

# **JOYCE STAROSCIAK**

Seeking Position of: San Leandro Mayor

[www.electjoyce.org](http://www.electjoyce.org)

## **1. If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.**

### **My top priorities are:**

- 1) Development and creating destinations in San Leandro
- 2) Support for our Schools
- 3) Public Safety
- 4) Fixing our roads
- 5) Maintaining our quality of life for residents

The top 3 are all equal in importance; they are interrelated and must happen at the same time. Development creates revenue for the City. Good schools attract good residents. Public Safety is necessary to attract the development and to create good schools. I would work with local residents and businesses to create a safe place to live and work. I would bring back the DARE program and revitalize the School Resource Officer program to support our children. I would attract quality businesses and healthy grocery options, like Trader Joe's, as well as specialty stores to downtown and Bayfair Center to create attractive destinations and bring revenue to the City.

## **2. How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?**

As the Councilmember from District 4, I represent the largest percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the City. We are the home of Chinese Christian Schools and the location of the Foodnet Asian Grocery Store / Windsor Square.

In 2006, as the Councilmember, I created the Annual Security Summit, which introduced the property owners, the store owners, and the neighbors to the police and community development staff of the City. This summit created a local partnership that was successful in reducing crime in Windsor Square by 50% in one year.

Also in 2006, I started the Annual Dim Sum meal on Martin Luther King's birthday, where the residents were invited to a Dim Sum lunch and then a tour of the Foodnet Market by the owner Jason Gong and my friend, Marilyn Fong. The Dim Sum lunch is designed to teach residents about the delicious food and culture of Dim Sum and was very successful at introducing these foods to people of all backgrounds. The Foodnet tour was designed with the same purpose. Marilyn taught us about the 5 kinds of bok

choy and when to use dark soy sauce vs. light. This made the neighbors comfortable shopping at the store and encouraged more business to DT Dim Sum and the Foodnet Grocery store. This was a very successful event and had more than 30 people attending the last program.

**3. What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):**

- **Education**

Chinese Christian Schools have a strong impact on my District and on the City of San Leandro. Many residents have moved to San Leandro to send their children there. I have supported Chinese Christian Schools strongly throughout my term. I attend and promote their annual service and fundraising events, recognized them for the Blue Ribbon status, worked to provide City help with traffic, development, and public works resources. By promoting the school, San Leandro gains good residents and notoriety as a City with great schools.

- **Health Care**

San Leandro Hospital is one of our most important assets. It provides services for residents, including Asian residents, and jobs for many Asian Pacific Americans. When Sutter came to the City Council 3 years ago to warn it may be closing, I pushed to get a commitment to keeping the hospital open. I went to Labor groups to ask for their help with the effort at that time. When the closure became imminent, as Vice Mayor I wrote the letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting their support of San Leandro residents in keeping the hospital open. I supported Wilma Chan in her efforts to be elected Supervisor and feel confident she will continue to fight to keep San Leandro Hospital open.

- **Civil Rights**

My daughter is adopted from China. Her history is one of Civil Rights that will become more important the older she gets. China's one child policy has created a place where a larger percentage of children are male and are growing up as the only child. As a daughter of a politician, she is learning the values of democracy and social justice.

- **Business**

As I mentioned before, Windsor Square is a strong local business that has many Asian stores and I have worked to promote its success in the City. The owners of Windsor Square have recognized my work and are strongly supporting me for Mayor of San Leandro.