We need to focus on STEM, CTE and other programs that get our kids ready for the modern workforce. We give lip service to these needs, but have as yet to prioritize such programs in our education budgets. I will continue to educate my colleagues and push in both the policy and budget processes for these changes.



Mayor, City of San Jose´
David Cortese

<http://www.davecortese.com/>

*“Mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give,”
United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. (n.d.).*

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

The top three issues affecting our families are the eroding of our public safety system, lack of access to after school and summer programs, and decreased investment in infrastructure to provide safe paths to school, traffic control in neighborhoods, and safer parks. As Mayor, I will add neighborhood police patrols and strengthen gang prevention programs. I will work to bring back meaningful after school and summer programs to keep children and teens out of trouble and give them skills necessary to succeed. I will also reinvest in our infrastructure, providing safer neighborhoods and passages to school and parks.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

Collaboration is the key to maximizing the use of city funds in the budget process. Restoring our public safety requires all parties sitting down and negotiating terms that fit within budget and make San Jose a choice employer again. Establishing partnerships with residents, businesses, and schools will help to develop effective and cost efficient programs that make our city safer. The city must also develop partnerships with community agencies that support children and families. By working together, these agencies can find outside matching funds to support city funds and maximize the city’s investments in community programs.

What are your views on universal preschool?

Universal preschool is a needed component of our education system and would lead to a better workforce in California. Access to high-quality early education is a strong measure of future academic success. Yet, funding for such programs is insufficient. Pre-school student attendance is out of reach for many of San Jose’s low and middle income families. Universal preschool would serve to support pre-school students of all income levels and of all races/ethnicities for the academic rigors ahead. It would lead to greater success through the students’ academic lives and better prepare them for work.

It’s a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

Supporting the diverse needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system requires strengthening the supportive safety net structure in the community. Restoring homework centers will give youth a place to receive additional help to succeed academically. Strengthening city partnerships with county and nonprofit agencies and bringing their support services to our schools will give youth and families better access to vital services. By reengaging youth in their community through after school programs, volunteer opportunities, and job placement programs and connecting youth with mentors, community members, and leaders we can reduce their chances of future incarceration.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

Improving youth employment requires a coordinated approach. On the one hand, the city must provide opportunities for youth to gain job skills through volunteer work and after school programs. On the other hand, the city must support both big and small businesses, providing opportunities for growth and new business development to expand job opportunities. The city must provide regular employment fairs so youth can learn more about and apply for available jobs and businesses can find employees who meet their needs. I have worked with the White House and local agencies like Teen Force to create summer jobs as well.



Mayor, City of San José Sam Liccardo

<http://www.samliccardo.com>

We are at our best when we embrace San José’s strong immigrant tradition and commitment to save, sacrifice, and give for our children’s benefit. Under my leadership, we will leave a collective legacy, grounded in social justice, to rise by lifting our neediest children, and our most vulnerable neighbors.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

- 1. Economic Survival— I will expand affordable housing, funded by an impact fee. In my book, I propose several measures to expand opportunity, such as boosting job skills training and ESL, and incentivizing growth of manufacturing jobs.*
- 2. Access to Quality Education— I propose a broad expansion of after-school programs for students through an increase in the tax on marijuana dispensaries, in collaboration with local foundations and school districts.*
- 3. Safety —I’ve proposed to use pension reform savings to hire more cops, restore community policing, to leverage technology and civilians to make our officers more effective, and to create jobs for at-risk teens.*

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

In times of scarcity, we must have the courage to scrutinize all of our spending, and cut whatever doesn’t fit our highest priorities. I’ve supported fiscal and pension reform to restore critical spending on libraries, public safety, and roads. In my book, I describe a new budgeting approach to replace the “incremental budgeting” practices of the past, opening every line item of spending to public scrutiny, to improve budgetary decision-making. I’ve also proposed a “participatory budgeting” process to engage community to work together to prioritize spending, leverage volunteer energy, and stretch public dollars to meet our neighborhoods’ highest needs.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I support universal preschool. Studies have demonstrated the value of universal preschool in preparing children for kindergarten, in leveling the playing field for kids from disadvantaged neighborhoods, and in providing struggling parents better opportunities for work. I am fully committed to closing the achievement gap in San José, and we can only do that by closing the opportunity gap. Universal preschool represents a key step in that endeavor.

