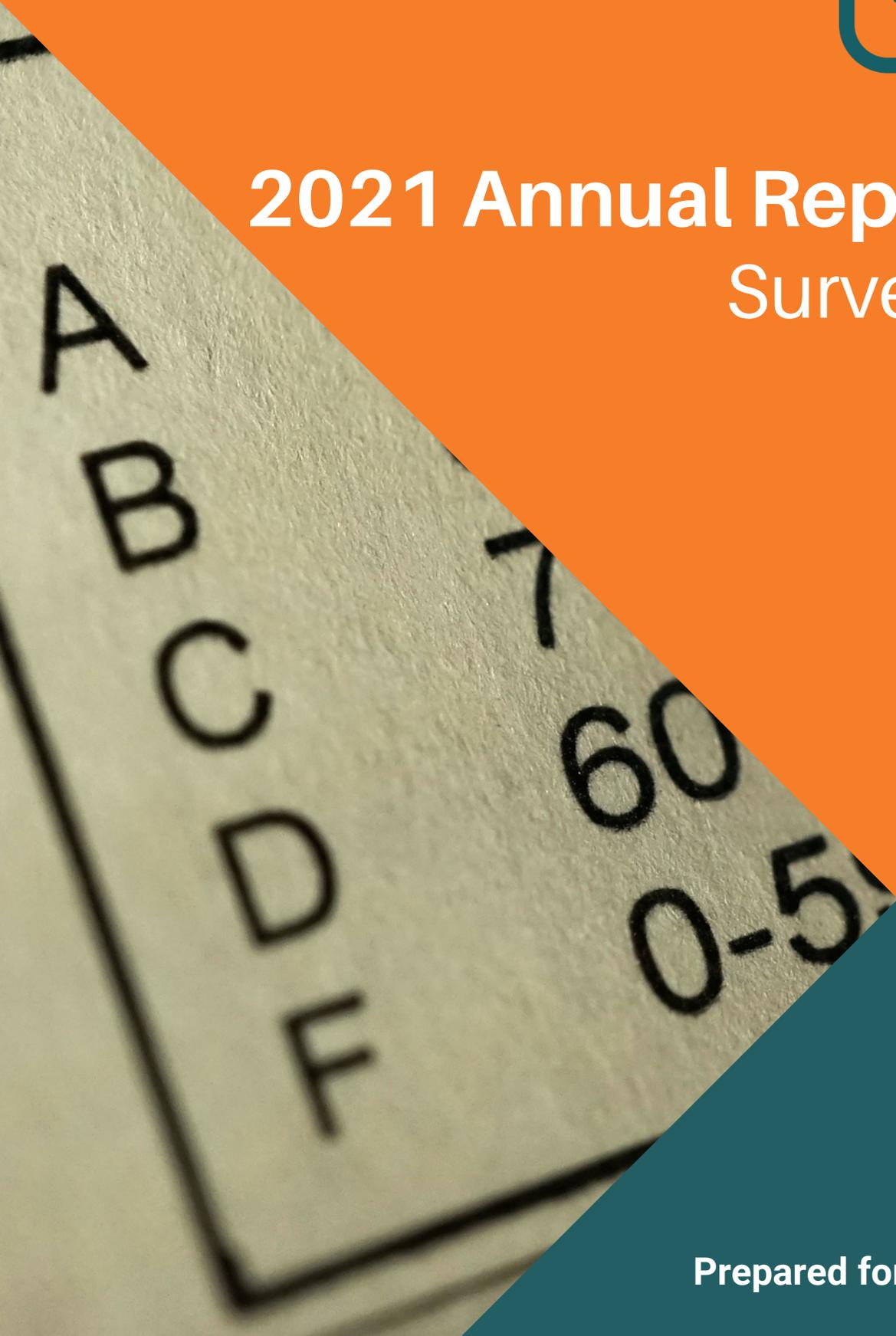




# 2021 Annual Report Card Survey Results

May 2022



Prepared for the Community by  
the Community



We are so excited to release this first ever Social Justice Report Card for Sacramento elected officials. SJPC launched the report card in Fall of 2021, collecting more than 400 survey responses over three months through a combination of online outreach and in-person canvassing which was targeted to renters, communities identified as having a high propensity of African American child death, and low-resourced neighborhoods in order to hear from those voices not typically targeted. This report card shares how elected officials do, or do not, vote, support policies, or make funding and other resource decisions aligned with social justice policy areas. SJPC will return to the SAME folx who took the survey and share the results --something not usually done when people are surveyed. Additionally, we will spend the remainder of 2022 distilling the report card results in diverse mediums and forums so that the results are not "one and done", as is the norm with report publications. It is our hope that this type of oversight, community education, and civic engagement will encourage policy makers to make decisions through a social justice lens.

We want to thank SJPC's own Andi Bianchi & Asha Kreiling for their work on this project. We also would like to thank our canvassers, the people who took the survey, and our counsel for their wise counsel. Thanks to everyone for helping to #CrowdSourcePolitics because #ManyHandsLightWerk.

**Quotes from the community members who filled out the survey can be found throughout the document, thank you all so much for your valuable insight.**

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# Summary of County Grades

Based on SJPC's definition of social justice above, what social justice grade would you give the County of Sacramento overall?

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: C-*

What social justice grade would you give the County Board of Supervisors as a whole?

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: D*

**Criminal Justice Reform:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

**Phil Serna:**

*Community grade: C*

*Editorial grade: C*

**Housing Accessibility and Affordability:**

*Community grade: F+*

*Editorial grade: F*

**Patrick Kennedy:**

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: C*

**Environmental Justice:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: D*

**Rich Desmond:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: D+*

**Health Equity:**

*Community grade: D-*

*Editorial grade: D-*

**Sue Frost:**

*Community grade: F*

*Editorial grade: F-*

**Economic Investment Without Displacement:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

**Don Nottoli:**

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: B*

**Participatory and Equitable Budgets:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

**Transparency:**

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

# Summary of City Grades

Based on the above definition of social justice, what social justice grade would you give the City of Sacramento overall?

