



2022 City Council Candidate Questions

COMMUNITY LIFE

What two things would you prioritize to make Palo Alto and its neighborhoods more livable?

PAT BURT

Increased cultural special events (including live music) in the retail areas and better traffic calming/speeding enforcement.

KATIE CAUSEY

Safer street infrastructure and relaxed zoning and permitting for small businesses.

ANNE CRIBBS

I would prioritize more parks with bathrooms and more whimsical places to sit and chat.

HENRY ETZKOWITZ

Did not respond.

GEORGE LU

In addition to supporting housing, retail, and walking / cycling improvements, we should also:

1. Invest in nature, including parks and our tree canopy, especially in South Palo Alto.
2. Support community-led events ranging from small block parties to larger cultural celebrations to regular events like Third Thursday on Cal Ave.

KEITH RECKDAHL

I would like to see more neighborhood events that bring neighbors closer together. I think increasing funding for Neighborhood block grants is a good way to foster block parties and other events that allow folks to get to know each other.

I'd also like to increase funding to programs for our youth and seniors. We have some wonderful programming but many things fill up quickly. I would like to see more availability to serve all interested participants.

GREER STONE

To make Palo Alto and its neighborhoods more livable, I would prioritize enhancing community engagement and investing in sustainable infrastructure. First, fostering a strong sense of community is essential. This can be achieved by creating more inclusive spaces for residents to gather, such as

parks and community centers, and expanding programs that encourage local involvement. A new initiative I'm focusing on in my campaign is called Palo Alto Connect where I'm aiming to better connect Palo Altans to their community by increasing community events and providing additional opportunities to connect residents to nature, art, and their city government. Engaging residents in decision-making processes ensures their voices are heard and helps to address the unique needs of diverse neighborhoods.

Second, investing in sustainable infrastructure, such as improved public transportation and safe walking and biking paths, will enhance accessibility while reducing traffic congestion and environmental impact. Sustainable infrastructure must also include protecting our natural environment such as our tree canopy which provides a cooler and more aesthetic streetscape that encourages more walking and biking. This aligns with broader goals for sustainability and equity, making our city more welcoming for families and individuals alike.

DORIA SUMMA

1. I am worried that current state mandates will drastically reduce the livability of transition neighborhoods where mixed-use business and residential abut. We are in danger of losing control over managing these transitional areas – I will work hard to make sure that we protect liveability to the extent possible.
2. We need to grow the tree canopy in South Palo Alto, particularly in the San Antonio Area where we are transitioning to residential from commercial zoning.
3. I would like to better enforce traffic and red-light violations.

CARI TEMPLETON

I am not in favor of a vacancy tax on retail/office vacancies at this time. We recently imposed a tax on medium and large sized businesses. We are seeing many companies leave the city, and a reluctance of some businesses to consider locating in Palo Alto. Overall, we have not seen Palo Alto's businesses fully recover financially from the Pandemic and need to see that more robust recovery before we could consider additional taxes.