It’s a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

We need to support non-profits that empower parents with special needs children to be able to speak up for their kids at school. In my book, I’ve proposed several means to reduce crime among troubled kids: jobs for at-risk teens (which I’ll describe in #4, below), a truancy abatement program expansion, and after-school programs for younger kids. We can fund the after-school learning programs partially with an increase in the marijuana tax. As Mayor, I’ll convene local foundations, corporations, and non-profits to support a program to reach thousands of kids who face a “latch-key” life after the school bell rings.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

Many kids who struggle academically need an alternative path, and I’ve proposed creating programs, in partnership with non-profits like TeenForce or Conservation Corps, to engage teens in skills-building work that have them doing good in the community. For example, a “Water Conservation Corps” can provide residents with a low-cost means of supplanting their lawns with drought-tolerate landscaping, or can help the Water District distribute information to “water hogs” about how they can reduce consumption. Similar programs can be created for youth in parks, for example, to assist in building out trails, replacing playground equipment, etc., relying on developer park fees.



San José City Council District 1

Paul Fong

<http://www.paulfongforcouncil.com>

My progressive values support helping children and families through education, and government/nonprofit assistance. I am a public servant, because I have a passion for helping those in need and solving social issues through good public policy. I would appreciate your vote for Paul Fong for San Jose City Council.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

The top 3 issues affecting children and families are:

-- Crime: Safety first. I will bring law enforcement back to the table to negotiate a solution that will attract its members to stay and recruit others.

-- Healthcare: San Jose needs to provide more access to community health clinics for families and children. This includes support for greater reimbursements from MediCAL and Medicare and better public transportation to clinics.

-- Affordable Housing: As an affordable housing advocate, I know that market housing prices are out of reach for many families. I'll work for a more affordable housing by helping to identify sites.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

San Jose's \$2.9B budget needs to reflect increased public safety. With the endorsement of San Jose's firefighters and police officers, I will work with them to keep and attract officers. To fund public safety, access to healthcare, and affordable housing, San Jose needs to explore revenue enhancements to the general fund, as well as looking at programs where savings can be found. In all of this, Measure B needs to be reformed, so the City has more flexibility to deal with the needs of children and families.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I fully support universal preschool.

It's a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

As an educator, I deeply feel the need to educate kids who are part of the juvenile justice system. I would bring back the eliminated Education Liaison to work with the County Office of Education on special needs programs and the County on behavioral health programs. Studies show that a child sent to Juvenile Hall internalizes themselves a "perp" and are likely to lead a life of crime. We need to work with nonprofits to create places where at-risk youth can be dropped off, so we don't send them to juvenile hall and start the spiral downward.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

The economy has improved for the wealthy and those who have a strong background in certain sectors, like hi-tech. I have supported STEAM and Career Technical Education programs in our schools to prepare young people for the reality of the marketplace. It's important that until youth find a job that they acquire skills translatable to other workplaces. I currently offer and will work to expand internship programs. I also understand that many youth would like opportunities as skilled laborers, and I support jobs and unions that have apprenticeship programs that train young people to become artisans, craftsman and skilled workers.



San José City Council District 1

Charles “Chappie” Jones

<http://www.votechappie.com>

I will advocate for resources that will provide children and families a safe and livable city where they can go to school, work, play, and enjoy a high quality of life.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

The top three issues are education, safety, and housing. As a City of San Jose councilman, I will partner with schools to provide academic enrichment programs through the city’s community centers and libraries. I would make crime prevention a top priority by shifting resources into areas that will prevent youth from being victims of, or become involved in, crime. Finally, San Jose can establish policies that can provide access to affordable housing options to families and their children.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

I will propose changes to the budgeting process to prioritize resources to crime prevention resources like the gang prevention taskforce, youth centers, community centers, and libraries. Affordable housing strategies will involve both shifting budget priorities and policy changes.

What are your views on universal preschool?

Universal preschool is important for the development and preparation of children to enter into kindergarten and I support it. This is an important step in helping all children enter school on an equal footing.

It’s a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

I am a big proponent of crime prevention efforts. On the City level, we have limited options. However, we can help address this problem by putting more resources in community centers that provide activities and resources for at risk youth. Expanding the Gang Prevention Taskforce to get to young people before they get into a gang. These strategies will not only keep young people out of the juvenile justice system, it will also prevent them from being victims of crime.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

The reduction in youth employment is a complex issue. Workers 25 years and older are staying in jobs that used to be available for youth. The best strategy is to provide education and training to older workers to get them positioned to move up in the workforce to more skilled jobs. This would free up those jobs for young people. Policies need to be put in place to create economic growth and job creation in San Jose. Young and older workers would benefit from more job opportunities.



