

2018 Mountain View City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Silicon Valley at Home (SV@Home) is an affordable housing policy and advocacy organization working to ensure housing affordability for all who work and live in Silicon Valley. As a candidate running for office, we invite you to participate in a survey regarding affordable housing. Responses to this survey will be shared widely with community members, and SV@Home members and partner agencies.

Please complete the survey by September 7th, 2018

Email address *

Candidate name

John Inks

A. What are your housing priorities?

Increase supply, streamline planning and zoning to allow more housing, protect greatest source of the most existing naturally affordable housing in Mountain View

B. To date, Mountain View has failed to meet any of its state mandated housing goals. Earlier this year, the Legislature considered a proposal to allow higher default densities around transit stations in an effort to create more opportunities for housing and affordable housing across our neighborhoods. Do you support or oppose this type of state intervention around the housing crisis?

The City fulfills State zoning mandates, but housing doesn't necessarily get built. State legislation can contain provisions that may not necessarily suit local growth policy. I would advocate working with Mountain View's own Transit Oriented Development first.

C. Do you support and will you advocate for Measure-A funded projects in your jurisdiction? If yes, how will you work with your community to ensure support and acceptance of supportive housing for the homeless and families earning less than \$30,000 a year?

In built out communities like Mountain View, compatibility issues is are common growth challenges. For industrial vs. adjacent residential neighborhoods, the need for active listening, constructive dialog and patience are essential. My experience is that the same communications skills can be used to overcome objections to supportive housing needs.

D. How many homes do you think are appropriate as part of a redeveloped East Whisman? How many of these homes should be affordable to lower-income households? And how many of them should be affordable to moderate-income households?

I do not have specific quantitative housing numbers at this time. My experience is that precise plans tend to be overly prescriptive and that targets may not be met. Unfortunately, this may also be the case for North Bayshore.

E. Do you support or oppose slowing the pace of residential or mixed-use development in the Downtown Area or other areas of Mountain View? Please explain your response.

I do not support slowing of the growth of Downtown residential mixed-use development. Downtown development is more complicated because of the confluence of many development parameters including density, mobility, transit, rail, historical uses and immediate residential neighborhoods. I predict some denser and taller developments will emerge.

F. Would you support increasing the homeownership affordability requirement from 10 percent to 15 percent?

Mountain View has generally addressed housing affordability associated with rental housing vs. ownership housing. My experience that land costs, financing and affordability are more than a challenge to pencil out. However, I'm amenable to an affordable housing pro forma that may work.

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