

PAULINE RUSSO CUTTER

Seeking Position of: San Leandro City Council Dist 5

www.paulinecutter.com

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.

Budget: The city has been using its reserves to balance the budget for the past three years. I would like to create a balanced budget using only current revenue streams and then begin to restore our reserves. I will use my experience managing large public sector budgets to move the city to multi-year budgeting to reflect our long-term vision for the community.

Jobs/Economy: We must help put people back to work by stimulating the local economy and focusing on creating jobs. I support a “shop local” marketing approach to help rebuild local sales tax revenue. I also envision a safe and vibrant downtown that offers a variety of local shopping and dining opportunities that keep people in town. Our shopping districts should be safe and welcoming. We must offer incentives for quality businesses to locate in San Leandro.

Protecting Public Safety: As a parent of three and a 34-year resident, I am invested in the future of our city and want to make sure it remains a great place to live, work and raise a family. I will work tirelessly to preserve essential police and fire services and support bring public safety to full force.

City-School Cooperation and Joint Use: I believe the City and the School District can work more closely together to make better use of the scarce resources we have. As Councilmember, I will be able to leverage strong civic relationships forged over the past 12 years as a longtime member of the City-District Liaison Committee.

Citizen Participation in Government: It is important that we provide people with information on how they can be involved in their community. I believe in open government through televised Council meetings and webcasts of all public meetings. To make sure a cross-section of San Leandro is always represented at the table, I will actively seek more voices and opinions when decisions are made and ensure the City’s advisory committees and commissions are representative of our diverse community.

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 School Board Trustee, I have always advocated for broad citizen representation on advisory committees and parent groups. Whenever an issue of importance to the community comes up, I have involved leaders from various ethnic and cultural associations. I have been supportive of efforts by Asian American parents to organize and have a voice in our city. As Councilmember, I will make citizen appointments to the

city's advisory boards and commissions that better reflect our diverse community.

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**

I have demonstrated proven leadership on the San Leandro School Board, providing opportunities for students to excel at all levels of our educational system. For 12 years, I have worked to close the achievement gap, strengthen parental involvement and improve access to support services. We have expanded Advanced Placement classes for our highest achievers while building such programs as AVID, academy programs and career technical education. As Councilmember, I am committed to being a partner with our schools and make joint use projects a reality.

- **Health Care**

I have been an advocate for expanded health services in our community and universal health care for all. As School Board Trustee, I have supported a future health center at San Leandro High School. I have spoken out on the impending closure of San Leandro Hospital. In my new role as Councilmember, I would enlist the support of local citizens and business to educate residents of the importance of passing single payer health insurance. I would also work with grassroots organizations like the League of Women Voters to lobby, rally, hold forums, gather petition signatures, table and draw attention to the need for health care to be regarded as a basic, humanitarian right that should not be denied on any basis to any individual.

- **Civil Rights**

I have a strong record of protecting civil rights in our community. One of the main reasons that propelled me to run for School Board 12 years ago was to better uphold the civil rights of LGBT students and staff. As then, I continue to be passionate about ensuring the basic civil rights of all those in our community, including safe, fair and equitable access to a quality education. As Councilmember, I would support comprehensive diversity training for all City of San Leandro staff, including police and fire, to ensure city services are delivered in an unbiased way. I am committed to fostering an inclusive city that respects the rights of all its citizens, including our growing API population.

- **Business**

We are fortunate to have a diverse community population and numerous business councils to better promote a "shop San Leandro" approach. As an elected leader, I have worked with the Chamber of Commerce and key business leaders to make sure city, schools and business are partners in improving our quality of life. I would continue these relationships on the City Council and engage Asian businesses, particularly those in the Manor, HeronBay and Lewelling neighborhoods, to remain and grow in San Leandro.

Additionally, I would work on a formal business retention and promotion program so we can attract and retain large manufacturers, high-tech industry and green business to our city.