

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

Additionally, applicants to the following commissions will be required to fill out a [Form 700](#) (California State required Statement of Economic Interest) within 30 days of appointment.

- Airport Commission
- Appeals Hearing Board
- Arena Authority
- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC)
- Downtown Parking Board
- Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices (formerly Ethics Commission)
- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Eddy

First Name

Lu

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95134

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***

☒ District 4**Home:**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 3-5 years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices: Submitted

Parafin

Employer

Staff Software Engineer

Job Title

Current Employer Address

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

████████████████████

[REDACTED]

Figure 1 | **Flowchart illustrating the study design.**

☒ [REDACTED]
☒ [REDACTED]

☒

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

McGill University Bachelor of Engineering - Electrical Engineering 2012 - 2016 (Graduated 2016) Westfield Senior High School High School Diploma 2008 - 2012 (Graduated 2012) Stanford Continuing Studies (2020, 2023) Relevant courses: Dealing with Conflict

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates.

N/A

Languages Spoken

English, Mandarin Chinese

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

N/A

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member.

I want to serve on the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices because I believe deeply in promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in local government. In a time when public trust in institutions is increasingly fragile, I see this Board's role as vital in maintaining the integrity of democratic processes in San José. As a member, I would work toward ensuring that campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying rules are fairly and consistently enforced, and that complaints are reviewed thoroughly and impartially. I would also support efforts to improve public awareness of campaign and ethics laws, especially among grassroots candidates or community members engaging with the political process for the first time. My goal is to contribute to a fair political playing field that fosters civic engagement and trust in public decision-making.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I bring a background in technology, critical thinking, and structured analysis, which would be valuable in evaluating complaints and reviewing compliance issues. I also have experience navigating regulatory frameworks and working cross-functionally with stakeholders who may have conflicting interests. This has taught me how to remain neutral while advancing shared goals. Additionally, I've taken coursework in conflict resolution at Stanford University, where I practiced active listening and collaborative problem-solving. These skills will be essential in board discussions, particularly in sensitive or high-stakes cases.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Melody Zhao

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Shu Yi Zhou

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission

Are you a registered voter in the City of San Jose? (Please note, your voter registration will be independently verified)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

Please provide the name and residential address under which you are registered to vote. If it is the same as listed above, please note see above.

Eddy Lu, [REDACTED]

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

Have you participated as a candidate in any election to public office in the year prior to your application to the Commission? Please note, if you have, you are ineligible for appointment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

While I have not worked directly in a campaign or legal setting, I've taken a personal interest in campaign ethics and transparency. I've spent time reviewing Title 12 of the San José Municipal Code and related Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) materials to better understand the regulatory environment for campaign finance and lobbying disclosures. Additionally, I've followed recent cases of enforcement in San José and neighboring cities, which has helped me appreciate the importance of consistent application of campaign rules. I'm committed to deepening my knowledge in this area and staying up to date with local and state-level ethics regulations.

If applicable, have you ever attended or watched a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

I am currently applying to several San José commissions and am eager to serve in a formal public capacity for the first time. While I haven't served on a government commission before, I have participated in collaborative community groups and led initiatives within professional organizations that involved consensus-building, reviewing proposals, and making recommendations with long-term impact.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I bring: Experience leading product development and stakeholder discussions in my professional work as a staff-level software engineer Skills in analysis, documentation, and clear communication Training in conflict resolution, which helps me remain impartial and collaborative in tense situations A strong personal interest in civic engagement, ethics, and good governance The ability to read and interpret detailed rules and technical frameworks These qualities make me confident in my ability to contribute thoughtfully and responsibly to the Board's oversight and enforcement functions.

Eddy Lu

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices exists to uphold the integrity of San José's political processes. Its purpose is to ensure that candidates, elected officials, and others engaged in political activity comply with campaign finance, ethics, and lobbying laws. The Board investigates alleged violations, recommends enforcement actions where necessary, and provides guidance to the City Council on policy improvements. It serves as a guardian of fairness and transparency in public affairs.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Council should address.

Transparency in lobbying and campaign finance: Continued focus on accessibility and enforcement of campaign and ethics laws. Housing affordability and homelessness: Addressing root causes and creating balanced solutions across neighborhoods. Civic engagement and trust: Increasing participation in public processes, especially from underrepresented communities.