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C**

What social justice grade would you give the City Council and Mayor as a whole?

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C-**

## Criminal Justice Reform:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Mayor Darrell Steinberg:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Housing Accessibility and Affordability:

*Community grade: F+*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Angelique Ashby:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: D*

## Environmental Justice:

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: D*

## Sean Loloee:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Health Equity:

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: D*

## Jeff Harris:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Economic Investment Without Displacement:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Katie Valenzuela:

*Community grade: C+*

*Editorial grade: A*

## Participatory and Equitable Budgets:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Jay Schenirer:

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: D*

## Transparency:

*Community grade: D*

*Editorial grade: F*

## Eric Guerra:

*Community grade: C*

*Editorial grade: C-*

## Rick Jennings:

*Community grade: D+*

*Editorial grade: D*

## Mai Vang:

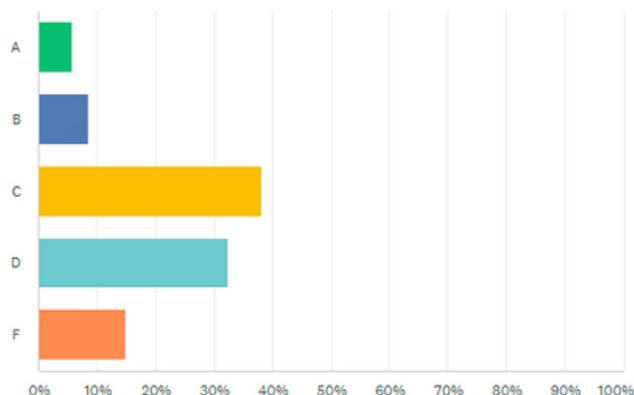
*Community grade: C+*

*Editorial grade: A-*

# Sacramento County as a Whole

Based on SJPC's definition of social justice above, what social justice grade would you give the County of Sacramento overall? Consider: Is Sac County a good place to live for those who are poor, nonwhite, disabled people, not cisgender, not heterosexual?

Answered: 429 Skipped: 0



***“This city and county is an embarrassment. They are failing it’s citizens”***

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ A	5.83% 25
▼ B	8.62% 37
▼ C	38.23% 164
▼ D	32.40% 139
▼ F	14.92% 64
TOTAL	429

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C-**

## Acknowledgment:

Met some expectations for understanding, representing, and promoting policies built off of social justice values.

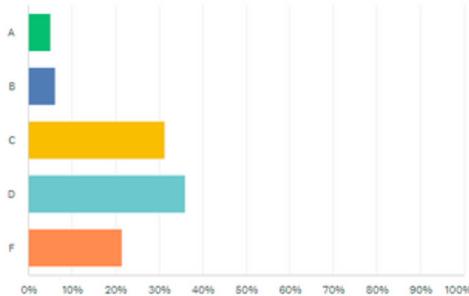
## Improvements needed:

May seem supportive of social justice/equity, but is not consistently centered on those most impacted by injustice, disinvestment, and inequality.

# Board of Supervisors as a Whole

What social justice grade would you give the County Board of Supervisors as a whole? Consider how they spend money. The laws that they pass. Learn more about their duties.

Answered: 345 Skipped: 84



***"The City Council/Mayor and Board of Supervisors are not representing their community."***

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ A	5.22%	18
▼ B	6.09%	21
▼ C	31.30%	108
▼ D	35.94%	124
▼ F	21.45%	74
TOTAL		345

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: D**

## Acknowledgement:

There were some social justice wins at the County level within the previous year; the Board voted to deny county staff recommendations to approve a \$10 million construction contract that would have accelerated expansion of the Main County Jail in downtown Sacramento, and began to build out an alternative crisis management program that will remove the presence of law enforcement from calls involving mental health crises (called the Wellness Crisis Call Center and Response Treatment Program).

## Improvements needed:

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors consistently chooses to pour money into the budgets of the Sheriff and the Probation Department, and to make policy and budgeting decisions that fail to meet SJPC's standards for transparency. The BOS has not effectively engaged in listening to, or acting upon, the demands of those most impacted by the tenants of white supremacy which permeate the county government.

# District 1 - Supervisor Serna

*"Still too much money given to law enforcement and not enough to deal homelessness and housing."*



**Community grade: C**

**Editorial grade: C**

**Acknowledgment:**

Supervisor Serna has demonstrated having the capacity for questioning the huge amounts of money we send to the Sacramento Sheriff's Office, called out some of the problematic behaviors of Sheriff Scott Jones, and played an important role in stopping the 2021 jail expansion. He also advocated for budget transparency in regard to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and surveys administered by the County to residents of Sacramento County.

**Improvements needed:**

Supervisor Serna has advocated for, and praised, tactics directed at the unhoused community that directly endanger their safety and which continue to criminalize them.

# District 2 - Patrick Kennedy



*"Poor grades are a direct result of lots of talk by our City & County representatives with very little action."*

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C**

## Acknowledgment:

Supervisor Kennedy has consistently advocated for alternatives to 911 for folx in our community experiencing mental health crises, and has spoken out in favor of reevaluating how much of our budget is allocated to the Sacramento Sheriff's Office. He also spoke up for protecting communities of interest within the Asian American and Pacific Islander population during the 2021 redistricting process and emphasized the need for forming an independent redistricting commission at the County level.

## Improvements needed:

Supervisor Kennedy has demonstrated the tendency to take a supportive stance on social justice issues and then fail to follow through; almost like he doesn't want the items in question to pass, or doesn't want to really piss off important opponents by seeing it through and wants his supporters to give him the benefit of the doubt for at least trying. Supervisor Kennedy, we want to give you credit for FIGHTING for these issues. Not introducing them and throwing your hands up.

