

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Joe Lopez

What office are you seeking? San Jose City Council District 2

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? I was born in Salinas but have lived most of my life in San Jose

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

What is your highest level of education? I graduated with a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University in 1972.

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? Since 2012 I have had the honor of serving as the President of the Santa Clara County National Latino Peace Officers Association, where I have helped promote diversity in police departments all over our region and the state as well as providing scholarships to students in the San Jose Community. My wife and I also run our own single family home rental units in San Jose.

Do you have an arts background of any kind? If so, please explain. I do not have a formal arts background, but I have always greatly appreciated the arts and have supported the positive impact it makes in our communities.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

For 35 years, I served our community in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office. Now, I'm running for San Jose City Council to make sure that every community in San Jose is safe and clean. I worked in nearly every position in the Sheriff's office – from patrol officer, to narcotics agent, to hostage negotiator. I've seen firsthand how good policing and accountable leadership makes neighborhoods safer.

San Jose was once the safest big city in America. I have a plan to reclaim that important title. We need to hire more police officers and first responders, who are well trained and understand the communities they serve. We need to build safe and decent shelter for the homeless and require that people use it. Our district has built its fair share of shelters – as councilmember I will make sure that every other district does the same. I will fight every day to hold City Hall accountable, so our city is safe and clean, our tax dollars are not wasted, and to make sure that city government is working for us.

We have enough politicians talking about crime. We need a leader who knows how to fight it.

I'm ready to lead that fight.

What is your campaign budget? \$50,000

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? 500

ABOUT THE ARTS

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

San José is one of the most diverse communities in the country – and one of the great benefits of that, is that our local art scene and culture is very strong. But I think there is plenty of room to grow. San José already punches above its weight when it comes to the culinary arts, and in recent years we have seen more music and arts festivals come to San José, which is great for our local economy. I would like to see more of those things in the future.

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

Arts and culture are very important to San José's economy. At the end of last year for example, San Jose brought in nearly \$300 million thanks to the city's nonprofit arts and culture sector. I think that's impressive for our city, and should be a point of pride. I would love to see more opportunities for our city to show off our diverse local culture, which in turn will help bring more tourism to San Jose, and give our current residents more pride in their community.

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?

It would depend on the details but I would like to see our city focus first on getting creative with the kind of opportunities for partnership we can pursue first. We have a wealth of local artists, students, nonprofits and all kinds of community groups in our city, and we should support opportunities that incentivize businesses and private developments to partner with them.

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 specifics, but generally speaking yes, I would support that. We should work harder to reinvest the dollars we bring in from visitors back into opportunities that directly benefit our local economy and the people of San José.

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 specific circumstance, but I would like to see the city first look for opportunities to partner with local artists first, and look for ways to collaborate with nonprofits, students, community organizations and other groups when it comes to these projects.

OPEN FORUM

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

I would like to see the city look for more opportunities to bring more music festivals, conventions and other events to San Jose. We have some wonderful venues like the Sharks Stadium and the San José convention center that we can utilize, and I think there is a lot of opportunity there.

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