

2018 San Jose 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 17th, 2018

Email address *

Candidate name

Pam Foley

A. What are your housing priorities?

Housing for many of our residents has become unattainable. I am an advocate for increased smart, well-planned housing of all types: senior, workforce, affordable, market rate, homeless. Creating more housing opportunities is a top priority.

B. To date, San Jose 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?

I oppose the state intervention. There should not be a one size fits all approach to development along the transit corridor, which would come with state intervention. Each project must be considered for its merits, impact on traffic and environment. Solving the lack of housing is not just a problem faced in San Jose. Along with traffic, transportation, air quality and water, housing is a regional issue that should be the shared responsibility of all jurisdictions.

C. Do you support and will you advocate for Measure-A funded projects in your District? 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?

There is an opportunity to create homeless housing opportunities across the city. I support a thoughtful approach to utilizing Measure A funds. Sanctioned encampments, tiny homes, permanent housing must all include support services for mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction, and job training. Transportation must be readily available. I support these projects, but we must be creative in our approach, understand that one solution is not the answer for every situation and work very closely with the community. This means early and frequent opportunities to engage neighbors and communicate openly with them. Their input is important and we need to respect their point of view.

D. How many homes do you think are appropriate as part of redeveloped Diridon Station Area? How many of these homes should be affordable to lower-income households? How many of these homes should be affordable to moderate-income households?

Housing is among the most critical pieces of the downtown development. It must incorporate lower-income, moderate-income, affordable and market rate homes. The exact number is yet to be determined, but it should be guided by zoning restrictions and discussions with Google and others.

A priority must be given to creating housing for the displacement of downtown residents, many of whom are barely making it financially.

The number of homes and percentages for each type of housing should be determined in negotiations with city council and guided by the desire to build higher density with live/ work and place spaces in the downtown area with expanded mass transit availability.

E. Do you support or oppose adopting a commercial linkage fee to provide affordable housing?

San Jose has a jobs/housing disparity. We cannot afford at this time to adopt commercial linkage fees

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