San José City Council District 3

Don Gagliardi

<http://donforcitycouncil.com/>

Healthy neighborhoods, like mine in downtown San Jose, where neighbors know and befriend each other, are best for children and families. My approach in 20 years of neighborhood leadership has been communitarian, based on the credo, "it takes a village to raise a child," as Hilary Clinton says. I agree.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

The top three issues for children and families in the downtown San Jose area, which I am seeking to represent on the city council, are (1) the quality of education; (2) the availability of after-school enrichment activities; and (3) access to health care. City council has limited purview over education and health care policy, but we can be doing much more to provide safe places for enriching the lives of children and helping prevent idle teens from becoming involved with gangs. We need to restore library and community center hours and provide free or low-cost recreational programs in our parks, as well as music- and art-programs to complement the curricula in the schools.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

Restoring library and community center hours and providing additional recreational and music and art programs, equal to or better than the array of offerings in the 1990s when I moved to San Jose, will be a budget priority of mine as city councilperson. This is not only good for the quality of life of residents but a proven pre-emptive crime-prevention program. Idle teens are prone to mischief and commit a disproportionate share of crime in our community. We need to give them fun and enriching activities to occupy themselves.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I support universal preschool as a means of enriching the lives of young children and also providing a place for low-income families to obtain daycare during the work day.

It's a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

See response to Question #2. Public libraries should be open every day and be within walking distance of children. We should encourage reading as recreation – not simply as part of a core curriculum. Reading is the baseline for learning. Children should be encouraged to read whatever they like. Everyone has a special interest, and there is reading material for every taste. When children love reading, the rest takes care of itself. I know for me it was the secret of my journey from a working-class Buffalo neighborhood to Stanford Law School and a fulfilling legal career.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

Preferably, youth 14-18 should not be working at all but instead focused on enriching their education beyond the classroom. As for the availability of jobs, one of my top priorities as councilperson will be creating more jobs, focusing "bottom up" on small business creation and expansion rather than "top down" on attracting name-brand companies from elsewhere. Small businesses are the proven engine of job growth nationally, and they are the best place for entry-level jobs for youth.



San José City Council District 3

Raul Peralez

<http://www.raulperalez.com>

The more equitable support and opportunity we provide to our families and youth, the more likely and capable they are to become successful in their own life and as members of our greater community.

What do you think are the top three issues affecting our children and families in Santa Clara County and how do you propose to address them?

1) Educational & income inequality

We need to raise the minimum wage, hold educational institutions accountable for their students, and provide more after school and enrichment opportunities for students

2) School & public safety

Restore the local police force, restore campus resource and community resource officers, work with local centers and non profits to provide alternative safe opportunities for youth

3) Health & health care access

Ensure a focus is kept on physical education and activity, continue to improve the nutritional offerings at schools, provide easy and accessible information and paths to obtaining healthcare for all our youth and families.

How will the priorities, you identified in the first question, for the needs of children and families be reflected in the way that you approach the budgeting process?

When constructing a budget, I will maintain a priority on the value of supporting our youth and families. The working families of San Jose have suffered over the past few years and it is time to restore the city services they deserve to be able to provide them with a better chance at living safe, happy and healthy lives.

What are your views on universal preschool?

I believe every child should have access to early education. This will not only enable them to be prepared for school, but will ensure we have more educated, productive residents in the city in general. If elected, I will be a strong advocate of universal preschool in city council.

It's a fact that many young people who become involved in the juvenile justice system in our communities are far behind academically and often have special education needs and/or behavioral health issues. If elected, how will you address the higher levels of the needs of these youth and address the issue of their disproportionate incarceration?

As the only active-duty police officer who also substitutes at Juvenile Hall and Alternative Ed schools, I understand this issue first-hand. I actively strive to support at risk youth to excel by volunteering in many organizations, including being a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area. I will ensure our students are equipped with the right resources to succeed and will continue to speak in favor of providing emotional support, and services youth need to stay from the criminal justice system. I am the only candidate who is ready to address this issue from day one.

In spite of the improved economy, there are 40,000 fewer Santa Clara County youth, ages 14 -24, who are working today than in 2001. This represents a 32% decrease in jobs for youth. What will you do to improve youth employment?

In San Jose we have a shortage of jobs in general and throughout Santa Clara County we lost many middle and low skilled jobs over the recession. It is imperative that we continue to provide more job opportunities and that we ensure our public workforce is properly trained and educated. We need to restore a solid middle class workforce to allow more entry level jobs to be freed up once again for our youth.

About Us



The **Local Early Education Planning Council (LPC)** is a collaborative association of representatives from the early care and education field, including parents, child care providers, businesses, and government. A joint committee of board members from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Santa Clara County Board of Education oversees the Council. The LPC Legislative & Advocacy Committee informs and makes recommendations regarding current state and national legislation that affects children and their families. The Committee also reviews current state/federal legislation related to Early Care and Education and recommends action.

The Council brings together parents, community members, government representatives, and child care providers to:

- assess local child care needs
- set local priorities for use of state and federal funds
- affect public policy decisions regarding early education and before & after school programs



Kids in Common, a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, advocates for policies partnerships and investments that improve children’s lives in Santa Clara County. Children need a strong public voice that promotes and protects their best interests. Kids in Common is that voice and challenges leaders in our community to act on behalf of children. Our vision: Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, successful in life.

Our Vision:

*Every child safe, healthy,
successful in learning, successful in life.*