

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Olivia Navarro

What office are you seeking? San Jose City Council District 6

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:* District 6 Neighborhood Commissioner since 2016, elected via caucus

Where's your hometown? San Jose

What is your current city of residence? San Jose

What is your highest level of education? College & hold a Property Casualty License for over 20 years

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? Businesswoman/Consultant/Mother

Do you have an arts background of any kind? *If so, please explain.*

As an ardent advocate for the arts, I actively promote arts within the community. This manifests in several ways: championing arts education, supporting local artists and arts organizations, and fostering creative engagement. I bring people together through innovative initiatives, encouraging them to support and volunteer at community events, festivals, and performances that enrich lives. My passion for nurturing creativity extends beyond my own children; I actively cultivate the artistic talents of families and individuals throughout the community.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

I'm running for City Council because, as a parent, I want everyone to thrive in our community. I'm raising my kids in the same Willow Glen neighborhood I grew up in, where we've built deep ties across our neighborhoods, schools, and in Saint Leo the Great Community.

I'm honored to be elected and serve as your District 6 Neighborhood Commissioner and to help lead the campaign to secure funding for building our new San Jose Fire Station 37 in Willow Glen, emphasizing investments in public safety, disaster preparedness, & street repaving. As Mayor Matt Mahan's appointee to the Measure T Community Oversight Committee, I work to ensure these funds are invested wisely.

On the San Jose City Council, I'll prioritize addressing homelessness & blight, improving public safety, solving the housing crisis, and attracting good-paying jobs and economic investment to our city. I'll foster a future of collaboration, accountability, and transparency.

I'm proud to be endorsed by Congressmember Anna Eshoo, Congressmember Ro Khanna, State Assemblymember Evan Low, State Senator Josh Becker, Santa Clara County Supervisor Sylvia Arenas, as well as local teachers, nurses, and essential workers. I would be honored to earn your vote so we can work together to build on the progress we have made for our neighborhoods. Visit www.oliviaforcitycouncil.com.

What is your campaign budget? \$100K

How much have you raised to date? Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much. \$63K and loaned \$5K

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? 9,493

ABOUT THE ARTS

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

My current perception of the state of arts and culture in San Jose is thriving. San Jose has such diverse cultures that we have started to see initiatives to celebrate this diversity.

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

The arts and culture in San Jose have a very important role in our economy. They can help drive people to visit our city and they can help the overall quality of life. The arts and culture very much contribute to San Jose's attractiveness for residents and businesses. More people coming out to enjoy the arts and culture will definitely have a desirable economic impact on our communities.

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](#).

Yes. It helps to incentivize private developers to contribute to the arts and to the city's cultural vitality.

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?

Yes, absolutely reallocating 40% of the General Fund's Transient Occupancy Tax to arts, culture, and tourism unlocks a fantastic opportunity for San Jose. Studies show this fosters a vibrant creative culture, attracting visitors and generating economic benefits through increased sales taxes, income taxes, and boosting 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?

Yes, if our budget permits. This would be great to support the enrichment of our city's culture. Having a diverse group of artists with different backgrounds and perspectives can help us engage with different socio-economic neighborhoods and show unity through art. It is important to effectively communicate the value of these positions to community stakeholders in enhancing community engagement and cultural enrichment.

OPEN FORUM

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

I absolutely adore murals and would love to find ways to involve the community in creating them. I think it would be wonderful to have children volunteer to help paint with the artists, so they can leave their mark on the city and feel proud of their contribution. I'm also interested in organizing art competitions for families and children, where the winning design could be displayed in public spaces. Additionally, I believe that having more art in areas that are often neglected could help instill a sense of community pride and encourage people to take care of the surrounding area.

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

How can we collaborate effectively with local artists, particularly youth and those from marginalized communities of color, to participate in San Jose's beautification projects? It is important to ensure a mutually beneficial process that can open doors for local artists and help build the next generation of artists in San Jose. Would the candidate support allocating funds in the city budget for educational workshops and programs for aspiring artists? This could foster connections between established and emerging artists, provide opportunities for public artwork displays and exhibitions, and create dedicated spaces for artistic expression.