# District 3 - Rich Desmond

*"No one in our government or law enforcement gives a single crap about people of color, the LGBT+, the poor, or the disabled. And with Sheriff Jones, none of us are safe."*



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: D+**

## **Acknowledgment:**

Supervisor Desmond has shown support for developing an alternative response to mental crises that doesn't involve law enforcement, and co-authored a resolution welcoming and advocating for service provision to Sacramento County's influx of refugees from Afghanistan.

## **Improvements needed:**

Supervisor Desmond has consistently and aggressively defended the need for law enforcement to be involved with issues surrounding the unhoused, has advocated for more funding to be dumped into the Probation Department, praised the work of Sheriff Scott Jones, and has been shown to demonstrate an inability to reimagine a society without carceral institutions and policies.

# District 4 - Sue Frost



*"My F grades in some areas reflect my disgust in the rising crime rates and response to homelessness (bazillion of dollars allocated/spent and yet nothing has been solved) I'm especially DISGUSTED with the County Board of Supervisors, in particular Sue Frost."*

**Community grade: F**

**Editorial grade: F-**

## Acknowledgment:

The best that can be said about Supervisor Frost is that she listens to, and votes according to, the desires of her constituents. Specifically those constituents who are the loudest and most aggressive.

## Improvements needed:

It should go down in history that the County failed to deliver on its Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) act funding duties during her watch as Board Chair. At that same time she publicly questioned public health guidance, affiliated with white supremacists, proud boys, anti-vaxxers, and flouted mandatory mask-orders during the historic Covid19 pandemic . She has remained steadfast in her commitment to supporting business interests, law enforcement, and in continuing the inhumane treatment of our unhoused neighbors. Sue Frost could benefit from implicit bias, ethnic studies, and racial equity trainings to mitigate her appalling, racist microaggressions and stereotyping of entire continents of people ("never complaining Asian Americans" and "the country of Africa") on the dais.

# District 5 - Don Nottoli

*"Sac has the opportunity to be an example of a progressive city."*



**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: B**

### Acknowledgment:

Supervisor Nottoli's leadership played an important role in stopping the Main Jail expansion project in March of 2021. He actively listens to community members, pays attention to details, and asks the tough questions. Without his critical eye and his continued vocal advocacy at board meetings around the negative impacts of the jail expansion project, the board may have ignored community members and continued with the plan. After over 40 years on the board, this is one of the legacies he leaves behind as he retires in 2022.

### Improvements needed:

In true Don Nottoli style, although he asks good questions in order to lay up dope plays, he has been shown to fail to execute those shots. He should be pushing for clarity on unsatisfactory and/or nonsensical answers given by County staff, rather than allowing them to go unquestioned.

# Criminal Justice Reform in the County



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## **Acknowledgment:**

The Sacramento Board of Supervisors has now canceled two jail expansion projects, and has publicly stated their commitment to reducing the jail population in order to prevent future lawsuits, and to take better care of their residents.

## **Improvements needed:**

Sacramento County needs to redirect funding from the Sheriff and Probation Departments to community-based reentry programs in order to meet their goals of reducing the jail population.

*"Police brutality and unaffordable housing continue to be problematic and the City and County continue to turn a blind eye or don't care to consult those of us with lived experience."*

# Housing Accessibility and Affordability in the County

*"Why are police still shooting Black Sacramentans and violently sweeping tent encampments instead of providing affordable housing and rent protection?"*



**Community grade: F+**

**Editorial grade: F**

## **Acknowledgment:**

Some money has been allocated towards supporting the unhoused in Sac County, however it is not nearly enough and has not resulted in any significant improvements in the homelessness crisis. If housing has become more accessible and affordable for anyone in Sacramento, it's probably for folx not from Sacramento.

## **Improvements needed:**

Serious action is necessary to build desperately needed shelters and affordable housing for Sacramentans who have already been, or are about to be, priced out of their own communities due to skyrocketing rent and housing prices across the Sacramento area. Providing access to transitional housing and long term (permanent) housing (i.e, free and government subsidized multi-family housing developments) is essential for the currently unhoused and poverty-stricken, and is not getting built in Sac County. Instead, Sac County largely continued to spend most of its energy and resources on HOT (Sheriff Homeless Outreach Team), Homeless Navigators, Parkway Rangers, and approving ridiculously unsustainable and unaffordable single-family home suburban developments across the region.

# Environmental Justice in the County



*"Everyone gives lip service about environmental justice. But they are weak on action that is needed to meet this absolute threat. They really need to step up and take bold action."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: D**

## **Acknowledgment:**

There is very little to acknowledge here; the County has largely failed to take meaningful action to fight climate change and protect our environment.

## **Improvements needed:**

The County's focus on environmental protection has centered on concerns around the accumulation of trash, debris, and hazardous materials in the American River Parkway, where unhoused individuals and communities have been cut off from sanitation and water supplies. This "concern" has not been accompanied by an increase in availability of services and shelter available for the unhoused.

# Health Equity in the County



*"Healthcare for the poor is nearly non-existent, and unavailable to those who need it most - homeless minority children."*

**Community grade: D-**

**Editorial grade: D-**

**Acknowledgment:**

The County has taken some steps towards launching a pilot program that will provide an alternative to 9-1-1 for folx experiencing mental health crisis; it is scheduled to be implemented in July of this year.

**Improvements needed:**

COVID recovery funds were terribly allocated, with a substantial amount going to the Sacramento Sheriff's Office. The County has further criminalized mental illness through their implementation of Laura's Law.

# Economic Investment without Displacement in the County



*"Where I live in Rio Linda, I see a serious lack of thoughtful economic planning and development. Many people in this town live in poverty, have not attended college, and do not have meaningful job opportunities."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## Acknowledgment:

COVID eviction protections implemented within Sacramento County kept people housed during the pandemic, and Sacramento County Supervisors acknowledged the need to draw attention and resources into historically under-invested parts of the County, especially unincorporated parts.

