

# DAWN Endorsement Questionnaire

\*Please format your answers in **bold**

Name:	<b>Peter Allen</b>
Office Sought:	<b>San José City Council, District 6</b>

## Personal Information

Address:	<b>1434 Settle Ave.</b>
City, State, Zip:	<b>San José, CA 95125</b>
Phone:	<b>[REDACTED]</b>
Email:	<b>peter@peterforsanjose.com</b>

Are you a registered Democrat?	<b>Yes</b>
If yes, since when?	<b>Birth (registered since 1995)</b>
Are you a member of DAWN?	<b>Yes</b>
If yes, since when?	<b>2009 (off and on)</b>

Previous offices held:	<b>Arts Commissioner, City of San José, 2012-Present (Current Chair)</b>
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Current job: **Owner/Principal, Peter Allen Media, 2012-Present**

Other jobs held (feel free to just attach a resume):	<b><i>See attached resume</i></b>
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## Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee:	<b>Peter Allen for City Council D6 2016</b>
FPPC ID#:	<b>1380704</b>
Campaign Manager:	<b>Alfredo Fletes</b>
Campaign Consultant:	<b>Nicole Derse, 50+1 Strategies, LLC</b>
Campaign Website:	<b>www.peterforsanjose.com</b>
Projected funds needed to win:	<b>\$80,000</b>
Funds raised to date:	<b>\$47,000</b>
Are you an incumbent?	<b>No</b>
Opponents (to the best of your knowledge):	<b>Helen Chapman, Devora "Dev" Davis, Erik Fong, Norm Kline, Ruben Navarro, Chris Roth, Myron Von Raesfeld</b>

Prominent Endorsements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Tom McEnery, Former Mayor of San José</b></li><li>▪ <b>Rich Gordon, California State Assembly</b></li><li>▪ <b>Jim Griffith, Councilmember &amp; Former Mayor of Sunnyvale</b></li><li>▪ <b>Teresa Castellanos, President, San José Unified School District Board of Trustees</b></li><li>▪ <b>Sandy Engel, Trustee, San José Unified School District</b></li><li>▪ <b>Thelma Boac, Trustee, Berryessa Union School District</b></li><li>▪ <b>Julie Reynolds-Grabbe, Trustee, Moreland School</b></li><li>▪ <b>Anna Song, President, Santa Clara County Board of Education</b></li><li>▪ <b>Wendy Ho, Trustee, San José Evergreen Community College District</b></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Janet Chang, Director of Student Health Services, San José City College</b></li><li>▪ <b>Tamara Alvarado, Nonprofit &amp; Arts Community Leader</b></li></ul>
Top Priorities (3 or 4):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b><i>Making San José more affordable for working families</i> — With the cost of living raging out of control and average wages stuck in limbo, San José has become a city with two faces, where many of our hardworking neighbors struggle to make ends meet in the shadows of sparkling new high rises and gleaming freeway overpasses. Meanwhile, a recent study showed that Santa Clara County spends more than half a billion dollars a year providing services to the homeless, the overwhelming majority of whom reside in our city. It is both our moral and a fiscal imperative to come together as a community to address the affordability of San José. This can be done through a multi-faceted approach that includes controlling the rapidly increasing cost of housing and helping local businesses create jobs that pay a living wage.</b></li><li>▪ <b><i>Encouraging sensible and sustainable growth consistent with long-term planning</i> — The city should be thoughtful in recognizing the urgent need for more affordable housing while preserving land slated for commercial development. This delicate balance can be achieved through well-planned, mixed-use projects that provide housing as well as job opportunities. Additionally, with an eye toward efficiency and effectiveness, we need to ensure that our transit infrastructure serves our entire community with affordable transit options for those with and without cars. By embracing a multi-modal transportation system, we can reduce traffic on our roads, improve the productivity of our workforce, and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Finally, we need to return to the roots of Silicon Valley by incubating business growth in our own backyard, creating a culture of commitment to San José that leads to long-term investment in our city and local workforce.</b></li><li>▪ <b><i>Protecting our streets and neighborhoods</i> — We’ve all seen how the economic downturn and in-fighting at City Hall have impacted the safety and security of San José. While a great deal of progress has been made, we have a great deal of work left to do to restore baseline resources and staffing numbers. The settlement of Measure B and a renewed sense of collaboration between the city and our employees have improved morale, but it will take time for San José to become a competitive employer again. As we work toward restoring our police and fire ranks, we should continue to leverage Silicon Valley technology to improve efficiency and address root causes by investing in youth and community programs like the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force and fire prevention services.</b></li></ul>

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## Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions in 500 words or less

1. Discuss your campaign finances and structure. What percentage of women do you have in your campaign organization?

**The grassroots are playing a huge role in my campaign. I am the only candidate born and raised in District 6, and as such, I have been the beneficiary of a great outpouring of community support, both in terms of small-dollar donations as well as volunteers for voter contact. I am proud to have the most individual donors of any candidate in the race – over 350 as of the end of March. These donors are giving an average of \$125, lowest in the District 6 field. Meanwhile, some of my opponents are receiving average donations of more than \$350. I knew coming into this race that I would not be able to match or outraise candidates with ties to the deep pockets of Silicon Valley. But I also knew that I could remain competitive if I worked hard and brought a legion of supporters to the table. I'm happy to report that I've done just that.**