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you meet the requirements for appointment to this commission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

While this question appears directed toward applicants for the Historic Landmarks Commission, I understand that historic preservation helps maintain San José's cultural identity, sense of place, and architectural heritage. The Historic Landmarks Commission identifies and evaluates buildings and sites of historical importance and advises on preservation policies and development proposals to ensure that growth respects the city's heritage.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

I have not been directly involved in historic preservation efforts. However, I am familiar with the City's public planning processes through attending community meetings and reviewing City Council agendas and staff memos. I have worked with public agency staff on non-governmental initiatives and understand the importance of respectful, timely communication when navigating civic procedures.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am a resident of San José's District 4, a dual Canadian-American citizen, and a strong communicator with a professional background in product development and software engineering. I value inclusive planning, equitable access to public spaces, and thoughtful community design. I've completed a Stanford course on conflict resolution where we practiced difficult conversations, learned how to actively listen and paraphrase concerns, and studied how to avoid insincere or dismissive language when tensions are high. These skills have served me well professionally; for example, when resolving team conflict by showing support for a partner team's deadlines, or mediating disputes between managers competing for interns by refocusing on what best served the interns' experience. I'm also committed to ethical conduct, civic responsibility, and impartial service. I see public boards and commissions as critical to maintaining transparency, fairness, and trust in our institutions. I'm open to serving in any role where my background may be a good fit and am enthusiastic about contributing to San José's civic life wherever I can be most helpful.

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

☒ I Agree *

Eddy Lu

Eddy Lu

Contact

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
San José, CA

Personal: eddylu.com
LinkedIn: lueddy

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Engineering
Electrical Engineering
McGill University
Sept. 2012 – May 2016
Montréal, QC

Stanford Continuing Studies
Jun. 2023 – Aug. 2023
Dealing With Conflict

SKILLS

Evaluative Writing
Stakeholder Communication
Policy-Oriented Thinking
Equity-Focused Hiring
Microsoft Office

INTERESTS

Soccer
Basketball
Snowboarding
Hackathons
Local Governance
Urban Planning
Community Equity

BACKGROUND

- Canadian-American dual citizen and U.S. voter residing in San José District 4
- 9 years of experience as a full-stack software engineer
- Strengths in writing, stakeholder communication, and equity-focused hiring
- Homeowner with interest in civic policy, inclusive governance, and community equity

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer Jun. 2022 – Apr. 2025
Plaid San Francisco, CA

- Technical lead for the rebranded Plaid Link experience
- Led full-stack onboarding flow for product access, balancing usability, security, and compliance
- Built internal KYC/KYB review tool for Risk Operations; integrated with Salesforce and compliance platforms
- Implemented UI refresh for company-wide internal tooling dashboard
- Led the 2024 Plaid internship program, focused on equity-driven recruiting and inclusive team-matching across engineering
 - Partnered with Recruiting to advance diversity goals by increasing representation of women engineers and aligning intern placements with team/mentor identity for stronger support

Senior Software Engineer Jul. 2021 – Jun. 2022
Discord San Francisco, CA

- Developed A/B-tested features to increase monthly user engagement
- Revamped invite experience for Discord servers and channels

Senior Software Engineer Aug. 2019 – Jul. 2021
LinkedIn Sunnyvale, CA

- Lead web developer for skill assessments and candidate screening features
- Developed recruiter search functionality, skills-oriented candidate application flows, and job application survey features using JavaScript and Ember
- Led organization-wide frontend initiatives in accessibility, responsive design, and modernization

Software Engineer Jul. 2016 – Aug. 2019
Microsoft Redmond, WA

- Front end development of new web-based infrastructure and components library for Dynamics 365 using TypeScript, JavaScript, React, Redux, C#, MS SQL
- Led web accessibility initiative during revamp of the Dynamics 365 platform
- Proposed and piloted analysis-driven solutions that were adopted org-wide

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- Federated and Police & Fire Retirement Boards
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

Sangeetha

First Name

Vijendiran

Last Name


Email Address
Street Address
Suite or AptSan Jose

City

CA

State

95148

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No**What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:****[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)****[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) ***

☒ District 8Home: 

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone**Length of Residency**

☒ 6 or more years

Sangeetha Vijendiran

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices: Submitted

Oracle

Employer

Principal Program Manager

Job Title

Current Employer Address

[REDACTED]

Current Employer of Spouse

Illumio Inc

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

Spouse's Job Title

Sr Mgr, Site Reliability Engineer

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

NA

[REDACTED]

THE

Interests & Experiences

Sangeetha Vijendiran

**High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended.
Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.**

Degree: Masters in Computer Engineering School: San Jose State University Dates Attended: Jan 2004 - May 2006 Graduated / Degree Received: Aug 18 2006

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates.

NA

Languages Spoken

English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

- Recognized with several spot bonus awards at Google(former Employer) for various projects for product launches impacting billions of users and internal workflow improvements that increased efficiency and productivity. (Current Employer listed is new and beginning employment at Oracle on May 5th.) - Recognized as employee of the month in Tegrity (now McGrawHill) (former employer)

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member.