## Improvements needed:

Developer interests (hint - not the affordable housing ones) and dollars continue to dominate the direction of Sacramento County growth. Much of this development is unsustainable in design and will largely only benefit transplants from wealthier cities who can afford Sacramento's housing market rates. Gentrification is painfully obvious in places like Oak Park, but even residents in more rural parts like Rio Linda, are finding themselves priced out of their own neighborhoods as the cost of living climbs. Sacramento County is experiencing a crisis-level housing shortage - let alone an affordable housing shortage. No proactive plans to prevent displacement of existing residents and businesses by development have been implemented, and there is no accessible support for those who are displaced.

# Participatory and Equitable Budgets in the County

*"They should think more about the people than their pockets"*



**Community grade: D**

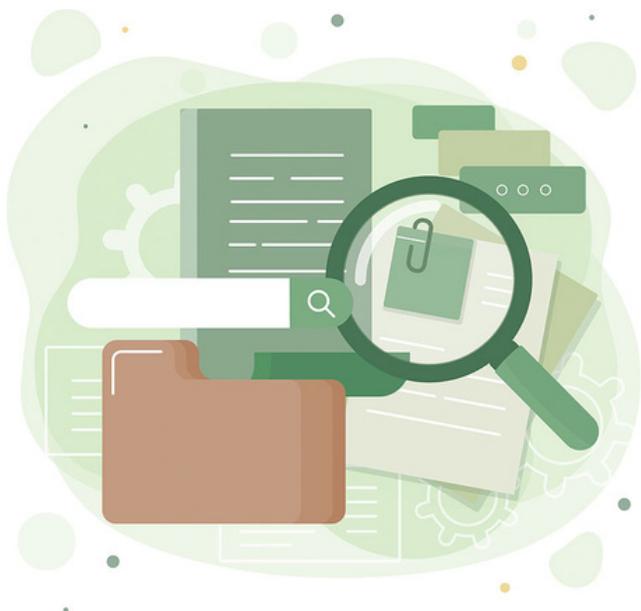
**Editorial grade: F**

## **Acknowledgment:**

It was clear that several Board Supervisors paid attention to and appreciated the constructive comments provided by the public surrounding budgeting, and asked questions of their staff for more information and clarity based on constituents' advocacy. However, there is still very little to acknowledge here; the County has consistently failed to allocate funds in a way that is equitable or in line with community priorities.

## **Improvements needed:**

The structure of the budget presentation and adoption process needs to be redesigned so that the citizens of the County, as opposed to just the Supervisors, are able to fully participate in and understand conversations around budgeting. The structure needs to be simplified and easily understandable to laypersons so that the public, particularly those who have historically been excluded from decision-making processes, can take part in deciding where their tax dollars are going. The County Board of Supervisors also failed to engage in socially equitable governance and oversight when they transferred \$104 million of the \$181 million of the County's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the Sheriff. The Sacramento Grand Jury has recommended that the Board of Supervisors appoint an independent panel to conduct an audit of the allocation and use of CARES Act funds in order to determine whether County actions were in compliance with federal CARES Act requirements.



*"I think the Sacramento City Council is and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors should do a better job listening to the public and stop ignoring the people."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

**Acknowledgment:**

The County hired an Inspector General to shed light on the violence and misdoings carried out by the Sacramento Sheriff's Office (e.g. overcrowding in Sacramento County jails leading to COVID-19 outbreaks and officer-involved shootings). Select Board Supervisors (e.g. Nottoli & Serna) made efforts towards transparency by questioning their staff during board meetings to pinpoint deficiencies in, and identify solutions to, County systems and programs that the public has identified as problematic.

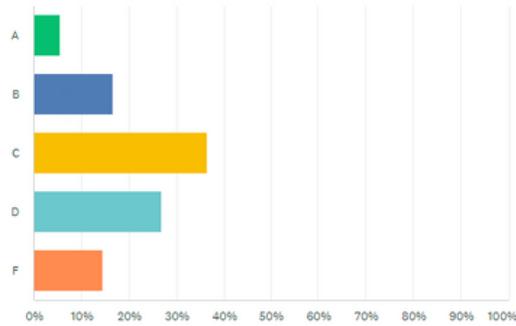
**Improvements needed:**

The County consistently shuns community involvement in decision-making processes. For instance, during the creation of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council subcommittee, or in the appointment of a new Director of Human Assistance. They frequently do not comply with the Brown Act, and pass controversial items through the consent calendar, without allowing public discussion. The Grand Jury's comprehensive review of the County's budgeting process uncovered a failure to operate with transparency. The County needs to work on creating a two-way open forum where information, actions, and decisions are accessible and actively communicated to the public.

# Sacramento City as a Whole

Based on the above definition of social justice, what social justice grade would you give the City of Sacramento overall? Consider: Is Sac City a good place to live for those who are poor, nonwhite, disabled people, not cisgender, not heterosexual?

Answered: 302 Skipped: 127



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ A	5.63%	17
▼ B	16.56%	50
▼ C	36.42%	110
▼ D	26.82%	81
▼ F	14.57%	44
TOTAL		302

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C**

**Acknowledgment:**

City elected officials have taken a number of symbolic steps to show their commitment to upholding social justice values. Some examples include: implementing a land acknowledgement at City government meetings, creating a Police Review Commission, and pledging to create a number of new temporary shelters for the unhoused.

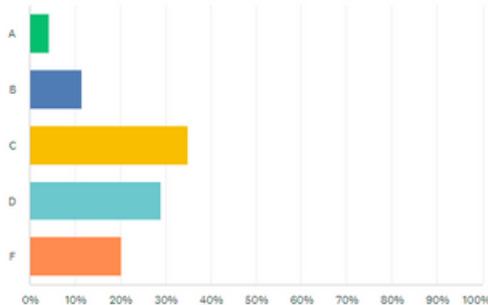
**Improvements needed:**

These symbolic steps have generally not been followed up with concrete action or policy change. The City seems to prioritize the status quo. Homeless encampments are still broken up, the police are still racist, violent, and overfunded, and city programs still frequently ignore racial equity in their implementation.

