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

Leonard M. "Lenny" Siegel

A. What are your housing priorities?

Build tens of thousands of units in mixed-use, medium-density neighborhoods to keep up with or exceed job growth; make 20% affordable with an inclusionary requirement of 15%.

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?

MV has met its market-rate RHNA goals. We are building affordable housing as fast as we can find funding, with more properties already in the queue. I opposed SB827 because we have shown we can develop public support for housing if we have the ability to determine how and where. In MV, the best place to build housing is in employment centers.

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?

We are working on a major Measure A project on VTA-owned land at Pioneer and Evelyn. Though the site is convenient, it's in no one's back yard. There are a couple of other possible sites. I challenge the intolerant people who don't like vehicle-dwellers to support make fixed housing available.

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?

5000-plus. 15% inclusionary, plus 5% subsidized. We are still working on a formula to set aside some of those for the missing middle. That could raise the numbers because they require smaller subsidies.

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.

The challenge for residential uses downtown is parking. I am proposing car-light or car-free projects, perhaps with a focus on market-rate housing for seniors. I also support affordable housing, focused on seniors, on Lot 12.

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

Yes, for new projects.

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