



## September MEETING

► Tuesday, September 29th, 2020 ◀

Meeting @7:30pm ~ **Late Arrivals Okay!** 📄

Via ZOOM

<https://zoom.us/j/99185076750?pwd=Zk1VMG95REZsd01KajJaVllzc3lSQ09>

Meeting ID: 991 8507 6750  
Passcode: 202685

Or join by Phone: 1-669-900-9128

The meeting URL is also posted on the VEP web site at [www.vepca.net](http://www.vepca.net)

► **Everyone is welcome. Invite a neighbor, or two!** ◀

**NOTICE: Although Shelter-in-Place orders are being relaxed, the September Meeting is an online Virtual Meeting to ensure members' safety as, likely, will be the October meeting.**

### State Senate District 15 Candidates' Forum with

**Ann Ravel and Dave Cortese**

(both candidates confirmed ZOOM meeting attendance)

### Candidates' Forum Agenda

7:30 Welcome and Introductions

7:35 Candidate Opening Statements (10 min each)

Ann Ravel

Dave Cortese

7:55 Questions from Attendees

(Up to 1 min for asking and up to 90 sec. answer from each candidate)

No later than 9:15 Candidate Closing statements

(5 min each)

Dave Cortese

Ann Ravel

9:25 VEP Business Meeting

### VEP OFFICER ELECTION

Members in attendance will be asked to vote to approve the Slate of Officers to serve on the VEPCA Executive Board for 2020/2021.

**SLATE:** Matthew Quevedo, Adina Pierce, Roberto Ruiz, Lisa Sanchez, Brian Ferry, Cindy Bosworth, and Greg West

### Your Concerns and Ideas

Your chance to voice your opinion and/or to seek VEP's help.

### Candidate Forum Ground Rules

- The VEP president will moderate the forum.
- We will start the ZOOM meeting at 7:30 PM sharp.
- Each candidate will have 10 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to introduce themselves and 5 minutes at the end to wrap up. A coin was flipped to determine the speaking order.
- The forum is an opportunity for VEP neighbors to get to know the candidates. Questions will come from VEP members and neighbors, exclusively. The VEP Board will not prepare questions ahead of time for candidates. We expect that candidates are familiar with issues and will be ready to address them.
- The moderator will call upon questioners. The questioners will have a 1 minute time limit to ask one question. We will discourage multi-part questions. We expect that most questions will take 30 seconds or less to ask their question.
- If the question is a general question asked of both candidates, candidates will answer in an alternating order. If a question is asked of a specific candidate, that candidate will have the first opportunity to answer. The other candidate will also be able to answer the question. Each candidate will be limited to 90 seconds to answer. The moderator will give a verbal indication that 15 seconds remains for the candidate's answer and that time is up. If the question is a "yes" or "no" question, candidates are expected to answer with a "yes" or "no".

# VEP NEWS

The **VEP News** is the official publication of the VEP Community Association, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers established in 1969 to serve and represent homeowners in the Blossom Valley area of southern San Jose. Now, in 2020, this has grown to encompass more than 2,800 homes. VEP is dedicated to neighborhood maintenance and improvement in its membership area as well as to active involvement in civic affairs. This newsletter is mailed monthly to all members in good standing, to our advertisers, and to schools and government officials serving our membership area.

**VEP News** is published each month annually, with the exception of a "Summer Break" from June through August. We appreciate and will, at the discretion of the VEP Board of Directors, attempt to publish any and all articles that will be of general interest to our membership community. Persons, schools, or organizations who are interested in submitting articles, letters, or information to be included in the **VEP News** are encouraged to contact the Editor, Rachel Witmeyer. Business entities interested in advertising with the VEP News are encouraged to contact the Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez. (See Below for contact information.)

## VEP Community Association Membership

Persons who would like to join the VEP Community Association may send their name, address, and \$20 yearly dues to:

VEP Community Association  
P.O. BOX 18037; SAN JOSE, CA; 95158.

Please, do not send cash. Make checks payable to "VEP."

