

**Candidates Statements for
City of Palo Alto Council Candidates
November 8, 2016 Election**

Listed in ballot order:

Lydia Kou

Liz Kniss

Arthur Keller

Greer Stone

Leonard Ely, III

Stewart Carl

John Karl Fredrich

Adrian Fine

Greg Tanaka

Danielle Martell

Don McDougall

LYDIA KOU:

Occupation: Residential Realtor

Education and Qualifications:

I have worked to make Palo Alto better for its residents. As a leader in my neighborhood association (Barron Park), I found presentations about City projects one-sided. I have worked to provide residents with more complete, balanced information and have opposed developments inappropriate for the city. I am serving on the Comprehensive Plan Update. My civic involvement began as a leader in Palo Alto's Emergency Preparedness program where I focused on implementation and on actively involving the larger community. I worked closely with City Staff and received multiple awards for my accomplishments.

In my job I hear frank assessments from homebuyers about Palo Alto and why they want to live here. It reinforces my own feelings and what I hear from many of you. My husband John and I raised our daughters here. We love Palo Alto but see that quality of life has declined and is further threatened by excessive development that overwhelms our infrastructure: our streets, parking, schools and other public facilities. Too often the City's "facts" conflict with what we residents know and see. Too often City Hall forgets many of us are stretching ourselves thin to live here.

On Council I will forcefully stand up for all residents' interests.

www.LydiaKou.com

LIZ KNISS:

Occupation: Councilmember; Chair-elect, Air Quality Management District
Education and Qualifications:

MPA, Healthcare Policy; BS Nursing

I am running for re-election to continue tackling critical issues of traffic, growth and housing that affect our quality of life. I'm the only candidate in leadership roles on three regional boards. I advocate for Palo Alto on air quality, transportation and affordable housing.

Palo Alto has been home to our family for many years. We love the small town feeling and friendly neighborhoods - and vibrancy of living at the epicenter of new ideas and innovation. But this intersection gives rise to many complex city challenges.

As your former Mayor, County Supervisor, and current Councilmember, I have a proven track record of making balanced decisions benefiting Palo Alto. I championed the Mitchell Park library completion, California Ave revitalization, downtown parking permits; and voted to: limit office development, reduce traffic and congestion, increase parking options, safe routes to school and fiber to the home.

Immediate priorities: complete Comprehensive Plan, implement Parks Master Plan, expand parking initiatives to protect neighborhoods, further reduce traffic, finish City Bike Master Plan, Electrify CalTrain and fund grade separations.

Endorsed by Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo, Mayor Pat Burt and hundreds of other Palo Altans, I respectfully ask for your vote.
www.lizkniss.com

ARTHUR KELLER:

Ph.D., M.S., Stanford, Computer Science; B.S., Brooklyn College.

South Palo Alto resident for 29 years; 8-year member and Vice Chair, Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC); Co- Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on Comprehensive Plan Update; founder, Adobe Meadows Neighborhood Association; twin daughters graduated from Palo Alto schools.

Our next Council will approve a Comprehensive Plan determining the level of growth over the next 15 years and affecting Palo Alto for many more decades. On the CAC, I advocated a moderate approach to development by tying the rate of growth to its impacts. On the PTC, I consistently supported policies to protect our environment and preserve the quality of life for Palo Alto's residents. I favor smaller, more affordable housing units, and more senior housing so our seniors can stay in the community. We need more parkland as housing density increases. I promote considering the impact of changes to our policies or zoning rules on our schools and class size.

I support eliminating rules leading to unpopular and incompatible commercial buildings, and advocate following our Comprehensive Plan and enforcing our zoning rules to maintain Palo Alto's livability.

I would be honored to serve you on the City Council, and I ask for your vote. www.arthurkeller.com.

GREER STONE:

As a Palo Alto native and graduate of our exemplary schools, I value our quality of life and culturally diverse community. Palo Alto is exceptional because we are unique, but our exceptionalism is at risk. Our next Council will approve the Comprehensive Plan, a blueprint for Palo Alto's future. As a Councilmember I will work to ensure the City's Plan reflects the will of the public over those of developers.