**As you may know, I come from a community organizer background, having worked as a volunteer and later a field organizer on Barack Obama's successful 2008 presidential campaign, which built on the success of Howard Dean's 2004 campaign in activating grassroots support, both on- and offline. I believe in the power of grassroots organizing to win elections at any level, and particularly in hyper-local, "low-information" races. That's why I recruited the team at 50+1 Strategies to help build my campaign infrastructure. They share my vision of campaigns powered by the people and not the special interests. Together, we crafted a plan to reach more than 10,000 doors and 20,000 voters through personal contact prior to Election Day. We have already knocked well over 5,000 doors, and we have volunteer walks scheduled every weekend from now through June 7<sup>th</sup>, rain or shine. I have personally committed to knocking more than 5,000 doors myself, and I'm already walking 6 days per week.**

**As a heterosexual white male candidate in one of the most diverse cities in the world, I believe it is important to surround myself with diverse perspectives in order to develop strategies and initiatives that resonate across gender identity, sociological, and ethnic lines and serve to bring us all together as San Joseans to solve the most pressing issues we face as a community. I'm honored to note that the overwhelming majority of my campaign organization is made up of women, from my general consultant to my "kitchen cabinet". 100% of my campaign interns are women, including students from local schools. As the sole endorsed candidate for the Silicon Valley Young Democrats in this race, I'm excited that we are involving young female Democrats in the political process. I believe that we should all play an active role in mentoring the next generation of activists, and this campaign is a vehicle for that.**

2. Please describe any prior service to your community. List any boards (non-profit, professional or governmental), community groups or commissions or in any elected offices or leadership positions in the community. What was your greatest success/achievement?

**In 1988, at the age of 10, I had my first experience as a volunteer with the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, stuffing envelopes for Governor Michael Dukakis' presidential campaign. Twenty years later, I would serve as a field organizer on the 2008 campaign of then-Senator Barack Obama. In the years since and between, I have been honored to work or volunteer for a number of progressive Democratic candidates at the local level, including San José Councilmember Ash Kalra, County Supervisor Dave Cortese, Sunnyvale Councilmember and former Mayor Jim Griffith, and former Assemblymember John Laird. I have been or am currently a member of a host of**

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**Democratic clubs, including the Silicon Valley Young Democrats, DAWN, and the Peninsula Democratic Coalition. From 2011-2015, I served on the board of the Democratic 21<sup>st</sup> Century Club as Vice President of Membership.**

**It was in serving as a Political Organizer for the South Bay Labor Council in 2008-2009 that I learned the true impact of local government and community empowerment, and it was that experience that “lit the fire” in my passion for public service. While at SBLC, I helped to organize support for landmark progressive policies to expand San José’s living wage to airport employees and commit developers to including a percentage of affordable for-sale housing in market-rate projects (i.e. “inclusionary zoning”). I’ve been standing up for the underserved in our community ever since, through my work as Board President and later Managing Director for Teatro Visión, a nonprofit theater company serving immigrants and at-risk youth, as a board member of my Rotary Club and the New Leaders Council Silicon Valley chapter, as well as many other endeavors.**

**At Teatro Visión, I took the reins of an organization suffering from crippling debt and deficit spending in the wake of the Great Recession, which had left the company on the verge of total collapse – with an 80% reduction in staff and operating revenue and a Board of Directors reduced to just two members by attrition and the sheer weight of the challenges in moving forward. At the time I became Board President, Teatro carried debts in excess of 200% of annual operating revenue and had lost support from a number of key funding partners in the local and national arts community. Together with a small band of willing partners, I successfully helped Teatro reduce its debt by more than 85%, develop a new programming model that integrated our community engagement, education, and performance work into a cohesive and cyclical structure, and operate “in the black” for the past four years, all while restoring our reputation as a leading voice in local, state, and national arts and theater communities. We were able to accomplish these feats through pragmatic budgeting practices, diversification of revenue sources, and a philosophy of shared sacrifice in service to our mission of creating a more just and equitable world through the power of theater.**

3. What are some of the needs of women and girls in your community? How do you plan to address these needs and how will you use your position to advance the position of women and girls once elected?

