

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: George Casey VP/Senior Counsel

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

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? Law Degree from SCU, Master of Urban Planning from SJSU, and Master of Real Estate Development from UC Berkeley

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? Attorney

Do you have an arts background of any kind? If so, please explain. I am not an artist myself, but have a great appreciation for how the arts bring communities together. In turn, strong, vibrant communities bring out the best in each of us.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

My candidate statement is being reviewed. I will be glad to provide it once it has been reviewed.

What is your campaign budget? Our goal is \$200,000.

How much have you raised to date? *Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much.* We have raised \$100,000 in the General so far. In the Primary I loaned the campaign \$32,000.

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? 2,000 in the General, so far, and 11,000 in the Primary.

ABOUT THE ARTS

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

San José has a rich diversity of cultures and talents. The City offers many opportunities to experience the arts from museums to galleries to music venues and even a rich culinary scene. The influx of creativity in art as the tech influence has merged with more traditional art installations and work has added to the richness of the art installations. The City Council could functionally invigorate the art and culture scene by highlighting events and opportunities to view and be involved in the art and culture scene in San Jose. A challenge to increasing the arts in San José is affordability for artists trying to live in the City. There is

not an easy solution to housing affordability. However, as we consider how to invest in our urban spaces we should keep affordable housing in mind.

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

One of the pillars of my campaign is growing and improving our local economy. I believe that beautifying our city is a key part of that process. We want San José to be dynamic and welcoming, and art will be a big part of that. As we work hard to grow our economy and eliminate blight, we will need artistic beauty and creativity to inspire us and make downtown a visually attractive place to be. Art will augment the beauty that already exists in our city, and create new pathways for community engagement and economic growth.

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?

I support public art, and would like to see more of it in our city. But, I would like to work with organizers to develop incentives, rather than budget requirements, for the development of creative projects. By drawing on shared goals of beautifying our city, celebrating diversity, and fostering community connection, we can reintroduce art to our public spaces by encouraging, rather than mandating, private contributions.

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?

I would need to see the details, but in general yes I would support reallocating these funds back into arts, culture and tourism programs. Reinvesting these funds back into our local economy is just good business for San Jose, and helps us bring in more visitors and other important opportunities that will have a direct, positive impact for our local economy and local businesses.

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?

It would depend on the specifics, but I would like to see the City focus primarily on utilizing the untapped creative potential of students, local artists, and community members and to have the City work in collaboration with nonprofits and artists in the community, working to bring art to schools and provide opportunities for artists to showcase and share their talents.

OPEN FORUM

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

- Maker spaces available to the community downtown, art displayed outside.
- Public art to beautify tiny home developments for the unhoused.

SJAA Candidate Questionnaire 2024

- Combine public art and new greenspaces.

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