

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Arjun Batra

What office are you seeking? San Jose City Council District 10

Are you an incumbent in this office? Yes

Do you now or have you ever held elected office(s)? *If so, please list title(s), jurisdiction(s), and years in each office:* Yes, I am the current Councilmember for District 10.

Where's your hometown? San Jose

What is your current city of residence? San Jose

What is your highest level of education? MBA

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? San Jose City Councilmember District 10

Do you have an arts background of any kind? *If so, please explain.* no

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

I work day and night to make San Jose the greenest, safest, and most convenient city to live, work and raise a family in.

In January 2023, I was selected from twenty-four applicants to serve as the Councilmember of District 10. I have been grateful every day since to be a voice for our residents and to advocate for cost-effective, common sense solutions.

My focus has been on: Reducing encampments by creating interim housing and Safe Parking spots; Improving public safety by adding more police officers and crime-fighting resources; Strengthening traffic safety especially around schools through improved signs and lifesaving speed enforcement cameras; Expanding mental health and addiction treatment; Streamlining permitting for new housing and renovations; and making parks and neighborhoods cleaner.

I spent years working in high tech (IBM and Intel) and in advisory roles for City government. Today, I am putting my experience to work for you.

“Arjun is deeply committed to public service.”— Fmr Mayor Sam Liccardo I’m asking for your vote so I can continue to serve you and be your strong voice on the City Council.

Endorsed by: Congressman Ro Khanna, former Mayor Sam Liccardo, former Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen, Councilmember Bien Doan, Cupertino Vice Mayor Sheila Mohan and many more!

www.ArjunBatraSJ.com

What is your campaign budget? \$70,000

How much have you raised to date? Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much. \$67,000 including a loan of \$30,000

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? 4,000

ABOUT THE ARTS

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

San Jose is one of the most diverse cities in America and we have worked hard to recognize the cultural and artistic diversity of our community. Nonetheless, there is more we can do to encourage and promote more artistry among our residents by honoring these contributions at community celebrations, highlighting our terrific restaurants (particularly those owned by historically marginalized community members) and showcasing homegrown arts at City Hall and other public spaces.

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

San Jose is known for being at the center of the innovation economy but we all know arts education is critical for innovation - that's why so many previously STEM programs have become STEAM programs. Creativity is absolutely essential for a thriving, robust economy and we should encourage employers to do more to support these programs.

Were you familiar with SJAA before receiving this survey? Yes

If yes to the above, are you familiar with our current [policy priorities](#)? Yes

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? You can read an overview of SJAA's policy proposal [here](#).

We have a housing crisis in the Bay Area and San Jose. I have been working with San Jose's Planning, Building and Code Enforcement to speed up approvals for projects so we can create more housing and I do not believe we should be adding additional fees at this time. However, I do believe we should encourage public-private partnerships to support public arts and cultural programs.

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?

San Jose is experiencing budget deficits and I do not support additional spending mandates while we work to close the gap and ensure funding of already existing programs.

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?

I would be open to such a program but would like to learn more details about how it would work.

OPEN FORUM

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

No response

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