

## **ABOUT YOU**

**Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot:** Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal

**What office are you seeking?** San Jose City Council District 8

**Are you an incumbent in this office?** No

**Do you now or have you ever held elected office(s)? If so, please list title(s), jurisdiction(s), and years in each office.** No

**Where's your hometown?** San Jose, CA

**What is your current city of residence?** San Jose, CA

**What is your highest level of education?** Masters

**What is your current primary vocation/occupation?** Engineer

**Do you have an arts background of any kind? If so, please explain.** I like to think of an Engineer as numerical artist

## **ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN**

**Please share your candidate statement as it will appear in voting materials. (approx. 200 words)**

My name is Sukhdev Singh Bainiwal. A husband, father of four, former Airport Commissioner, Evergreen community leader and an engineer. I am running to represent our community on the San Jose City Council.

I immigrated to Evergreen at a young age and have lived here for 46 years. I was a paperboy while attending local schools. My wife and I raised our family in Evergreen. I am a proud Evergreen resident, but our neighborhoods are in decline. Homelessness and crime are rising, and local parks are deteriorating. The status quo is unacceptable.

We need to change how we approach homelessness. We cannot allow blight and unhealthy conditions in our neighborhoods. It's not compassionate to let people die on our streets. Our City and County need to do more to get individuals into basic and safe shelters. We need to increase the number of police in our communities and bolster our local Neighborhood Watch programs. We need to reinvest in our park system to give families safe and usable spaces to enjoy our beautiful community.

Evergreen deserves a Councilmember who will fight for positive change on behalf of our community. I'd be honored to have your support and vote. For more information visit [www.votebainiwal.com](http://www.votebainiwal.com)

**What is your campaign budget?** \$130,000

**How much have you raised to date? Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much.** \$110,000; \$10K Loaned to my campaign

**How many doors have you personally knocked to date?** 6,000 Doors

### **ABOUT THE ARTS**

#### **What is your perception of the current state of arts and culture in San José? (250 words)**

Arts and Culture is displayed at several places in the city. I hear about special art created or brought to San Jose. I enjoy the art outside and inside City Hall. At one time . he passes for San Jose Arts Museum used to given by businesses and enjoyed the art. We have the Tech Museum display our technology art. I think San Jose has art but could use some more to beautify the City and also should create art that brings in visitors to the City. We could use more art in San Jose.

#### **How would you define the role of arts and culture in San José's economy? (250 words)**

At this time not playing a big role in our economy. We should display more art that brings in visitors to the City. We living at center of innovation; we can innovate new art that brings in people to San Jose.

**Were you familiar with SJAA before receiving this survey?** No

**If yes to the above, [are you familiar with our current policy priorities?](#)** I wasn't familiar with SJAA.

### **ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES**

*The following questions are directly related to SJAA's policy priorities. Your direct responses are appreciated!*

#### **Would you support a policy requiring large private developments to contribute funding and/or space and other resources to public arts and cultural programs in San José — similar to existing policies in Bay Area cities like Sunnyvale and Berkeley? Why or why not?**

I would not support a required fee for arts on development projects. Housing in San Jose is expensive enough and we have a major shortage of supply. We must do everything possible to make development *cheaper* in order to make the housing more affordable for residents.

However, I would be interested in exploring a public arts credit, where developers may get density bonus credits for dedicating space and/or funding for public art displays on their property. This way developers are incentivized to contribute to San Jose's public art community by either providing funding and/or a dedicated space on their property.

You can read an overview of SJAA's policy proposal here.

#### **Would you support reallocating the current 40% General Fund set aside from the Transient Occupancy Tax (aka TOT or Hotel Tax) to arts, culture, and tourism programs? Why or why not?**

Given the sorry state of the City's finances, I could not support reallocating general fund dollars at this time. Budgets fluctuate, however, and I would be open to exploring this option as the city's financial situation improves.

#### **Would you support the creation of positions within city departments for artists in residence to coordinate with staff on community engagement and strategic planning — as other municipalities like Los Angeles County are already doing? Why or why not?**

Again, I do not think the city's budget is in a position to create these critical positions at this moment. I would be open to finding ways to establish a public/private partnership that funds these positions and identifies ways to prioritize more public art projects throughout the city.

**OPEN FORUM**

**What are some other ideas you have for increasing City support for arts and culture?**

**What do you wish we had asked but didn't?**