Having affirmed my commitment to this nation through the oath taken during my US citizenship ceremony, my determination to actively serve my community has only deepened. While I continually seek and engage in various avenues to contribute to society, I am particularly eager to dedicate my program management expertise to the City of San Jose by serving as a member of its Boards and Commissions. I aim to leverage my skills in guiding strategic decisions, meticulous planning, and effective execution tracking for the board that will help shape the future of our city. As a member of the Measure T Community Oversight Committee, my primary objective is to leverage my program management expertise to ensure the efficient and transparent use of taxpayer funds. I would focus on contributing to the Committee's ability to effectively monitor project progress, track expenditures, and reporting status, meaningful feedback and recommendations to the city council on the progress and effectiveness of Measure T projects. As a member of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, one of my key objectives is to contribute to public awareness and understanding of campaign finance regulations and ethical conduct in political activities within San Jose. I aim to leverage my communication and organizational skills to support the Board's efforts in disseminating clear and accessible information to candidates and the public. As a member of the Council Appointment Advisory Commission, I am keen to apply my skills in stakeholder management to ensure effective communication and collaboration between the Commission, the City Council, and prospective board and commission members. My objective would be to foster a process that is both rigorous and welcoming, encouraging a diverse pool of qualified candidates to serve our city.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

My dedication to community service is reflected in my recent volunteer work for the 2024 elections, providing meals to the unhoused, and teaching Junior Achievement to middle schoolers. I also regularly donate blood through the American Red Cross. I actively look for ways to further contribute to San Jose, often through the District 8 newsletter, which is how I became aware of the volunteer openings on the Boards and Commissions. I am confident that my analytical skills, attention to detail, and creative approach would be valuable assets in supporting the decision-making and initiatives of the Boards and Commissions.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

[REDACTED]

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

NA

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

NA

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Reference 1 Address

Reference 1 Email address

Reference 1 Phone

Reference 2 Name

Reference 2 Address

Reference 2 Email address

Reference 2 Phone

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices,Civil Service Commission,Planning Commission

Are you a registered voter in the City of San Jose? (Please note, your voter registration will be independently verified)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Civil Service Commission,Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices,Planning Commission

Please provide the name and residential address under which you are registered to vote. If it is the same as listed above, please note see above.

See Above

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

Have you participated as a candidate in any election to public office in the year prior to your application to the Commission? Please note, if you have, you are ineligible for appointment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

As an engaged resident of San Jose and a volunteer in the recent elections, I recognize the critical role of campaign laws in maintaining a fair political landscape. While I don't have specific professional experience with these laws, I am highly motivated to learn and understand them thoroughly. I am committed to contributing to the Board's mission by diligently applying these regulations and ensuring equitable practices in local campaigns.

If applicable, have you ever attended or watched a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

This would be my first experience serving on a formal commission or board. However, my involvement in various community initiatives, such as volunteering for elections, assisting the unhoused, and teaching Junior Achievement, has provided me with valuable experience in understanding community needs, working collaboratively with others, and contributing to meaningful outcomes. Coupled with my professional skills in program management, including analytical thinking and meticulous planning developed over 14 years at Google, I am confident in my ability to learn quickly and contribute effectively as a new member of a board or commission. I am eager to embrace this opportunity for deeper civic engagement.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

Drawing upon my extensive experience as a Program Manager for over 14 years, coupled with my active engagement in various community initiatives, I possess a range of experience, training, knowledge, and skills that I believe strongly qualify me for appointment to the City of San Jose board or commission. My extensive professional experience in program management at Google has equipped me with a robust skillset directly applicable to the responsibilities of a board or commission member. I have a proven track record of leading cross-functional teams to achieve strategic objectives, which demonstrates my ability to collaborate effectively and contribute to collective decision-making. My experience in strategic planning and project lifecycle management provides a strong foundation for contributing to the development and oversight of initiatives. Furthermore, my skills in data analysis and problem-solving would be valuable in evaluating information and developing effective solutions. The need for clear and concise communication with diverse stakeholders in my professional role has honed my ability to articulate ideas and listen effectively, crucial skills for board discussions. Managing programs that required strict adherence to established guidelines and regulations will enable me understand and enforce the necessary compliance in campaign finance and political practices. Beyond my professional life, my community involvement in volunteering for the 2024 elections, serving the unhoused, and teaching Junior Achievement showcases my commitment to civic engagement and my ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups to address community needs. This experience has enhanced my communication and interpersonal skills and provided me with a firsthand understanding of local issues. While my formal experience on a commission or board is limited, the analytical skills, attention to detail, and organizational abilities honed throughout my career and community work provide a strong foundation for effectively contributing to the deliberations and responsibilities of a board or commission. I am a quick learner and eager to apply my existing skills in this new context. I am confident that the combination of my professional expertise in program management and my dedication to community involvement has provided me with the necessary experience, training, knowledge, and skills to be a valuable and contributing member of a City of San Jose Board or Commission. I am eager to embrace this opportunity to serve my community in a more direct and impactful way.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

The purpose of the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices is to ensure fair, ethical, and transparent campaign financing and political practices in San Jose. This involves overseeing elections, promoting transparency in campaign finance, enforcing regulations, educating the public and candidates, and advising the City Council to maintain the integrity of local democracy and public trust.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Council should address.