**Regardless of where they live, work, shop, or play, women and girls in our community must be protected from prejudice, injustice, and violence. Women make up half the population and half the workforce in San José and Santa Clara County. However, women’s access to economic prosperity is hindered by discrimination, inequity, and/or lack of opportunity. As a councilmember, I would make the rights of working women a top priority by supporting paid family leave for city employees, instituting whistleblower protections for victims of workplace harassment, and working with local women’s organizations and San José business leaders to develop a strong policy that guarantees equal pay for equal work and includes adequate resources for enforcement. As we seek to confront the crisis of homelessness in our city and community, I would ensure that any policies or projects take into account the additional challenges faced by women who find themselves without housing. Often times, women do not seek help from local shelters or service providers for fear of intimidation, harassment, and sexual violence – all of which are far too common. The City must do a better job of working with nonprofit and private sector partners to guarantee all women access to safe, convenient, and efficient services.**

**As a councilmember, I will engage in broad-based community education to combat prejudice and discrimination against women, using the resources of my office in coordination with community-based organizations, nonprofits, neighborhood associations, school districts, religious groups, and**

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**others. I will particularly target traditionally underserved and/or marginalized communities and use multi-lingual information in a variety of mediums — both on and off-line. I will encourage each of the diverse communities of District 6 to seek a role and a voice in city policy, and I will be especially committed to identifying qualified women to serve on city boards and commissions in order to build a pipeline of female leaders. Because of deep-seeded prejudices in our society, we cannot expect the best candidates to self-select and must do all that we can to remove the barriers that inhibit passionate and qualified leaders from seeking public office.**

4. Understanding that budget cuts are unfortunately part of governance and public service, please list your top three funding priorities:

**I cannot foresee a budgetary crisis in San José so dire that it would come down to preserving only three areas. However, in the event of such a fiscal emergency, it would be imperative to safeguard the most critical services for maintaining our civic and social infrastructure:**

**1. Public Safety – The top priority of city government is to provide a safe, vibrant, and equitable community for all residents, and that begins with our police and fire services. In a time of budgetary crisis, I would argue that an even greater investment must be made in preventative safety services, such anti-gang initiatives and fire protection, in order to do more with less and ensure the long-term security of our community.**

**2. Roads & Infrastructure – San José already has nearly \$1B in unfunded infrastructure repairs, and that number is only increasing. The City has an obligation to maintain basic livable conditions of our roads, sewers, waste systems, and public utilities.**

**3. Parks, Libraries & Community Centers – These neighborhood centers are vital resources for students, seniors, and other residents who rely on them for access, education, and exercise. As such, they are essential to the social fabric and educational growth of our community.**

Indicate whether you support, support with reservations, or oppose the following issues:

## Reproductive Rights & Health Care Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
The right of a woman to choose to have an abortion up to the time that the fetus is viable, or at any time deemed medically necessary	X			
Preserving the right of all women and girls to have the full range of reproductive information and services	X			
Comprehensive coverage for contraception and abortion under public and private medical insurance	X			
Continued public funding for prenatal care, family planning and abortion services for low-income women	X			
A minor's right to confidential access to full range of reproductive information and services without requiring	X			

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parental notification				
Continued public funding for low-income health insurance coverage	X			
Universal, government mandated access to a full range of health care services through insurance	X			

## Work-Place Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Will actively create or support policies mandating equal wages between genders	X			
Will actively work to create or support legislation that increases pay and benefits for traditionally gender-specific careers	X			
Extension of benefits to heterosexual and LGBT partnerships	X			
Policies to ensure diversity of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, cultural background and other groups in public institutions	X			
An employees' right to organize into a union or cross a picket line without losing a job	X			
Labor practices that allow strikebreakers or replacement workers to be hired permanently		X		
The practice of replacing employees with contracted services		X		
Paid maternity/family leave	X			

## Family & Childcare Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Public funding assistance for childcare for low income families	X			
Employer tax relief if childcare facilities are provided	X			
Repeal of state-mandated child support collection		X		
Development and public funding assistance for women's	X			

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shelters				
Comprehensive, coordinated programs to help reduce the incidence of domestic violence	X			

## Educational Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Accurate, age-appropriate, state-mandated health and sex education in schools, with parent consent	X			
Increased financing for public education at all levels, including post-secondary education	X			
Censorship of the internet or books provided in public libraries		X		

## Equal Opportunity

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Eliminating social services for undocumented immigrants		X		
Denying citizenship to native-born children of undocumented immigrants		X		
Denying education to children of undocumented immigrants		X		
Establishing that LGBT individuals have the right to sponsor same sex partners through a legal immigration process	X			
Allowing HIV positive individuals the same immigration rights as other non-diagnosed individuals	X			
Legislation to end the practice of racial profiling in law enforcement	X			
State-mandated affordable housing and subsidized housing for people with disabilities	X			
Equal rights for the LGBT community regarding	X			

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employment, housing, the military, marriage and healthcare				
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## Governmental Reform & Finance Issues

Issue	Support	Oppose	Support W/Reservation	Need Clarification
Ethnic and gender diversity in all government appointments that are reflective of the community being served	X			
Simple majority votes on all funding issues (e.g. taxes and budgets)	X			
Binding arbitration is an unnecessary component of labor negotiations		X		
If layoffs are a necessary budget solution, they should impact management and line employees equally	X			

Please explain all your support with reservations

By signing this questionnaire, you agree that you will run an honest and clean campaign and that you will fight to uphold the values and positions state above and in your endorsement interview. You also confirm your understanding that any endorsement is contingent upon your upholding these values.

Signature \*

Peter Allen (Type name to sign electronically)

Date \*

**April 13, 2016**