



Candidate Questionnaire

1. General Information

Candidate Name: Susan Ellenberg

Office Sought: Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Proposed Ballot Designation: County Supervisor

Campaign Mailing Address: 312 Clay Street, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94607

Candidate/Body Person Cell Phone: Angelica Ramos-Allen, 202.577.1252

Candidate Email Address: susan@susanellenberg.com

2. Campaign Team

Provide the names, email, and cell phone numbers for your campaign team:

Contact 1

Name: Angelica Ramos-Allen

Email: angelica.ramos@gmail.com

Phone: 202.577.1252

Contact 2 (optional)

Name:

Email:

Phone:

3. Elected Office

Do you currently, or have you ever held public office? Yes

If yes, which public office(s) have you held and when did you do so? 2014
- 2018 San Jose Unified School District Board of Trustees. 2018 - present
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

4. Personal and Political Background

Current Occupation: Vice President, Board of Supervisors

Are you a registered Democrat? YES

Have you ever been registered with another political party or selected “Decline to State” or “No Party Preference” for your voter registration party affiliation, and if so, for what period? NO

In less than 250 words, briefly summarize your personal background (work experience, education, community involvement, etc.).

I hold a Bachelor’s Degree from Barnard College and a law degree from Columbia University. I began my professional career as an attorney specializing in land use and real estate transactions in San Jose with the LA-based law firm, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. I left the practice of law soon after my first child was born. Between 1996 and 2009 I served on several Jewish Community Boards including Women’s Philanthropy (arm of Jewish Federation) and Yavneh Day School. From 2010 - 2016 I taught Social Justice to Yavneh Day School middle school students. I worked for the Silicon Valley Organization 2016-2018 as the senior director of community development and led the Leadership San Jose program. I have served on the Board of Directors for the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center and Silicon Valley Clean Energy. Currently, I am the Board Chair of the Santa Clara First 5 Santa Clara County Commission and a Board member of Joint Venture Silicon Valley.

What endorsements have you received from organizations and prominent individuals? (You may either use the space below or attach a separate list.)

Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley
Candidate Questionnaire

Congressmember Zoe Lofgren
Congressmember Anna Eshoo
Congressmember Ro Khanna
Congressmember Adam Schiff
Lt. Gov Eleni Kounalakis
Controller Betty Yee
State Treasurer Fiona Ma
State Senator Dave Cortese
State Senator Scott Wiener
State Senator Josh Becker
Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Assemblymember Evan Low
All 4 colleagues on the SCC Board of Supervisors
All members of the Campbell City and Santa Clara City Councils
All 10 members of the City of San Jose City Council
see more: <https://www.susanellenberg.com/endorsements>

5. Check boxes:

Previously held positions in the 2022 election cycle:

In the 2022 cycle have you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you affirmed to any other organization to boycott or not take trips to Israel from any particular sponsor to learn about Israel or Palestine?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Have you endorsed, supported or opposed any bills as a result of your position, would reduce, withhold or condition aid to Israel?

In the past five years, have you:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Participated in an organized activity, including a forum, on Israel or related issues?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	While holding office, introduced or co-sponsored legislation (other than purely ceremonial, supportive measures) on Israel or related issues or the Jewish community? If yes, please specify which kinds in this box below:

6. Policy Questions

Please describe your positions on the following issues. Please limit your responses to 250 words for each response. If you wish, one response may include up to 500 words.

1. Please describe your relationship, if any, with the Jewish community in the area you serve as an elected official:

I am a member of Congregation Sinai and have been active with the Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services, Yavneh Day School and the Jewish Community Relations Council. I have appeared at Hanukah Menorah lightings and other Jewish holiday-related events as requested, as well as memorials or other observances.

2. Hate Crimes: Do you see Anti-Semitism as a Hate Crime? How do you propose working on Hate Crimes if you are elected?

Yes, Anti-Semitism is a hate crime. I have spoken on this issue at public rallies and in public board meetings.

3. Do you support or oppose efforts to boycott Israel (BDS)? Have you had any discussions with your community about BDS?

I generally oppose the BDS movement. I have not had any discussions with my community about BDS.

4. Ethnic Studies Program: Would you support state policies that ensure that Jewish-American lesson plans are included in the Ethnic Studies curriculum? Would you work to change lesson plans that denigrate Jews, Judaism and Israel?

I would support the inclusion of Jewish-American lesson plans in ethnic studies curricula and would oppose plans that are anti-Semitic.

5. As a Democrat, what steps can we take to help fight anti-Semitism on both the left and the right?

Be visible, be engaged in the general community, build relationships with people of opposing views where possible, participate in the

narrative so that we are describing ourselves rather than having others describe us.

6. What other issues do you think are unique or important to the Jewish and pro-Israel community, and how do you propose to make a difference with these issues and keep in touch with the community?

My Jewish lens is through the teachings of the Torah and the Prophets Amos and Isaiah that urge us to pursue justice, care for others and take responsibility for one another; the Kabbalistic concept of tikkun olam; and the tension between “I am but dust” and “every human being was created in God’s image”. We won’t finish the work of repairing the world, but we are all obligated to do our part. The work I do, the policies I pursue and the votes I take are informed by these values.

Thank you for your time and effort to complete this Questionnaire

Contact information:

Dorene Kastelman

President Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley

dorenesworld@gmail.com/ jewishdemssv@gmail.com

409.309.6599