# City Council & Mayor as a Whole

What social justice grade would you give the City Council and Mayor as a whole? Consider how they spend money. The laws that they pass. Learn more about their duties.

Answered: 280 Skipped: 149



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ A	4.29%	12
▼ B	11.43%	32
▼ C	35.00%	98
▼ D	28.93%	81
▼ F	20.36%	57
TOTAL		280

***"In general I think people of privilege (including our Mayor and other city officials) believe Sacramento is much better about social justice than it really is. There's a LOT more that we need to be doing."***

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: C-**

## Acknowledgment:

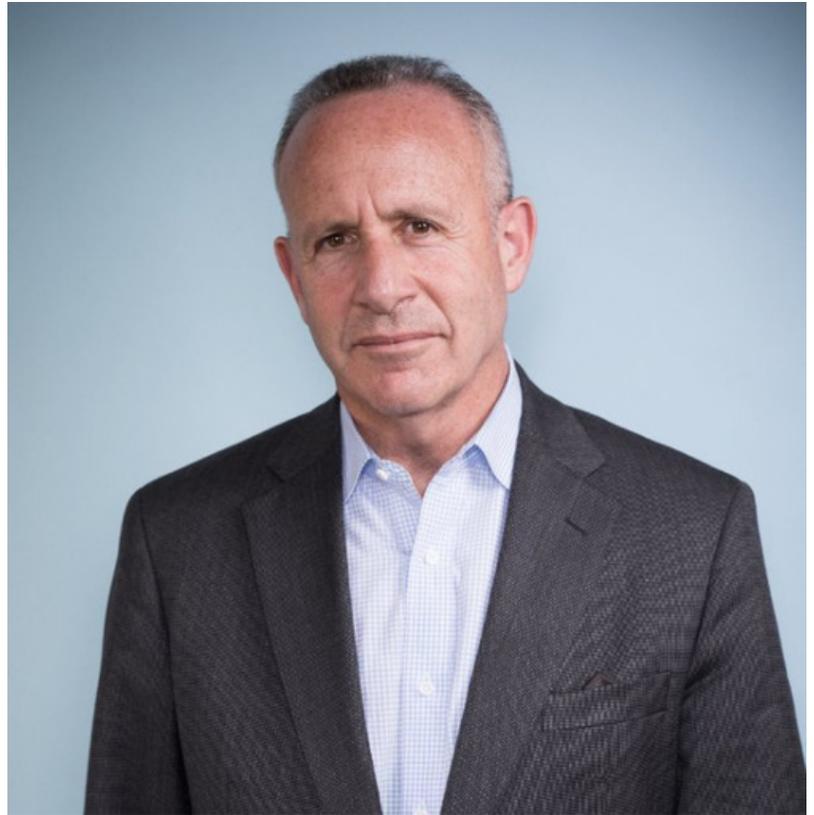
The current City Council has two social justice oriented members (Councilmembers Vang and Valenzuela) and that has been a breath of fresh air, resulting in some small symbolic victories.

## Improvements needed:

Unfortunately, the Mayor and the majority of the Council remains committed to preserving the status quo and preventing any tangible improvements. Attempts to hold the City accountable for its police misconduct or its terrible treatment of our unhoused residents are stopped in their tracks, and voices from the community are consistently ignored.

# Mayor Darrell Steinberg

*"The Mayor has shown nothing but disrespect for our vulnerable communities in public meetings before the pandemic."*



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## **Acknowledgment:**

Despite being frequently misguided about what is in Sacramento's best interest, Mayor Steinberg genuinely seems to care and is very passionate about Sacramento.

## **Improvements needed:**

The Mayor's grand plan to address homelessness is at best deeply flawed, with many of its elements being counterproductive and harmful. Even when his heart seems to be in the right place, he consistently neuters his own proposals through absolute deference to business interests. He is consistently pro-cop, and resists any effort to defund or reform them.

# District 1 - Angelique Ashby



*"...Angelique Ashby is in cahoots with SHRA to demolish Alder Grove - evict the tenants sell the land to 1% real estate developers and gentrify the entire neighborhood on Broadway adjacent to Alder Grove."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: D-**

## Acknowledgment:

Councilmember Ashby is generally respectful in her tone, careful with her word choice, and quite skilled at the art of politics.

## Improvements needed:

She is relentlessly pro-cop, calling the Sacramento Police Department one of the best police forces in the nation, and opposing attempts to reduce their funding or reform them. She will sometimes say the right things about helping the unhoused, but generally votes in lockstep with the majority to preserve the unacceptable and violent status quo.

# District 2 - Sean Loloee

*"These folks need to get it together on lots of issues like housing for the unhoused more low to no income properties need to be built subsidized housing and stop moving folks until there is a better solution everyone agrees with."*



