

# 2020 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## EXPERIENCE

What experience with Palo Alto community issues would you bring to the council?

*Non-incumbents:* Describe your personal experience with Palo Alto City government and recent issues that have come before public hearings at the city council or other board and commissions. What was your role? (For example, did you send an email, speak to the Council, lead a group of citizens, etc.?) How extensively were you involved?

*Incumbents (Kou, Tanaka):* What have been your major initiatives on the Council? Describe your role and the results.

## GOALS

What are the top three goals you want to achieve in the next four years on the city council?

## PUBLIC SAFETY

How would you help set policies for PAPD to address racial profiling and use of excessive force?

What are your thoughts on “defunding” and/or reorganizing the police department? What changes do you want to see in our police department? If you would cut its budget, where would you apply the savings?

## CITY GOVERNANCE

Do you agree with how the City recently cut its budget? If not, what would you have done differently?

What is your position on Proposition 15, the constitutional amendment to require commercial and industrial properties to be taxed based on their market value, rather than their purchase price?

Would you make any changes to the balance of power between the city manager and staff and the elected City Council entrusted to do the will of the people?

Palo Alto has a wealth of talent and knowledge in its residents, but often hires consultants with little expert knowledge of the city. Should the city utilize the talent and knowledge of its residents differently, and if so, how?

## HOUSING

RHNA states that Palo Alto's greatest housing need is for units affordable by those earning 80% and below Area Median Income. Do you support this goal and, if so, how would you accomplish it?

PAN has officially endorsed Alternative M, which was brought to the NVCAP working group by several PAN members. What innovative ways might you explore to pay for low income housing and BMR housing in North Ventura and other sites in Palo Alto?

What would you do to protect existing rental housing and its tenants?

Do you support ending single-family residential (R-1) zoning? Why or why not?

## OFFICE DEVELOPMENT

Would you as a councilmember encourage more working at home to reduce commuting, traffic, pollution, and climate change? If so, what specific steps would you take?

Regarding the Jobs/Housing Imbalance, how much, where *and what kind of* new office space can Palo Alto sustain? Should Palo Alto consider rezoning office properties to reduce the amount of future office development?

What other ideas do you have for incentivizing housing construction over office construction?

## **TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

What do you see as our most serious traffic issues and how would you fix them?

Should businesses be responsible for reducing traffic and parking impacts? Should the businesses pay for the remedies and how? What is the City's role?

What changes, if any, would you make to our city's parking requirements and residential parking programs?

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

How would you improve our city services and how would these improvements be funded?

How would you improve the city's code enforcement department?

What should the City do with its 8 acres of Cubberley?

Many organizations are having a difficult time recruiting volunteers, including many Palo Alto commissions. What would you do as a council member to encourage more people to participate in city government and civic organizations?

Neighbors who were following the two supermarkets, first at Edgewood Plaza and then at College Terrace were dismayed that the City did not enforce the promises made by developers to provide for a grocery store. The City then did not fully collect the penalties that were due the City when the developers failed to provide the grocery stores. How the City should handle such matters?

Given that some neighborhoods are closer to the train stations and to services than others, how would you balance the recommendation by housing agencies to concentrate growth in those areas with the livability of those neighborhoods?

## **GRADE SEPARATION**

Palo Alto is considering grade-separation designs with a wide range of price tags. What are your preferred solutions? How important is project cost in selecting grade-separation designs?

If buying residential properties allows the City to improve a grade-separation design and/or reduce its cost, should the City acquire these properties? Or should the City only consider designs that require no property acquisitions?

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

As economic impacts from the pandemic increase, what are your ideas to help local small businesses, especially those that serve neighborhoods, to survive and thrive?