

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

Lucas Ramirez

A. What are your housing priorities?

My top priorities are:

1. Implementing the North Bayshore Precise Plan and addressing challenges with the cost of development to ensure the success of the Plan;
2. Completing and adopting the East Whisman Precise Plan, maximizing housing opportunities; and
3. Exploring additional housing opportunities, including in the Terra Bella area.

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?

Although Mountain View has made considerable progress over the past several years, much work remains to be done. I supported SB 827, Sen. Scott Wiener's bill that would have allowed for greater density and building height near transit throughout the state. In addition to job centers like North Bayshore and East Whisman, transit stations are key opportunity sites for housing that can support and serve the higher densities that we need to meaningfully address the housing crisis.

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?

I supported Measure A and will advocate for Measure-A funded projects in Mountain View. The only viable long-term strategy to address homelessness is to dramatically increase the amount of permanent supportive housing, and every city must contribute its fair share. I would support a robust community engagement strategy to help inform the public and develop support for opportunity sites, similar to the community engagement work used to develop precise plans.

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?

The City currently is studying up to 5,000 new homes in East Whisman, and I support the Council's direction so far (although I would not oppose studying more than 5,000). I would support a 20% affordability goal, with most of the new affordable housing aimed at lower-income people.

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 oppose slowing the pace of residential and mixed-use development in Mountain View. The Downtown Area is well served by transit and is an appropriate place for residential development. Residential development is necessary to address the housing crisis.

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

I support aggressive affordability requirements/inclusionary housing, but we must be careful not to impose requirements that are so great that they render development financially infeasible. I support a 15% affordability requirement for ownership housing as long as it does not discourage development of ownership housing.

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