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

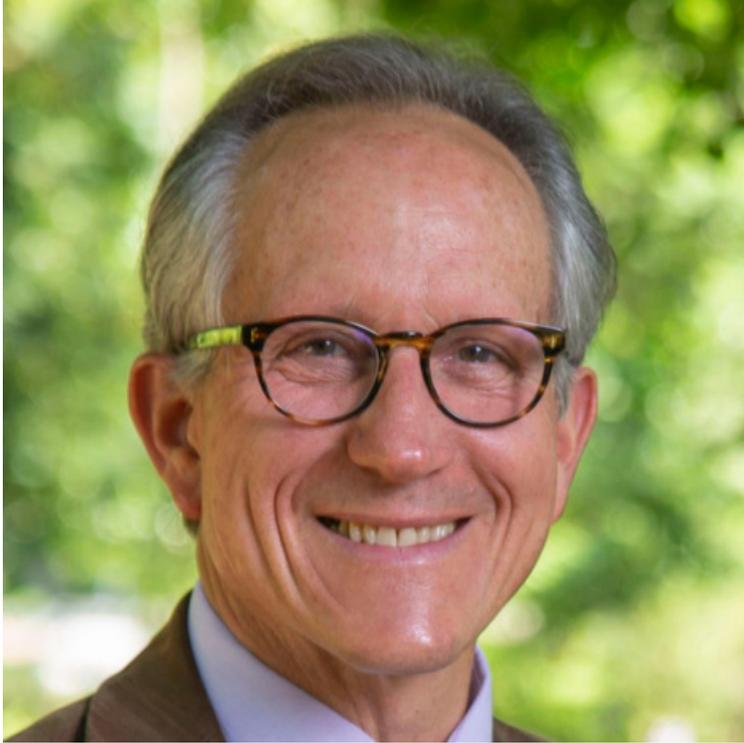
## **Acknowledgment:**

Councilmember Loloee has taken some action to prevent sweeps of the unhoused in his district, and to remove law enforcement from encampments. However, he has stopped short of supporting any real systemic changes or solutions.

## **Improvements needed:**

In his own words, he is “not a fan” of affordable housing. Councilmember Loloee frequently demonizes the unhoused by repeating right-wing lies about them, and he openly prioritizes local business interests above just about anything else. He is a solid member of the pro-cop majority on the Council, and still repeats the debunked nonsense claim that “defunding” police departments has led to an increase in crime.

# District 3 - Jeff Harris



*"Why is our police budget still so much larger than our public health budget?"*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## Acknowledgment:

Regardless of whether you agree with Councilmember Harris on the issues, he is generally honest about his position and says what he thinks is right. He also deserves credit for opposing the Strong Mayor ballot measure.

## Improvements needed:

Councilmember Harris is a leader of the anti-homeless force on the Council. He consistently puts up barriers to services for the unhoused in his district, and was largely responsible for the disgusting and inhumane Commerce Circle sweep last year. He primarily views homelessness through the lens of business interests and "cleaning up" the community while demonizing the unhoused as drug addicts and criminals. Jeff Harris also opposes any efforts to defund or reform the police.

# District 4 - Katie Valenzuela

*"He won't change [Mayor Steinberg] and everyone except Valenzuela and Vang are regressive NIMBY jack\*s who will continue to cause real harm to local residents who can't fight back."*



**Community grade: C+**

**Editorial grade: A**

## **Acknowledgment:**

Councilmember Valenzuela is one of the best (and one of the only) advocates for social justice to serve in Sacramento local government. She consistently uses her platform to speak out about racial injustice. Valenzuela will actually cast votes against the rest of the council in an attempt to curb police violence or to provide services to the unhoused. Councilmember Valenzuela will sometimes help to directly lift up activist voices.

## **Improvements needed:**

While Councilmember Valenzuela's commitment to social justice values is not in doubt, she is sometimes too willing to go along with Steinberg when he proposes weak and ineffective half-measures, and generally plays nice with the Council and city staff. A good example of this would be her vote to give City Manager Howard Chan a raise despite his complicity in the deaths of several unhoused people in January of 2021. This is standard behavior for a politician, and the public could be better served by a Katie Valenzuela who is willing to fight more aggressively.



*"Sac City and County continue to 'play it safe' by upholding the corporate, white supremacist status quo while simultaneously patting themselves on the back for saying the right words about racism, equity, and justice. Meanwhile, they never seem to act."*

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: D**

**Acknowledgment:**

Councilmember Schenirer says the right words and rarely rocks the boat. He introduced a Racial Equity Resolution in January 2021, which had some symbolic value.

**Improvements needed:**

Councilmember Schenirer is unwilling to take a stand even when he seems to be on the right side of an issue. For example, when he introduced a proposal alongside Steinberg to curb some of the excessive "clean-up" actions that are harming the unhoused community, he ended up casting a cowardly "yes" vote on Ashby's substitute motion that removed all the substance from his own. He sits on the Racial Equity Ad Hoc Committee but tends to derail things with his obsessive focus on metrics over substance.

# District 6 - Eric Guerra

*"The population has skyrocketed since, but we've had the same nine representatives. This makes it virtually impossible for communities to get the attention of their representative and makes the council, effectively, a body of the most affluent neighborhoods in the city."*



**Community grade: C**

**Editorial grade: C-**

**Acknowledgment:**

Councilmember Guerra says the right words and rarely rocks the boat. He deserves some credit for speaking out against civil asset forfeiture when it came before the Council.

**Improvements needed:**

Councilmember Guerra consistently sides with the majority in preserving the status quo regarding policing and homelessness. He prioritizes business interests over the lives of those living in his community, particularly when it came to supporting the Aggie Square development.

# District 7 - Rick Jennings



*"Why are we expanding our jail instead of moving to release inmates?"*

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: D**

## **Acknowledgment:**

Councilmember Jennings rarely rocks the boat or says anything problematic. He deserves credit for defending groups like Advance Peace - who do important work with highly vulnerable communities - when the City was trying to remove their access to funding.

## **Improvements needed:**

Councilmember Jennings is strongly pro-cop and defends the Sacramento Police Department at every opportunity. He never takes bold stands despite having a lot of freedom due to the lack of real electoral competition in his district. Jennings seems to proudly view himself as a centrist.

# District 8 - Mai Vang

*"...the ONLY politicians on the City Council I like are Mai Vang and Katie Valenzuela - the rest of them are all in the hip pocket of the 1% and corporate real estate developers."*



**Community grade: C+**

**Editorial grade: A-**

## **Acknowledgment:**

One of the best (and one of the only) advocates for social justice to serve in Sacramento local government. Councilmember Vang consistently provides a strong voice for reducing and reforming the police. She is very good about reminding the Council to actually listen to local advocates and community members at each part of the decision-making process.

