



## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Name:** Jonathan Fleming

**Age:** 34

**Family:** Married with one amazing daughter!

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA

**Lived in San Jose since:** 2007

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

**Occupation:** Parent and Small Business Owner

**Employer:** Self

**Political experience:**

Current Vice Chair of the San José Neighborhoods Commission

**Notable affiliations:**

Senter Monterey Neighborhood Association, President and Founder

District 7 Leadership Group, President and Founder

Endorsed by the Parks Peace Officer's Association of San José

<https://www.ppoasj.com/city-council-picks>

1. **What do you see as the greatest challenges when it comes to providing residents with a livable, affordable and safe community?**
  1. Solving Homelessness
  2. Improving Public Safety
  3. Government Accountability and Cost Reduction

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

I believe the biggest opportunity for our City and District is the creation of jobs. Jobs are the key to restoring City services and improving our quality of life in San José. Currently we have a \$45 Million deficit, a \$293 Million backlog of park maintenance, a \$558 Million backlog of road repair, a Police force that is less than half the size we need, and a Fire Department that is overworked without enough staff and resources.

Because of the lack of jobs in our City, 160,000 of our residents commute to other cities every day. They spend their money in those cities on coffee, lunch, gas, and groceries, meaning San José loses out on \$200-300 Million every year. With that money, we could fix all of our roads and parks while doubling the size of our Police Department and increasing the staff and resources for our Fire Department. Another benefit to this is we would lessen our carbon footprint by keeping up to 160,000 people off the freeways and shorten commute times.

So let's create those jobs and improve our City!

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

No other District 7 candidate has been as involved in our Community as I have.

I am the current Vice Chair of the San José Neighborhoods Commission and am the only District 7 candidate who founded a Neighborhood Association and our District Leadership Group. This all happened because I saw an opportunity to unite our neighbors to fight for what we needed, which is to improve our quality of life, make our district safer, lower the cost of housing, promote in-demand job skills, demand equality, and create high paying jobs in San José.

I continue to be involved in a long list of environmental advocacy, including leading efforts to restore the ecosystem of Coyote Creek, trash removal from parks and fields, and research into ineffective City policies that allow for misleading Environmental Impact Reports. We created the "Take Back Our Parks and Creeks" program in the Senter Monterey Neighborhood Association, which led to the adoption of the Tully Ballfields and a program to clean every City park in our boundaries.

I have taught San José State University students in the Sociology Capstone Project Class and led them in cleaning up our streets and watershed, including a partnership with Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, because our City has allowed the situation to get out of control.

I have researched many of the issues that our residents are dealing with and have led efforts to educate our Community and empower our residents to make their voices heard. Homelessness is a major issue for our District and City. Neighborhood leaders ask me for advice on the subject as I have researched the issue at length and have worked with numerous outreach groups to develop realistic and workable solutions to this crisis.

I have helped improve Community relationships with our Police force, even at a time when this was unpopular, because we need our Police to protect us and our Police need our trust.

I believe that our City is creating and enabling many of the problems that you and I deal with every single day and we need a new leader in District 7, with fresh ideas on the Council to repair the damage to our District. For example, the lack of enforcement by our City of our environmental laws enabled the Jungle and created the pollution associated with it. Another example is the Tully Ballfields, where the City has enabled the homeless population to migrate, eat, and live there, creating an unsafe environment for children with hypodermic needles and bodily waste, which has resulted in a 50% reduction of enrollment in Spartan Little League from last year.

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?**

The role of technology has and will continue to change the lives of all San José residents. We have seen the impacts of technology in public safety through body cams and license plate readers which have helped officers do their jobs while keeping the public safe, but they have also raised ethical issues on privacy. So the future is a double edged sword of pluses and minuses.

Drones, automated services, automated labor, autonomous vehicles, free gig speed internet, and other smart city technologies will be a focal point for our City in the years to come.

Imagine a world where your car drives for you, so you can fall asleep at your home in Modesto and wake up in front of your office in San José for work. Where garbage trucks are silent but the buzzing of package-carrying-drones is present, and where your food is prepared entirely by a robot. The benefits will be overwhelming while the ethical questions will be difficult. As we automate more and more jobs, we need to ensure that our workforce has the ability to earn a high quality of living and provide for their families.

New technologies will make our lives easier in some ways and more difficult in others, so we need leaders in place who can engineer a City Government for a better tomorrow for us all. As an engineer, I am ready for the job!