

November 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Teresa O'Neill

Office/seat for which you're running: City of Santa Clara City
Council District 4

Birth date: 07/19/1955

Street address (not for publication): 2822 Sycamore Way, Santa
Clara, CA 95051-5642

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/teresa.oneillsc@gmail.com/teresaoneill.org

Years resided in the county: 63

Profession/employment: retired, previously employed by Hewlett-
Packard Company for over 35 years in a variety of capacities, most
recently as a contract negotiator/manager.

Spouse/partner's profession/employment: n/a

Political party: Democratic

Elected offices held, years: Trustee, Santa Clara Unified School
District Board of Education, 1998-2006
Council Member, City of Santa Clara, 2012-

Appointed offices held, years: Planning Commissioner, City of Santa Clara, 2007-2012, Board member, Valley Transportation Authority, 2016-, Board member, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, 2017-, Board member, Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority, 2016-, Commissioner, Northern California Power Agency, 2015-

Civic activities, memberships etc.: currently serve on St. Justin Community Ministry Outreach Team and Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Schools Foundation. I will attach my resume with complete list.

How much money have you raised for this race? So, far approximately \$6,000.00

How much do you plan to raise? \$25,000.00

How much will you loan/donate to yourself? \$2,000.00

What do you consider to be the 2-3 most important issues in this race?

1. Ensuring that Santa Clara residents receive needed safety-net services during Covid-19 and the related economic recession.
2. Managing Santa Clara's finances to ensure the continuance of public safety and essential infrastructure services such as electric power, water, sewer, solid waste, and streets.
3. Escalate the search for and execution of creative solutions to quality of life challenges, primarily in housing, transportation, and recreation.

Please elaborate on your position in those issues:

The impacts of Covid-19 and the associated economic crisis have torn at the most basic human needs—maintaining housing, having enough to eat, keeping healthy, continuing education and employment, and having ways to express oneself, which is key to being human.

A number of these areas aren't traditionally the province of the governments of fairly small cities, such as Santa Clara. But in these extraordinary times, leaders need to respond to the needs of their community. Santa Clara has instituted a number of programs to help with these needs, but council members have to take the lead to find creative ways to build alliances and partnerships to keep resources flowing to our residents most in need.

To maintain a minimal sense of security and assurance that we will get through these difficult times together, residents need to have confidence that the city services they almost take for granted will be there for them. People in Santa Clara need to know that our police, fire, and EMS personnel will be there in their time of need. That they will have as hygienic an environment as possible, including the flow of water, and the possible control of too much water if the prayed-for winter rains arrive, and a shortage of water if they don't. And Santa Clara has the added responsibility of providing clean, reliable, and affordable electric power to our residents and businesses. I spend considerable time being the lead council member for our Silicon Valley Power, representing Santa Clara at joint action agencies and organizations that work on electric energy issues, and advocating to federal and state legislators and regulators as we work with public power entities

around the United States to navigate through a range of challenges in generating, transmitting, and distributing electric power.

The pandemic has impacted our ongoing problems with housing and transportation, and access to places and ways to recreate and share experiences together. We are seeing the added impacts of too many people living in too little housing and those who are unhoused. When we need people to use mass transit and other alternative transportation, preferably electrified, to help us fight the climate crisis we now are living with every day, people are proving hesitant to use shared transit. People need open space and places to exercise and exhibit our creativity. We need to find ways to balance physical health with the impacts on our mental health from being isolated, cut off from sharing with other people in so many ways. Our approach to government must foster creativity in all aspects to manage and balance all these challenges. I want to be a council member who continues to look for new ways to bring the best of all Santa Clarans to a government that will represent them and help them meet their goals in life.