## **Improvements needed:**

Despite being a strong supporter of social justice values, she has yet to produce substantial results in terms of policy. She also cast a misguided vote in support of the absurd 2021 lawsuit against Skyler Henry, an activist who was hired by Councilmember Valenzuela that same year.

# Criminal Justice Reform in the City



*"Defund the police!"*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## **Acknowledgment:**

The City recognized that programs and services offered by community-based organizations (e.g., gang prevention) are necessary to prevent violence in communities. In their updated code of conduct for officers, the Sacramento Police Department introduced language which discourages officers from harassing people on the street based on perception of their gender identity. They also updated their use of force policy to include language that limits using deadly force only as a "last resort".

## **Improvements needed:**

The City stands by their police no matter what they do. Multiple members of the City Council have used the phrase "one of the best Police Department's in the country" despite their frequent violent and racist behavior. Former Police Chief Hahn, a black man, was frequently tokenized and has his identity used as a shield from criticism by the City. The City established a Police Review Commission in response to pressure but rarely acknowledges its existence, let alone listens to its recommendations.

# Housing Accessibility and Affordability in the City

*"The way the city has handled the crisis of homelessness is a violent joke."*



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## Acknowledgment:

The City talks a big game about helping the homeless, and has made big promises about creating lots of temporary shelters, though they have yet to actually materialize.

## Improvements needed:

The City continues to sweep encampments and cause devastation within unhoused communities on a daily basis. The City has made no plans to develop the significant amount of permanent affordable housing demanded and needed by Sacramento residents. They prefer instead to focus on temporary shelter options, because the courts have made that a necessary prerequisite for passing laws that criminalize homelessness, which has been a major piece of the Mayor's agenda for years. Despite this focus, the City has failed to implement development of even the temporary housing they pledged to create.

# Environmental Justice in the City



*"Diversity, equity and inclusion are cornerstones for ensuring that social justice isn't just a 'buzz word.' More cultural representation, diversity in leadership is needed. More investment in the arts and culture creative economy, and technology sector, to support health equity, social and environmental justice."*

**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: D**

## Acknowledgment:

The City has acknowledged the urgency of the climate crisis, and has set 2030 as a target year for cutting emissions. The target year had previously been set at 2045, so this is an improvement.

## Improvements needed:

The City does not appear to have taken any significant or tangible actions to achieve this emission reduction at this time.

# Health Equity in the City

*"What about the elderly immigrants, who because of their age or illness, are no longer able to work, do not have any kind of help, and end up homeless on the streets, with no chance of getting any kind of support?"*



**Community grade: D+**

**Editorial grade: D**

## Acknowledgment:

We want to acknowledge the City Council for putting some amount of effort into pursuing health equity for folx living in Sacramento, for example forming a Racial Equity Ad Hoc Committee, and allocating \$6 million for children and youth in the 2021 midyear budget. Additionally, the City of Sacramento has dedicated most of their ARPA funding to the City's Homeless and Housing Commitment and small business support. Communities can also expect to see funding focused on vaccination campaigns and evidence-based community violence intervention.

## Improvements needed:

The City has consistently put business interests first when it comes to distributing COVID recovery funds, and in particular, has refused to consider racial equity in deciding where to send the money. It has failed to address the public health crisis of homelessness, resulting in suffering and death within the unhoused population of Sacramento City for a variety of reasons (air quality, inclement weather, etc.).

# Economic Investment without Displacement in the City



*"High property taxes in middle and working class neighborhoods do not translate into equitable investment. Unaffordable housing, not enough housing, developing multi family housing only in gentrifying areas."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

## Acknowledgment:

There is little to acknowledge here; the City has largely failed to invest money in a way that fights against gentrification.

## Improvements needed:

Sacramento Investment Without Displacement (SIWD) coalition members (which include neighborhood associations, nonprofits, and residents) all mentioned that anti-displacement policies are needed at the City level. They are necessary in order to prevent landlords from selling homes and kicking renters out, and to prevent folks from being displaced from single family homes. In regard to the Aggie Square project, the City should have supported SIWD's lawsuit and push to get UC Davis to be a key signatory on the community benefits agreement. That way, if UC Davis didn't meet the requirements outlined in the contract, they could be sued for damages. Instead, the City, with support from the Mayor and Councilmember Schenirer and Guerra, demonized the SIWD coalition for filing the lawsuit. All the money put into housing is City money. The City could have brought code enforcement in and put a halt to placing liens on Oak Park homeowner's homes to prevent displacement. But they didn't. Instead the City Attorney Susana Alcala Wood gave the green light to have homes put into receivership by the Bay Area Receivership Group.

# Participatory and Equitable Budgeting in the City

*"Why did our City Council vote majority against participatory budgeting?"*



**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

**Acknowledgment:**

Although it was not nearly enough, the Sacramento City Council did dedicate \$1 million in Measure U funding for participatory budgeting (this process is to continue developing in 2022).

**Improvements needed:**

To meaningfully involve and engage residents in developing a more equitable budget, substantial investments must be made to increase outreach. Repeated demands and the outpour of calls by community members for a more equitable and accessible budget process for increased funding for participatory budgeting and for rejecting increases to the Sacramento Police Department were ignored.



*"There are vast homeless populations in Sacramento who are not privy to the supposed transparency of bills, laws, and budgets, and receive no benefit from budget spending."*

**Community grade: D**

**Editorial grade: F**

**Acknowledgment:**

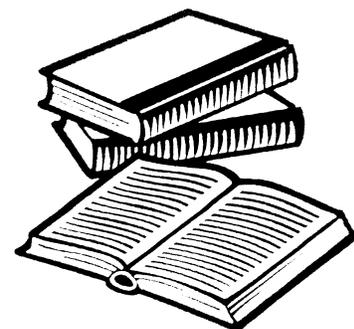
The City Council's switch to holding meetings over Zoom has made community participation much easier and more accessible. The meetings have also included decent closed-captioning, and agendas were posted with enough time to review with more consistency.

