



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Scott D. Nelson
Age: 54
Family: Married with 2 sons
Hometown: San Jose, CA
Lived in San Jose since: October 25, 1963
Education: B.S. Santa Clara University; M.Ed. University of Hawaii
Occupation: Educator
Employer: San Jose Unified School District; ESUHSD
Political experience: First time Candidate
Notable affiliations: NA

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

The greatest challenges include breaking the manner in which we approach issues. We need to consider a paradigm shift in the manner we confront these challenges. We need to take a holistic approach, understanding the synergistic relationship that exists between the issues. For example, I am on record saying that I believe Education is the cornerstone of positive progress for the direction of San Jose. This is not only traditional Education, but we need to expand the definition of Education. This is to include a well-funded Police Activities League, as well as Parks and Recreation Department. Providing opportunities and resources to our youth, enabling them to thrive will result in long-term positive impact on our communities.

We are currently spending more than \$112,000/year for each youth who is incarcerated. Statistics indicate that youth who are incarcerated results in a lifetime of a revolving door to jail, resulting in a great burden on our community. Introducing our youth to Police Officers in a positive sense, allowing our SJPD to become actively involved in the shaping of our communities, will change the perception our youth currently hold of Police Officers. As a Substitute Teacher of high school students, I take the opportunity to speak with them; I ask them, “what is your first emotion when you see a Police Officer?”. The overwhelming response is “fear”. This needs to change. One should be afraid of Police, if one is a criminal. Well-funded Parks and Recreation and Police Activities League can and should work collaboratively, providing opportunities and resources for after school programs. After School programs should include resources for “at-risk” communities, providing access to tools such as computers, enabling disenfranchised communities to be competitive in the classroom. Creating a Parks and Recreation after school program that provides part-time work opportunities for local college students to provide tutoring services to our younger children will serve both groups, college students as well as these younger children. Being fiscally responsible sometimes requires investments on the front end. Preparing our youth through education will result in a safer community. Better prepared, well-educated youth will be better suited for occupations in better paying jobs, making living in San Jose an affordable option.

Understanding the need for a paradigm shift in education, expanding the definition to include pursuits in more than just STEM, which are important areas of study, but they are not the only needs and areas we need to be concerned with. A more livable, affordable, and safe community is a well-informed, well-educated, well-prepared community. There are models in existence internationally. While this is a National issue, we can provide the model on a local basis, setting the standard for other communities to follow.

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

The greatest opportunity for San Jose rests in our residents. We have the best and brightest people from all over the world living in our great City. We have the opportunity to be on the cutting edge in all fields. We need to be forward thinking in our approach to education, affordable housing, transportation, public

safety, homeless/houseless crisis. Open dialogue between decision makers and residents, with creative thinking outside the box will result in exciting growth and opportunity. I truly believe San Jose is the greatest place in the world to call home. I am obviously not alone, looking at the trends. Our biggest opportunity, in our district, as well as our city lies in the people.

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

I have always served my local community. The form of service best suited for me in the past has been my commitment to youth. While a student at Santa Clara University I was an assistant varsity wrestling coach at Independence High School, under “Coach” Dave Chaid. I continued coaching, applying the lessons learned under “Coach” Chaid, to develop the whole person and winning will be a consequence. The results I have experienced are something I am very proud of. One of the first Athletes I coached while at Independence is now the Doctor Marco Sanchez, Principal of Gilroy High School. I have coached another athlete who went on to be a 2X NCAA Champion for Cornell University, and now a practicing Engineer on the Peninsula, and another athlete who after winning 4 State Championships in High School, attended and graduated Harvard in 3 years, while battling testicular cancer. Another of my athletes is now serving a life term in prison for murder; not every story is a success story, but I have committed to working with youth from all backgrounds. Education does not end in the classroom. This is a part of the synergistic, holistic approach I previously spoke of.

As one who was born and raised in district 9, into a family of public servants, my commitment to this district is just a lifestyle. My Father, “Coach” Dave Nelson served as a Teacher in the San Jose Unified School District for 43 years; serving the community comes natural to my family.

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?

Technological advancement is at the forefront of San Jose’s growth and development. All aspects of our progress should be with consideration to cutting edge technology. This is the “Silicon Valley”, and this should be on display, open

and obvious to all who visit. This should be reflected in the synergistic relationship necessary in future development that will exist between affordable, smart and sustainable housing and traffic concerns, needs and requirements. Technological advancement in areas of sustainable energy and water preservation should be included in progress in the area of development projects; all commercial, and all residential projects greater than 4 single-family homes must require inclusion of these considerations in the permitting process.

We are all blessed to call this great city home. We are fortunate to have attracted the best and brightest minds from all over the world to also call this home. Moving forward, we must set the standard, be on the cutting edge of progress. We have the opportunity to create collaborative efforts between the city and private enterprise. We have the opportunity to identify and pursue the synergistic relationship that exists in the issues currently confronting our city. Working together, taking advantage of the technological advancements created here, our city can serve as a model for the nation to follow.