

Palo Alto Neighborhoods (PAN)  
2014 General Questions for City Council Candidates  
and Preparation for October 2nd Candidates Forum Preparation

Date: August 13, 2014

2014 Candidate for the Palo Alto City Council:

As we have done prior to recent city council elections, PAN is asking 2014 city council candidates to submit written answers to a series of questions prior to the PAN Election Forum we will host on Thursday evening, October 2, in the city council chambers. Your written answers to these questions along with those received from the other candidates will be posted verbatim on our web site and therefore provide information across common topic areas to the voters.

The year, as a both a means to inform votes as well as provide candidates more direction with regard to the forum's content, we have prepared a general question or question set in each of four areas. The four areas are:

Development,  
Quality of Life,  
Confidence in Government  
Finances

The general questions are below.

For you responses to be posted and in their entirety, we need the following:

1. Your responses to all 4 questions submitted to us within a single Microsoft Word file.
2. The response to each section is to be no more than 600 words. If any response is longer, it will be cut after 600 words.
3. The deadline for us to receive your responses via email with attachment is September 12. It should be sent to the following email address: [email address redacted]
4. Note that the answers in your Word file will be published verbatim. PAN will not edit or reformat any submitted material. We will merely convert it to HTML (web) format and publish it on our web site under the appropriate heading and page.

The responses from all candidates will posted at the same time, shortly after the September 12 submission deadline.

Thank you in advance for your effort in providing responses to the four general questions below and your participation in the October 2 forum.

Once again, note that the deadline for receipt of your answers is **September 12**.

Sheri Furman  
PAN Chair

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## **PAN General Questions for 2014 City Council Candidates**

### **1. Development** (600 words or less)

Of all the issues related to development, which concern you the most and why?

What would you do about them if you were on the city council?

What have you done about them if you currently are on the council, and what might you do differently in a second term?

### **2. Quality of Life** (600 words or less)

"Quality of Life" is a general term that is often used in discussing our city. When you hear it and use it, what does it mean to you?

Are there aspects of quality of life in Palo Alto that are of concern and need attention? If so, what can you do about them as a member of the city council?

### **3. Confidence in Government** (600 words or less)

What aspects of the relationship between Palo Alto citizens and its government would you like to improve the most? How would you do that as a member of the city council?

### **4. Finances** (600 words or less)

Over the past two decades, the region and much of the nation has gone through two major boom and bust cycles. In 2008, the city had to cut millions of dollars from its budget. This year, both city revenues and expenditures are rising over last year.

Assuming that such fluctuations may continue and that you are on the city council in January, 2015, would you work to increase, or even decrease city revenues, and if so where? What changes would you make, if any, in the current expenditures of the operating budget? In the capital improvement budget?