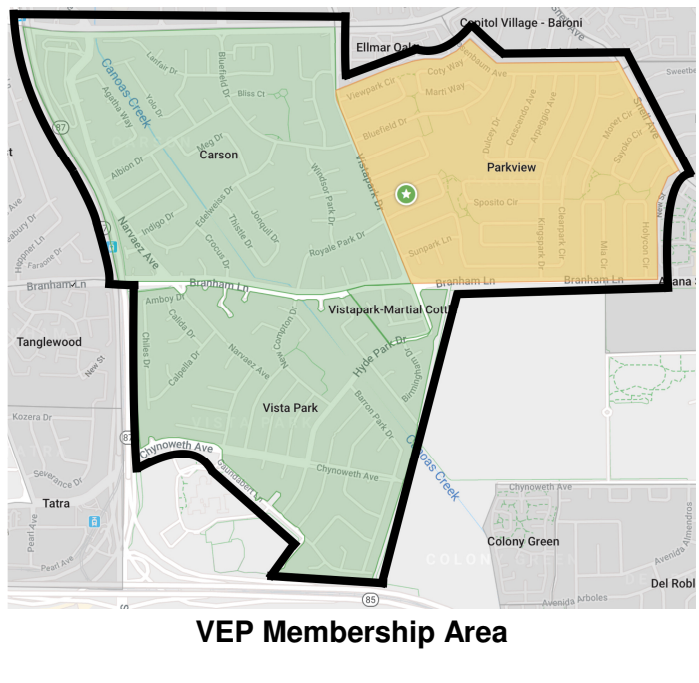
## VEP Community Association ~ Executive Board of Directors

President: Greg West - GREG.WEST@EARTHLINK.NET - 408-829-4686  
Vice President: Cindy Bosworth - BOZ555@MSN.COM  
Secretary: Laura McGeever - LJMCGEEVER@ME.COM  
Treasurer: Lisa Sanchez - LISAS.VEP@GMAIL.COM  
Director: Robert Supencheck - ROBERTSUPENCHECK@GMAIL.COM  
Director & VEP News Editor: Rachel Witmeyer - VEPEDITOR@GMAIL.COM  
Director: POSITION VACANT

**WEB: WWW.VEPCA.NET**

**EMAIL: VEPCA@VEPCA.NET**

**- Join VEP Community Association's Facebook Group! -**



**VEP solicited statements from both candidates for State Senate District 15. The following is the response that we received.**

## **Ann Ravel for State Senate**

President Obama endorsed me because I'll give government back to the people so it works for all of us.

I'm the daughter of a Latina immigrant and am a Willow Glen High School graduate. I picked apricots in Almaden Valley and worked in fruit canneries in San Jose to fund my college education.

I worked with President Obama to tackle the Great Recession and defend Americans at risk of losing their homes. I took on Big Oil after the spill in the Gulf of Mexico and stood up to drug companies breaking the law and taking advantage of vulnerable patients. When Governor Brown appointed me to make California government accountable and ethical, I challenged special interests trying to buy elections – including the Koch brothers' dark money network - and won. As Santa Clara County's top public interest lawyer, I protected vulnerable seniors from financial abuse - recovering millions for them. I took on PG&E, Big Tobacco, and lead paint companies for poisoning children - and won.

*The Mercury News* called me "the best pick by far for state senate," praising me as "a smart, independent leader with an unmatched fighting spirit for what's right." Our current crisis demands independent leadership to address healthcare disparities, income inequality, joblessness, and small businesses struggling and closing.

I'm no career politician - I spent my life in public service fighting for consumers, the rights of women and minorities, environmental and civil justice.

As a champion for the rights of women in the workplace, I argued the most important Supreme Court case on the topic. In the State Senate, I'll fight for equal pay, paid family leave and childcare. I will be a tireless advocate for a woman's right to choose, and will ensure our state is standing up to violence against women and that law enforcement is prepared to address, investigate and adequately prosecute violent crimes against women.

I am the only candidate for State Senate focused on the issue of mental health and substance abuse, which has reached crisis levels during the pandemic. In the State Senate, I will fight to expand access to affordable, high-quality mental health and substance abuse services.

President Obama said I'm "thoughtful, empathetic and highly qualified."

Moms Demand Action awarded me their "Gun Sense Candidate Distinction" and Planned Parenthood gave me their highest rating.

Please join San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Council members Dev Davis, Pam Foley, Johnny

Khamis, and Lan Diep, former San Jose Vice Mayor Judy Chirco, Supervisors Susan Ellenberg and Joe Simitian, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Controller Betty Yee, California League of Conservation Voters, Latinas Lead, EMILY's List, Democratic Activists for Women Now and neighbors across the district.

Please reach out to me anytime:  
RavelforCA.com or Ann@RavelforCA.com

## September and October VEP Community Meetings

By VEP News Staff

We are excited to sponsor a State Senate District 15 Candidates' Forum featuring the two candidates, Dave Cortese and Ann Ravel, vying to replace the termed-out Senator Jim Beall.

