



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Maya Esparza

Age: 47

Family: Single

Hometown: San Jose

Lived in San Jose since: most of my life

Education: MPA, San Jose State University/BA, Mills College

Occupation: Director of the All The Way Home campaign to end veteran homelessness at Destination: Home and I also teach in the MPA program at SJSU

Employer: see above

Political experience:

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (2017-current)

Franklin-McKinley School District, Boardmember 2012-2014

Notable affiliations:

Co-founder, Veterans Voices of Santa Clara County

Founding Board President, Latinas Contra Cancer

1. What do you see as the greatest challenges when it comes to providing residents with a livable, affordable and safe community?

The housing crisis is our greatest challenge. The Bay Area economy created 367,000 jobs and built just 57,000 new homes between 2010-15. The fact that supply hasn't kept up with demand, which has increased housing costs. More people are spending more of their income on housing, while others are falling into homelessness.

2. What is the biggest opportunity for your district or city during the next four years?

District 7 has been neglected for many years, and represents a great opportunity to build housing and transportation infrastructure outside—yet neighboring—the downtown corridor.

3. Describe your commitment to your district or city leading up to your bid for office.

I've been active in the community for over 20 years, including:

- working for organizations that come to the aid of the people who need it most in our community, including the Second Harvest Food Bank, United Way and the American Red Cross
- Served as a commissioner at the City of San Jose, where we funded road maintenance, streetlights and nonprofit services
- worked in government for Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, working on innovative solutions on complex issues like housing and transportation
- Served as a school board member at the Franklin-McKinley School District, where I got Franklin Elementary School rebuilt.
- Spend my days getting veterans off the streets and into homes as Director of the All The Way Home campaign to end veteran homelessness
- mentor and teach the next generation of leaders and advocates for our communities at San Jose State University.

4. Silicon Valley and the Bay Area are at the center of global, technological advancement. How do you see technology's role in changing the lives of both longtime residents and transplants?

Growing up in San Jose I've seen the impact of technology on our society but also in our local community. I think there are ways we can tap into data as a critical asset in decision-making and would like to see that grow in the City of San Jose.