

## 1. Reason for running

What are the top three goals you want to achieve in the next four years on the city council?

### Stewart Carl:

Palo Alto is at a crossroads. Over development is threatening our quality of life and our unique Palo Alto culture that has contributed so much to Silicon Valley's culture of innovation. Our most celebrated innovator, Steve Jobs, was the product of a "free-range" childhood in suburban Cupertino, not a cloistered upbringing in a "vibrant" urban environment. My top three goals are

**1. Moratorium on office development** - So many of our problem are due to more than a decade of over-development of office space. With a typical "office" worker now occupying as little as 75 square-feet of space, every 75 square-feet of "office" allowed by council creates a need for 750 square-feet of living space, a tremendous opportunity for residential developers, and a tremendous burden on our infrastructure of schools, roads, retail, parks, trees, water, our air, our unique quality of life, our seniors, and our residents of moderate means. Palo Alto needs an immediate moratorium on ALL new office construction. The moratorium need to stay in place until the City can determine how much growth our infrastructure can really support.

**2. Transportation** - For better or worse, the automobile will continue to be Palo Alto's predominant mode of transportation for the foreseeable future. In the next decade passenger-rail, buses, and taxi services will increasingly come under competitive pressure from highly networked ride-sharing services and smart self-driving automobiles that are better positioned to leverage advances in networking technology to provide single mode point-to-point service to customers who have traditionally not been well served by automobiles (too old, too young, or disabled). Palo Alto must be prepared for these changes. New construction must provide more than adequate parking

**3. Architectural Compatibility** - Palo Alto is becoming a hodgepodge of incompatible architectural styles with office-park and strip-mall style architecture increasingly intruding into and looming over residential homes, parks, small retailers, and the pedestrian street scape. The Palo Alto City Council cannot design buildings. Only architects can design buildings, and only great architects can design great buildings. We must improve the independence and professionalism of architects practicing in Palo Alto, and that must begin with improving the independence and professionalism of the Architectural Review Board.

**Fund Neighborhood Associations** - I would like to stimulate engagement and strengthen our neighborhood associations by funding them with an annual allowance of \$2,500 from the city. If the funding proves cost effective the annual allowance could be increased as warranted.

### Leonard Ely III:

Try and make the Council more proactive, work to make the Council more responsive to changes in the City, provide solutions to issues.

## **Adrian Fine:**

I'm running for city council because I see so many opportunities for our city. Palo Alto has incredible intellectual, economic, environmental, and historic resources, and I want to make sure that current and future generations have even greater opportunities than I had growing up here.

My top three goals are 1) solving our traffic and parking programs by investing in sustainable transportation and transit, 2) creating housing choices in the right places, and 3) creating a natural and urban environment we can be proud of. This can be achieved through our innovative, inclusive, and compassionate spirit.

I was born in Palo Alto in 1986, and I've spent my entire life here: learning at Ohlone, JLS and Gunn; biking in our neighborhoods; and benefitting from the Palo Alto spirit. I'm currently a renter, recently engaged, and I want to raise my family in Palo Alto. I want to make sure that our exceptional quality of life is protected and improved for current and future residents.

## **John Fredrich:**

My top goals are representing all citizens, protecting the environment and quality of life here in Palo Alto, and responsibly enabling the creation of more affordable housing. I believe that in order to do this we need a new City Manager and a new Director of Planning.

## **Arthur Keller:**

I am running for Palo Alto City Council because I want our city government to be the best it can be. Our City government must be responsive to the needs of its residents and businesses, and responsive to changing conditions. Our residents and businesses need a moderate and thoughtful approach to managing development and growth that does not outpace the capacity of our schools, parks, and infrastructure. I support growth at a rate we can absorb.

**Housing.** Palo Alto does need new housing. We must be realistic and realize that we cannot have housing for all who want to live here. We need more housing for seniors, so our seniors can stay in our community as we age. Additional housing must also focus on those most in need, including more affordable housing units. We can follow the lead of San Francisco and increase our minimum percentage of affordable housing from 15 to 25%. We can explore housing for new teachers, as suggested by proposed legislation, and for first responders and utility workers. We must also do our part for emergency preparedness.