I will listen to and represent your voice, ensuring every decision reflects the community's values. Palo Alto schools are our greatest treasure, and they must be protected. Overdevelopment threatens schools and potentially worsens traffic, pollution, and parking. We must preserve ground-floor-retail, encourage affordable housing, and increase parklands.

Housing should be balanced with neighborhoods' concerns and its impacts on schools and public services. I believe in a holistic approach to these problems. A city that innovated the world surely can address the issues facing Palo Alto.

As Human Relations Commission Chairman, I focused on youth, seniors, and homeless veteran initiatives. I spent 4 years on the Commission giving a voice to those needing one, and I will bring their voice to Council. Serving Palo Alto has been a great honor - I hope to continue as your next Councilmember

www.greerstone.com

LEONARD ELY III:

As a 66 year resident, of Palo Alto, I am compelled to try and make Palo Alto the City that my Grandmother, Father, myself and now my son grew up in and/or is growing up in a better functioning community. We seem to continually re-live the past and don't learn from it. We live in a town of innovators but can't seem to solve the problems that face us. I feel that my job as an elected official is to define the problem, find the solutions and move forward with the solution is best for the community as a whole. I will propose ideas that on the surface seem absurd, but my goal is the long run and not just to satisfy a vocal minority or for that matter a vocal majority if it flies in the face of long term disaster.

I believe that what I represent is Palo Alto. I have no agenda to try and trust upon the citizenry of Palo Alto. I just want to look for answers to the issues/opportunities that face our community.

STEWART CARL:

MSME (design) Stanford, BSID (transportation) Art Center College.

Active supporter of citizen effort for compatibility of College Terrace Centre and Stanford Land Management's enormous Mayfield Project. Active educating community about aircraft noise. Sky Posse co-founder and leader. 30+ year Palo Alto resident, 20+ years in College Terrace.

My priorities:

Land Use... depressurize the development bubble that is liquidating Palo Alto's quality of life assets, and outstripping the capacity of our air, water, sewers, roadways, parking, and schools. Future development must be informed by realistic impact studies. Protect targeted neighborhoods and our most vulnerable from the impact of development.

Transportation ... emerging technologies (micro-cars, battery power, networked ride-share, self-driving) mean automobiles of some sort, will continue to be by far, the most widely used form of transportation. New construction must be more than adequately parked. Roads must carry traffic efficiently.

Architectural Compatibility ... strengthen the professionalism and independence of the Architectural Review Board so it can provide the city with incisive, actionable, analysis of proposed projects.

Neighborhood Associations ... encourage early engagement with neighborhood associations on all new projects. Strengthen neighborhood associations with city support and meaningful funding.

JOHN KARL FREDRICH:

Palo Alto's current model of government with present staffing is large and ineffective at dealing with the scope and magnitude of the problems of the built-out environment. Quality of life issues require voters to be more alert, informed, and involved. Palo Alto has not yet adequately addressed its need for housing.

I recommend electing new Council Members and hiring a new City Manager and Director of Planning and Community Environment skilled at prioritizing and meeting budget limits, eliminating the Architectural Review Board and adding two members to the Planning Commission, and hiring enough personnel to reduce overtime costs and evaluate the performance of all City workers. I support expansion of and seismic upgrade to the current police station over relocation and replacement.

I oppose High Speed Rail on Caltrain right of way and will push for a single, integrated Bay area rail system prior to any hook-up to HSR and will fight lane reduction on El Camino Real. We need better water use profiles for all new building, including water removal evaluation for basements and operational planning for rising sea levels.

I taught for 20 years at Gunn High School. Stanford, BA'68, MA'79

ADRIAN FINE:

Occupation: City Strategist at Nextdoor.com, Chair of Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission

Education and Qualifications:

Hi, I'm Adrian Fine, and I'm running for city council because I see so many opportunities for our city. We have incredible intellectual, economic, and historic resources. Born and raised in South Palo Alto, I currently rent with my fiancée in College Terrace, and we want to start our family here. A Gunn graduate, I received my MA in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and returned home where I serve as Chair of the Planning & Transportation Commission, and work at Nextdoor.com building neighborhood communities across the country.