Although we would prefer that the forum be an "in-person" event with VEP members and the candidates in the same room, we are constrained by the shelter-in-place rules as well as wanting to protect the health of our members (Santa Clara County has one of the highest COVID-19 counts in the state). Therefore, we are holding the meeting via ZOOM. We have held a couple of executive board meeting via ZOOM in the last couple of months, but, this will be the first membership meeting that we've done in this format. Also, our thanks to Mathew Quevedo for providing the ZOOM meeting link that will accommodate our anticipated meeting attendance. We have also provided a phone number for the meeting for those that aren't comfortable using the ZOOM format. We will also present a slate of candidates for the VEP Executive Board for your consideration to serve for the 2020/2021 officers' term.

Our October meeting will feature **Valley Water** and will also, likely, be a ZOOM meeting.

We expect to hear about how Valley Water provides Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection for all. They will share what Valley Water is doing to provide safe, clean drinking water and natural flood protection, protect our waterways and environment, and maintain and upgrade our infrastructure to ensure we have enough water for the future.

## President's Corner

- Greg West

This will be my last President's Corner as I transition from the President of VEP to our Newsletter Editor, pending your vote for the new executive officer slate at our September meeting. I have truly enjoyed my time as president and have had the pleasure of working with



great group of officers: Cindy Bosworth has been right behind me as Vice President and has given me some a valuable guidance; Laura McGeever has done an outstanding job as secretary taking and publishing notes for both the executive board meeting and membership meetings; Lisa Sanchez has kept the books and processed dues coming in and expenses going out as treasurer; Rob Supencheck as Director for Beautification & Neighborhood Events coordinating our clean-up days with the City; Adina Pierce as Director for Website and Online resources has done an outstanding job of maintaining the website and distributing the on-line version of the VEP News during the pandemic; and, of course, I can only hope to live up to the standard that Rachel Witmeyer has set as Newsletter Editor.

I also look forward to working with our exciting new executive officer team with a mix of past officers including Adina, Lisa, and myself to provide some stability, and new officers Matt Quevedo, Brian Ferry, and Roberto Ruiz to bring in some new ideas and new energy to the organization as, hopefully, someday soon, we'll be able to get back to normal mailing hardcopies of the VEP News, and having in-person board and membership meetings. This is also my first issue of the VEP News as NLE.

Since I won't be president anymore, you won't have to put up with my newsletter ramblings in this column (but, I guess that there is always the chance for an editorial column). None-the-less, I plan to be around for a while, as NLE's tend to stay in the job for a while (think Dave Fadness and Rachel Witmeyer). And since the Newsletter is a vehicle that helps keep our community informed and active, I look forward to the challenge of editing and publishing it.

So, once again, it has been my pleasure to serve our community as president (for the second time), and I look forward to my new responsibilities in the organization.

## Your Neighborhood Property Manager



Andrea Vernerova  
(408) 621-4921  
andrea@cmpmi.com

[www.cmpmi.com](http://www.cmpmi.com)

Ask about special  
rates for VEP  
neighbors!







## Get Involved in Your Neighborhood!



**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP VEPCA EFFECTIVE!**

**Help VEPCA Stay Strong and Effective!**

Contact [VEPCA@VEPCA.net](mailto:VEPCA@VEPCA.net)

**It's Not Really Local, But it It's Not Too Far**  
- Lynne Kinsey

For the past months most of us have not visited the interesting places that used to make a fun day-outing or overnight trip from our homes in the San Jose. One such favorite, starting when our daughter was in elementary school and continuing as we are now empty-nesters, is the Monterey Bay Aquarium. We became members before it opened, attended one of the grand opening events, went often and even established our favorite exhibits to see first on each visit. Our daughter, Leanna, always wanted to head to the Touch Pool where she could put her hand into the cool water and touch one of the many sea creatures that would float by or the ones that adhered themselves to part of the display. As she got older she knew the names of the different varieties and enjoyed asking questions and learning more.

Stephen and I had our favorites, too. We could stand and watch the Leafy Sea Dragons for the longest time. At first they were something totally new to us. We loved watching their delicate bodies, the way they moved, and how they seemed like someone's artistic creation. Our photographs did not do them justice. Knowing that they were native to Australia and New Zealand, explained why we might not have seen them exhibited someplace else. Since then we have seen them in many other aquariums.