State law does allow Palo Alto to consider school impacts of changes to our policies, though not individual development projects. The City must start to consider school overcrowding. Our high school sites were originally designed for 1200 students each and are now planned to hold nearly double. Our Middle Schools are already at capacity. The School District can build two-story school buildings, but we cannot have two-story playing fields.

**Development, Traffic and Parking.** Rapid growth in jobs is the root cause of our housing and traffic problems. We have allowed office space and jobs to grow dramatically, resulting in worsening traffic congestion and parking spilling over into neighborhoods. We must manage growth and reduce its impacts. By tying the rate of growth to a requirement to address the impacts of growth, landowners can be motivated to work with commercial tenants to minimize project impacts. Not all growth is good. I am in favor of maintaining the annual growth limit on office space — a “speed limit” on growth.

Clogged arterial streets encourage drivers to divert to and speed in local neighborhoods. This is unsafe and reduces neighborhood livability. For example, we can tie future growth of the Stanford

Research Park to achieving binding targets for reducing traffic congestion on access streets. (See <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2001/september19/mayfield-919.html> about a previous agreement with Stanford regarding growth at the research park. Playing fields were the ultimate use instead of the JCC of the Page Mill Road/El Camino Real site.)

I led the successful effort to insert into our updated Comprehensive Plan the requirement that all new developments supply parking to meet the demand they generate.

**Enforcing our laws.** I support fully enforcing our requirements for Planned Community benefits, zoning laws, Conditional Use Permits, conditions of approval, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs, etc. I support improving our code enforcement process and adjusting penalties and fees to reflect the true costs of the community of these violations of our laws. And I support being clear that to the staff and the public that we will expect compliance and take appropriate measures when there is lack of compliance. I want periodic reporting on code complaints and how they were adjudicated.

### Liz Kniss:

When re-elected my priorities will be:

- Transportation
  - Continue to champion our Transportation Management Agency (TMA), an organization that serves as an official means for controlling traffic in and out of the city. I spearheaded the creation of TMA in Palo Alto.
  - Electrify Caltrain and identify funding for grade separation projects
- Housing
  - Near transit
  - Affordable
  - Diverse types for all generations
- Health and safety
  - Implement our Parks and Open Space Master Plan
  - Drive projects that reduce traffic, create safe bike lanes and improve pedestrian safety
  - Support youth mental health initiatives including Project Safety Net.

### Lydia Kou:

I regard a city's first obligation is to its residents, they are the heart and soul of Palo Alto.

I will focus on the following that is related to preserving the quality of life for residents

1. Land use decisions and street capacity (mobility and circulation) must be considered together. Therefore information must be based on relevant and **factual** traffic analysis and studies to determine baselines and thresholds. It must include cumulative impacts of each development and assesses of downstream impacts as well.
2. Discourage exceptions and push for code enforcement for developments which can provide for consistency in planning. With consistency, the planning process can be streamlined and both developers and residents have better understanding of what to expect.
3. Vigorously protect and preserve Palo Alto's family-oriented community with unique neighborhoods, high quality schools, beautiful parks and open space and community services for all residents.

**Danielle Martell:**

DID NOT RESPOND

**Don McDougall:**

I am running for Palo Alto City Council because:

I want to maintain the style and quality of life in Palo Alto that is defined by a SUSTAINABLE PALO ALTO defined by our open spaces parks and green canopy, our local economy, our attitude of innovation and the inclusiveness of our people.

I want to improve our diversity and inclusiveness.

I want to provide the leadership for a collaborative approach to housing, traffic and climate issues with neighboring communities and between our Palo Alto neighborhoods.

**Greer Stone:**

- 1) Narrow jobs/housing imbalance by limiting office growth and expanding housing opportunities,
- 2) Reduce traffic,
- 3) Expand city's ability to support social services by investing more in our city's nonprofit organizations.

**Greg Tanaka:**

- Reduce the impact of jobs and commuters by making public transit more effective – electrify and trench Caltrain, and increase shuttles, implement Transit Management Associations in downtown, California Avenue and Stanford Research Park, work with PAUSD on alternative options for students like shuttles and carpooling.
- Protect and enhance our parklands and also strengthen the sustainability of our community with the Climate Action Plan initiatives.
- Make City Hall work for everyone: maintain the quality of life in our neighborhoods by engaging with the community to plan for the future.