I have championed housing and rental options, smart parking management, unique local retail, and transportation solutions to reduce traffic. These investments benefit residents, our environment, economy, and social equity. As a Council Member I will protect homes, tackle our jobs-housing imbalance, and make Palo Alto work for current and future generations. We can go even further by partnering with entrepreneurs, local governments, nonprofits, Stanford, and businesses.

We are a world-class innovative community, and can manage change effectively. I commit to include different voices, perspectives, and ages, and I hope you'll join me to protect Palo Alto's fine legacy.

www.votefine.com

GREG TANAKA:

I'm running for City Council in order to preserve the high quality of life that my family has enjoyed since we moved here in 2004. This agenda includes maintaining a vibrant and safe, but not overbuilt city, a continued partnership with PAUSD schools, and preserving great services. I am a strong advocate of fiscal responsibility and I believe that ALL citizens should be represented, including busy working professionals.

For the past decade, I've served Palo Alto in a number of ways:

6 years of service on the Planning and Transportation Commission where I championed the California Avenue Streetscape Project. This project greatly enhanced this important commercial district, and many who opposed the project now acknowledge its success.

2 years on the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission

1 year as Escondido Elementary PTA Treasurer ,

4 years as President of the College Terrace Residents' Association where I led a divided neighborhood to establish Palo Alto's first Residential Permit Parking Program, now a model for the community.

My experience and track record have earned me the endorsements of State Assemblyman Rich Gordon, along with a broad spectrum of residents, community leaders, and local politicians which you'll find on my website: yes.gregtanaka.org. I respectfully ask for your vote.

DANIELLE MARTELL:

Occupation: Computer Scientist and Mathematician

Education and Qualifications:

I'm a former Stanford graduate student. SLAC and IBM computer scientist, and a Montessori educator. Currently, I design courseware for mathematics. I have lived my life in Palo Alto, have always cared deeply about our town, and have seen Palo Alto go through many changes. Join me in reclaiming Palo Alto by embracing a smart, studied change that will restore our community to a safe, sophisticated university town while nurturing us as an incubator-of-the-arts and technology innovations to inspire our children.

As a lifelong residentialist of more than 50 years, I pledge myself to the following issues.

(1) Stop citywide overdevelopment, including maintaining walkable neighborhoods in which all residents have easy access to a grocery store.

(2) Establish city codes that are fairer for residents than the codes we currently have by creating a much needed Administrative Hearing and Appeal Process that offers Due Process Rights.

(3) Reduce crime by restructuring the failed Opportunity Center, a city-sponsored clubhouse and magnet largely for intense addicts and transients overflowing from San Francisco.

(4) As an emergency issue, protect our children by overseeing park pool safety so there is at least one supervising adult on premises at all times.

www.MARTELLpaloalto.org

DON MCDUGALL

Occupation: Retired high-tech CEO and active community volunteer Qualifications: Palo Alto Library Commission, Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Comprehensive Plan, Environmental Volunteers volunteer.

Palo Alto is a unique, special place-positive, diverse people of spirit; parks, open spaces, libraries, retail, restaurants. I want to keep Palo Alto a livable, sustainable, engaging community.

Challenges like housing shortages and traffic congestion threaten our quality of life but Palo Alto's commitment, values, and energy are more than adequate to take on these challenges

Balancing residential, environmental, and commercial interests, Palo Alto can achieve a sustainable and thriving community. All housing options must be discussed. Transportation within the community must support all users and locations. Efficient movement in and out of the city must be negotiated aggressively with relevant partners.

Palo Alto is defined by trees, parks, and open spaces; libraries as places for books, learning, and gathering; schools ensuring the future; and services and utilities providing quality of life and independence. We must engage in partnerships within our community and with our neighbors to meet our shared challenges.

I expect to listen, discuss ideas, and explore possibilities to create a strong, diverse and inclusive future for Palo Alto.
Please vote. www.votemcdougall.com