We are no longer members, but we visit when we are in the area and take out-of-town family and friends to visit. I once entered a contest they offered and won an early morning, before opening, behind-the-scenes

tour to see how they feed and care for many of the creatures that live there. I highly recommend visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium, regardless of your age. Grab a child to go with you and I guarantee you will notice things you would miss on your own. Don't miss seeing the penguins, also. You might not appreciate the noise and movement of elementary school classes on field trips there, but if you take some minutes to watch and listen to them, you might find it interesting to see which exhibits fascinate them and what questions they ask. I enjoy watching the actual exhibits, as well as young and older visitors at the places we visit.

### ***VEPCA Wants to Know:***

- What do you want to know?
- What are your current concerns?
- What would you like to learn about?
- Which local leaders would you like to meet?
- How can VEPCA help YOUR neighborhood?

**Please send your ideas to the VEPCA Executive Board!**

Your input will be used to help plan future community meetings for you and your neighbors!

Email the Board Today!

[VEPCA@VEPCA.NET](mailto:VEPCA@VEPCA.NET)



COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
**MIKE WASSERMAN**

### **September 2020 County Update**

As of this week, nearly 1 in 5 households have NOT participated in the 2020 Census. This means that 140,000 of the 701,000 households in the County of Santa Clara have not responded so far. Are you the 1 in 5 in your neighborhood? If so, please complete your 10-minute questionnaire today. It is as easy as going to [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or calling 844-330-2020. The data collected from the Census is used to allocate over \$800 billion in annual funding for vital services including money for schools, healthcare, housing, and roads. The September 30th, 2020 deadline is fast approaching!

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the State of California moved Santa Clara County from the Purple Tier (Tier 1) to the Red Tier (Tier 2) on the State's new COVID-19 blueprint. Counties assigned to the Red Tier are still experiencing "substantial spread" of COVID-19. The

following businesses and activities are allowed to resume under the State's framework, as well as the County's Risk Reduction Order. Businesses and activities must be in compliance with all industry-specific mandatory directives set forth by the County and State, including having a Social Distancing Protocol on file and displayed.

-Schools: K-12 schools can open after the County has been in the Red Tier for 14 days. All schools must follow mandatory guidance set by the County of Santa Clara and the State of California

-Personal care services (hair, nail, massage, waxing, etc): allowed indoors with modifications

-Museums, zoos, aquariums: allowed indoors at 25% capacity

-Gyms and fitness centers: allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity

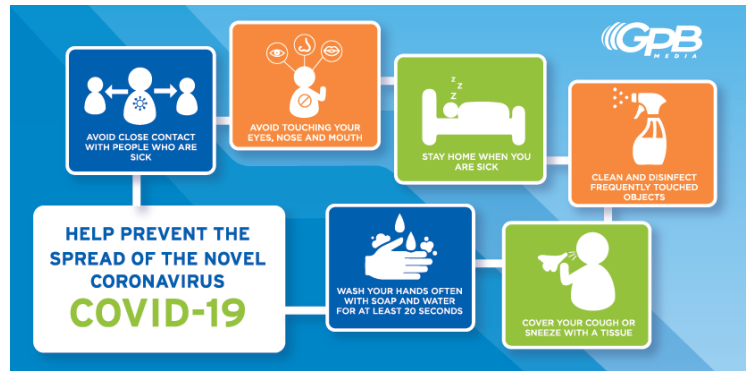
-Shopping malls: allowed to open indoors at 50% capacity (previously open at 25% capacity)

Indoor dining, indoor movie theaters and indoor gatherings remain prohibited. Outdoor gatherings up to 60 people are still allowed. To maintain our hard-fought progress, I urge businesses and activities to follow the public health directives so that we can maintain our community's progress in bringing down COVID-19 transmission. We must all continue our vigilance with social distancing protocols and mask wearing.

Many people have been asking "Why is the COVID-19 test positivity rate for our County important?" Testing leads to quick identification of cases, quick treatment for those people and immediate isolation to prevent spread. Early testing also helps to identify anyone who came into contact with infected people so they too can be quickly treated. It is crucial of course to help treat, isolate or hospitalize people who are infected. Testing also is important in the bigger public health picture on mitigation efforts, helping investigators characterize the prevalence, spread and contagiousness of the disease. The goal is to have a low positivity rate, widespread testing and ample testing of people at greatest risk. The positivity rate is also one of two factors used to calculate our County's Risk Level under the State's new reopening framework and lowering it could help us move into a less restrictive level.

With more than 50 testing sites open across the community, the County continues to help more people get tested for COVID-19. Sites are accessible and staff are available to assist. Call ahead before visiting a hospital, clinic, doctor's office or community testing site to notify them that you might have COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, body aches, or loss of sense of taste/smell.

