



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Omar Vasquez

Age: 37

Family: Father to a 14 year old daughter

Hometown: Bagua Amazonas

Lived in San Jose since: 1997

Education: Two years of College

Occupation: Bus Driver

Employer: The Bay Charter Bus

Political experience: Five years as Community Organizer, co-founder of LUNA, a community organization, and the South Bay Progressive Alliance, a non affiliated political organization.

Notable affiliations: Member of LUNA and SBPA

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

Lack of leadership. Our elected officials have difficulty when it comes to making decisions. Primarily this is because money is influencing them as they are funded and thus beholden to special interests. Most of the time they are thinking about their reelection rather than working for the people and listening to their needs.

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

Measure F 2016: It gives the City of San José the opportunity to hire more police officers and keep our city safe.

Measure B 2016: It gives us the opportunity to bring BART to San José and improve public transportation.

Google: Along with housing, traffic, and other challenges, Google brings potential opportunities for new jobs and new businesses related to the work it does. However, we need to pressure google to invest in San Jose residents as they conduct hiring, ensuring jobs with living wages and benefits, as well as building apartments for the employees they plan to bring.

We also need to work on finding solutions for the homelessness and housing crisis.

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

As a community organizer, I care about my city, district and people; and for over five years, I've been volunteering and working with San Jose residents to find solutions on issues we care about. As a council member, I would continue working for the people, but this time, as a full time volunteer.

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 tech industry brings job opportunities, but it also brings challenges in housing, traffic and inequality. This creates displacement, people moving out of San Jose or two or three families living in the same apartment. It also creates density problems with lack of parking spaces and traffic congestions.

Long term, the tech industry can become an opportunity for kids with well paying jobs, it can impact the way schools teach and include STEM programing.