

**San Jose City Council
Candidate Questionnaire – Council Candidates District 5
June 2010 Election**

Please answer all questions. The completed questionnaire must be returned electronically by 5:30 pm, Friday, February 26th via an attached Word document to Pat Sausedo at pats@sjchamber.com. Questions, please call Pat Sausedo at (408) 291-5200 or the Candidate Cultivation Co-chairs Dennis Martin at (408) 294-5682 or John Tang at (408) 279-7900.

Your scheduled interview with the Candidate Cultivation Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, March 4th between 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm** at the Chamber of Commerce Office, 101 W. Santa Clara St., in downtown San Jose. A specific time for your interview will be confirmed by the Candidate Cultivation co-chairs prior to March 4th.

NAME: Magdalena Carrasco

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE NAME: Neighbors for Magdalena Carrasco for Council, 2010

OFFICE SEEKING: San Jose City Council, District 5

FPPC #: 1324822

ADDRESS: 2775 Belfast Drive

CITY: San Jose

ZIP: 95127

PHONE: 408 595-7434

E-MAIL: carrasco4council@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Child and Family Advocate

EMPLOYER: First 5 Santa Clara County

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1. As a member of the San Jose City Council, name your three top priorities for the City.
 - a. **Safe Streets – our community deserves to know they are safe when they go outside to play, visit friends or go to work. I have worked with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence – I've seen firsthand the damage that violence can have on women, children and our community as a whole. In City Hall, reducing crime in our communities will be my number one priority.**
 - b. **Quality Public Education – While the San José city council does not have direct involvement with schools there are resources available to create an improved educational experience for our children, giving all children opportunity. Education is the greatest equalizer in a society that's stratified by race, gender, legal status and income. Sadly, our zip codes determine who gets the best education in San José. We must engage in collaborative efforts to lower the dropout rate, dramatically increase the number of college-ready students and create a culture that demands and expects excellence.**

- c. **Job Creation - Small businesses are the lifeblood of our community. Small businesses provide more than jobs, they provide a bustling community where we can shop and live near our homes, supporting our neighbors. I will work to provide small businesses with the tools they need to stay afloat – and help our community flourish – in these tough economic times.**

2. Describe how you plan to implement your top three priorities (50 words or less)

I plan to implement my top three priorities the way I have helped solve problems in our community for years: through hard work, bringing people together, empowering community members to take an active role and listening.

3. Will you support two tier pension reform (for new employees) _____Yes ___No

Maybe – I believe that creation of a two-tier pension system divides the workforce and is used as a means to provide lesser retirement and benefits. At the same time, retirement benefits that exceed \$100,000 or even \$200,000 are not sustainable. This is an issue that needs thoughtful consideration with full access to all of the numbers.

4. Will you support requiring employees paying a higher share of their benefits/healthcare?
_____Yes ___No

Again, this is a maybe. I need to see all of the numbers here. I have been a public employee and I know the difficulty that comes with seeing the cost of benefits increase while your COLA disappears. At the same time, I understand that we need to reexamine what our city can bear in terms of public employee benefits.

5. Will you support tax incentives for businesses to locate in San Jose? __X__Yes _____No

6. Name one example of a business tax incentive you would be willing to implement (25 words or less)

While not exactly a tax incentive, I would advocate for enterprise zones within District 5 to create incentives for small businesses without affecting local budget and revitalize areas that are without those small businesses today.

7. Do you support simplifying the process of government contracting with private or not-for-profit companies for non-essential services currently provided by the city?
_____Yes __X__No

8. Do you support spending tax increment/redevelopment money to bring professional baseball to San Jose? Yes No

9. Do you support spending tax/redevelopment money to bring high speed BART into downtown San Jose? Yes No

10. Do you support the expansion of the downtown SJ Convention Center as a priority for funding by the City of San Jose? Yes NO

11. Do you support amending the city charter to eliminate government mandated wages (prevailing wage) for private companies who bid on public contracts. Yes No

12. Do you support the selling of the Hayes Mansion? Yes No

13. Do you support selling Los Lagos Golf Course? Yes No

14. Do you favor high-density housing along transit corridors? Yes no

15. Until the economy fully rebounds, would you be in favor of a moratorium on all new regulations imposed on businesses? Yes No

16. Would you be in favor of streamlining the development review process for projects that fit within guidelines in the General Plan (fast track)? Yes No

REFERENCES

Please provide two personal and two professional references.

Professional references:

Jolene Smith, First 5 Executive Director

Judge Sharon Chapman

Personal references:

Assemblyman Kevin De Leon

Anna Cruz Collazo

STRATEGY

Please provide a brief overview of your campaign strategy i.e., key endorsements, fundraising goals, amount raised to date, consultants you have retained. (50 words or less)

I believe that this race will be won at the doors, in the streets and in the hearts of district 5 voters – not on the planning commission, in backdoor deals with interest groups or in City Hall. I will continue to reach out and talk with members of my community to listen to their concerns and to share my vision for what our community will be. I believe that's the best possible way to win any campaign, and the only way to win here.

1. How many votes do you need to win: **I believe we'll need roughly 3,200 votes to win in June.**
2. How much money will you raise for your campaign: **I hope to raise \$80,000**
3. Who has endorsed your campaign: **I am actively reaching out to groups and individuals to ask for their support. I have received support from a number of community members. In addition, countless members of the community have come to me to thank me for running and to encourage my campaign – this overwhelming support has been the most gratifying part of my campaign. Despite the late start to my campaign, I have garnered support for Vice Mayor Judy Chirco.**
4. Are you getting professional help on your campaign? (List names and roles):
Campaign Manager: Lisa Jensen
Campaign Consultant: Natalie LeBlanc, MSHC Partners
5. What is your core message: **My core message is this: our community needs strong, community based representation, someone who will accurately reflect our needs in City Hall and will bring resources back to our community. I'm running because I believe our community needed a choice between the past and a brighter future.**
6. Who are your core constituencies: **Members of our community, parents, families, seniors, workers. I may not enjoy institutional support from downtown, but I do have tremendous support in our neighborhoods – the voters who will cast a ballot in this race.**
7. If prepared, please attach a copy of your ballot statement.

ENDORSEMENT DISCLAIMER

COMPAC endorses candidates only after candidates have signed the Ethical Campaign Pledge of the Campaign Ethics Foundation of Santa Clara County and only after COMPAC has completed a due diligence process. This process may include some or all of the following: personal and professional reference checks, a review of previous ethical conduct by candidates on civic boards, commissions, or elective office, and a public records search