**Improvements needed:**

The City made big plans to open up a large number of new temporary shelter locations for unhoused people, but has entirely failed to follow through on this, and it's not clear why. The state passed a law which lets city governments prevent local police departments from purchasing some types of military equipment but so far Sacramento has rubber-stamped any requests of this nature that have come to them. Additionally, in a very embarrassing move, the City attempted - and failed - to file a restraining order against a member of Councilmember Valenzuela's staff solely due to political opinions he had expressed prior to having the job.

# Education Equity - General Grade

*"Hold the leaders who fail us accountable. Give more funding to mental health, education, and homeless resources."*



SJPC has primarily focused on City and County government and therefore has not had the capacity to delve deeply into education policy in Sacramento, so we defer to the community's grade.

The following grade averages were calculated based on survey results regarding education equity at the City and County level, rather than at the school board level:

Community grade City: **C-**

Community grade County: **C-**



# Survey Background pt. 1

## What is SJPC?

### *Our mission:*

To ensure those most impacted by social inequities are equipped to shape the solutions necessary for a socially just Sacramento

### *Our vision:*

A Sacramento that uses a social justice lens for all political decision-making and makes wealth, opportunities, and privileges accessible to all.

### *Our values:*

Equity, access, civic participation, collective decision-making, accountability & transparency

## Survey summary/explanation/methodology:

In Fall of 2021, SJPC gathered responses from the Sacramento County community for its first annual report card that will evaluate how our local government leaders have performed at upholding social justice values during the past year. Responses were gathered through the dissemination of a survey, in the following languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Farsi, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, and Hmong.

### *How do we define social justice?*

SJPC envisions a Sacramento where all political decisions are made through a social justice lens. We define social justice as a redistribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges to those who have not historically benefited from such investments so that we can all do well.

# Survey Background pt. 2

## *People filling out the survey were asked to grade the following:*

- Sacramento County and City as a whole on how well they upheld social justice values within the previous year.
- BOS as a whole, and the City Council and Mayor as a whole, on how well they upheld social justice values within the previous year
- All Sacramento City Council members, as well as all members of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.
- How the County and City performed on pursuing socially just policies within the issue areas that SJPC focuses on

*At the end of the survey participants were asked to leave comments on anything they felt was missing from the survey.*

## *Who did we ask for responses from?*

All of Sacramento County was eligible to take the survey. HOWEVER when gathering responses we chose our outreach areas/populations carefully. Our goal was to reach folx who are often overlooked. We wanted to lift up the voices of those that are the MOST impacted by unjust policies within the City and County of Sacramento. To that end, we ensured that our outreach for collecting responses targeted those communities that we identified as most in need. This is not a scientific representative survey, rather it is a survey to lift up voices of the unheard.

For canvassing outreach, we chose to target those neighborhoods identified by the Black Child Legacy Campaign. These neighborhoods tend to be under resourced, and to house a larger population of immigrants and renters who are suffering under the current housing crisis.

Description taken from their site:

*“Seven neighborhoods have the highest numbers of African American child deaths in the county. These neighborhoods are where we focus our work. A Community Incubator Lead organization in each of these neighborhoods has been charged with prevention and intervention efforts to reduce disproportionate African American child deaths in these four causes of death.”*

# Survey Background pt. 3

## *How are final grades decided upon?*

There are two grades assigned.

- ***The Community Grade*** - this grade is the averaged result of the survey responses
- ***The Editorial Grade*** - this grade is assigned by the SJPC Counsel
  - The Counsel took into consideration community grades and comments. The results were then run by our partner organizations and SJPC counsel members in order to receive their feedback. Upon reaching a consensus the results were published in this report.

### **\*DISCLAIMER\***

The Sacramento City and County districts named in this document are from 2021 before redistricting took place (no changes occurred within Sacramento County district lines). The elected officials named in this document are those who were serving during 2021.

All the elected officials in the document are listed according to the district they represented in 2021 before redistricting.

# SJPC Issue Area Definitions

## *Criminal Justice Reform:*

- **Abolishing prisons and police; building a transformative/restorative city; addressing the underlying social issues which cause crime. Immediate end to police brutality especially against black people and other oppressed people.**

## *Education Equity:*

- **All students, regardless of circumstances or location, have access to opportunities to succeed in the classroom and beyond.**

## *Equitable Housing:*

- **Understanding that housing is a human right as opposed to a commodity; Advocating for equity and adequate public participation and transparency in development plans; promoting the building of wealth and assets for communities of color through homeownership, community-led innovation, and security and stability for renters.**

## *Environmental Justice:*

- **A city/state/nation/world in which no one faces disadvantages in dealing with pollution, disasters, and environmental hazards; no one would need wealth or political connections to protect the well-being of their families and communities.**

# SJPC's Issue Area Definitions Continued

## *Health Equity:*

- Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy, removing all obstacles to health and health care such as poverty, discrimination, unemployment, and lack of housing and safe environments.

## *Economic Investment Without Displacement:*

- Prioritizing the needs of community members, especially populations that are susceptible to the effects of widening income inequality; emphasizing building healthy communities in disadvantaged neighborhoods - good schools, healthy food, public transit, nearby employment opportunities, and green space; working to ensure development projects support and uplift the most vulnerable communities to displacement (ensuring community members are the table in planning processes), so that residents struggling with cost of living increases are able to stay in their neighborhoods and enjoy the benefits of new public investments

## *Participatory and Equitable Budgets:*

- Working to provide residents with a voice in how the public's money is spent; making strong efforts to ensure that budget spending is reflective of community needs and priorities.

## *Transparency:*

- Decisions made by elected officials are available and accessible to all & effective forms for comments/concerns (which are to be taken seriously by officials) are available and accessible to all.