Stay strong,  
Mike Wasserman, Vice President  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
[www.supervisorwasserman.org](http://www.supervisorwasserman.org)



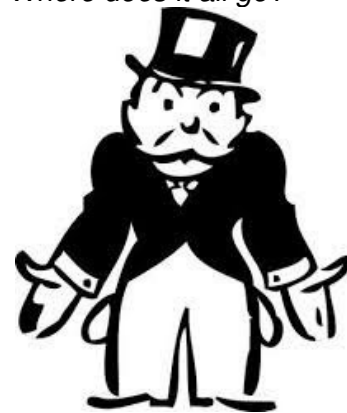
## Where Does All The Money Go?

- Matt Mahan

San Jose District 10 City Councilmember Elect

While canvassing the neighborhoods of District 10 during my campaign for City Council, I started each conversation with the same question: *Which local issues are most important to you and how well is City Hall addressing them?*

Across the nearly 10,000 doors I knocked on, one of the most common reactions I heard was: *Where does all the money go? I don't get it. I pay thousands of dollars each year in property taxes alone, and I really don't understand where it's going. My road hasn't been paved in fifteen years, the police don't have enough capacity to follow up on property crime, I see trash and weeds along the expressways and our local bus service is getting cut. Where does it all go?*



The first step in answering these questions is understanding where our tax dollars are allocated. In this post, we'll estimate how much the median San Joséan pays in taxes and how those dollars are spent...**read more:**

[https://medium.com/@matthewmahan/where-does-all-the-money-go-70a365ea91c0?source=friends\\_link&sk=bfff60ab45646f3778906a99d32e03f8](https://medium.com/@matthewmahan/where-does-all-the-money-go-70a365ea91c0?source=friends_link&sk=bfff60ab45646f3778906a99d32e03f8)

## Valley Water Board of Directors Votes to Place Updated Safe, Clean Water and Flood Protection Program Renewal Measure on November Ballot

- Linda J. LeZotte, Director, District 4 Valley Water Board of Directors

On July 21, 2020, my fellow Valley Water Board Members and I voted unanimously to place a renewal measure of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) in front of voters this Nov. 3 for their consideration. In November 2012, 74% of voters approved the Safe, Clean Water Program as a countywide special parcel tax to provide local funding for local projects that deliver safe, clean water, natural flood protection, and environmental stewardship to the communities we serve in Santa Clara County. While evaluating ways to improve the 2012 program, Valley Water gathered feedback from more than 21,000 community members. The six priorities for the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program outlined in the community-preferred program report include:

- Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply
  - Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways
  - Protect Our Water Supply from Earthquakes and Natural Disasters•Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space
  - Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, and Highways
  - Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community
- The renewed program would fund upgrades to pipelines, dams, and water infrastructure to improve water supplies and prepare for the risk of flooding, droughts, earthquakes, natural disasters, and climate change.

The updated program will also reduce toxins, hazards, and contaminants in our rivers, lakes, and streams through pollution prevention and creek cleanup efforts. With this renewed program, updates made for water supply reliability, environmental stewardship, flood protection, and support of public health and safety include:

- Provides \$100 million in flood protection in City of San José to plan, design and construct flood improvements on Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Upper Penitencia Creek, with additional funds for shoreline protection in North San José near Alviso.
- Provides \$54 million to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project that protects Santa Clara County in the event of a dam failure, makes us more resilient in the event of a natural disaster, enhances the valley's water supplies, and provides additional habitat benefits downstream.
- Provides \$38.7 million to continue the ongoing coordination with local cities and agencies to clean up large creek side encampments that contaminate

waterways. This cooperative effort includes working with local municipalities, social services, and nonprofit advocacy groups that will help provide housing alternatives to the unhoused population.

- Restores and maintains healthy fish populations by providing \$44 million for environmental stewardship projects, including identifying and helping to remove priority barriers to fish passage, and improving habitat with instream gravel, boulders, and large wood.
- Provides \$53.1 million in grants and partnerships for cities such as San José, agencies, organizations and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanups and education, wildlife habitat restoration and wildlife corridors, flood-inducing blockage removal, and access to trails and open space.

You can find out more about the proposed program renewal, including downloading a copy of the final draft of the community-preferred program report for Safe, Clean Water renewal at [safecleanwater.org](http://safecleanwater.org).

P.S. Don't forget to take the 2020 Census found here: <https://2020census.gov/>



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Contact VEP Treasurer, Lisa Sanchez: [LisaS.VEP@gmail.com](mailto:LisaS.VEP@gmail.com)

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