Three critical issues facing the City that I believe the Council should prioritize are: 1. Housing Affordability and Homelessness: Addressing the persistent challenges of rising housing costs and the growing unhoused population requires a multi-faceted approach. This includes exploring innovative zoning solutions, increasing the supply of affordable housing units, and investing in comprehensive support services for individuals experiencing homelessness. 2. Transportation and Infrastructure: With continued growth, San Jose faces increasing strain on its transportation systems and aging infrastructure. Prioritizing investments in public transit, improving traffic flow through strategic planning and technological solutions, and maintaining and upgrading essential infrastructure like roads and water systems are crucial for the city's future. 3. Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: As a major urban center, San Jose needs to proactively address the impacts of climate change and promote environmental sustainability. This includes investing in renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, expanding green spaces, and developing strategies to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures and potential natural disasters.

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you meet the requirements for appointment to this commission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

The purpose of historic preservation in San José is to identify, protect, and promote the city's significant architectural, cultural, and historical resources. The role of the Historic Landmarks Commission is to identify historic landmarks, offer guidance and expertise, advocating policies and programs related to historic preservation and to raise public awareness around the history of San Jose and its culture, including the benefits of preservation of historical resources.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

Though I do not have direct prior experience with historic preservation, I bring a strong personal interest in San José's history and I am eager to learn about San José's historic resources, the city's planning framework, and how the Commission collaborates with City staff to achieve its preservation goals. I am confident that my analytical abilities, commitment to thoroughness, and collaborative spirit would make me a valuable member.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I am genuinely enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve as a member of the Boards and Commissions and contribute to the City of San José. I am committed to dedicating the necessary time and effort to fulfill the responsibilities of this role diligently and thoughtfully. Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to learn more about the available opportunities and how I can contribute to the City of San José.

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

☒ I Agree *

Boards and Commissions Application

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- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Housing & Community Development Commission
- Work2future (SVWIB) Board
- Planning Commission*

John

First Name

Shuler

Last Name

Email Address

Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose

City

CA

State

95124

Postal Code

Are you a resident of San Jose?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here:

[https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple)

[selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple](https://rovservices.sccgov.org/Home/IndexPost?selected=dt&electionId=133&distance=5&navtab=vc&asm=simple) *

☒ District 9

Mobile:

Primary Phone

Home:

Alternate Phone

Length of Residency

☒ 6 or more years

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices: Submitted

Campbell Union High School District
Employer

Specialist Instructor - Music
Job Title

Current Employer Address

[Redacted]

Current Employer of Spouse

None - retired

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

None

Spouse's Job Title

Retired

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

Neither of us receive a pension. Our retirement money is in 401k and 403b accounts, as well as our own investment accounts.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

[Redacted]

☒ [Redacted]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI - Bachelor of Music (1975-79) in Trumpet Performance - Master of Music (1980-81) in Trumpet Performance - Master of Business Administration (1988-90)

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates.

Mission Committee, Fourth Avenue People's Food Cooperative, 1981-82 MacTechnics (Macintosh User Group in Ann Arbor: Vice President, 1987-89

Languages Spoken

English, some French

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

Theodore Presser Award for Outstanding Promise as a Music Educator, 1977 Patent: Presence Activated Radio Beacon, 2018

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member.

I am extremely concerned about the erosion of democracy in the US, and believe that change can best be grown from the local and state level. In particular, the rules and regulation of voter registration, campaign finance, voting mechanism, and vote tabulation, and the prevention and prosecution of election fraud of all kinds, are critical to the achievement of a result that truly reflects the will of the electorate. California has made progress through its independent districting initiative, but we still have winners that receive less than a majority of votes (a plurality system). I have become convinced that instant-runoff, rank-choice voting systems best reflect the will of the voter, while also promoting moderation in election candidates. This has been proven in Alaska, Maine and in cities in which it has been implemented. I am also very intent on fighting the corruption of elections and our government officials by money, particularly the excessive power granted by extreme wealth to shape the election narrative through the mass distribution of misinformation, and the corruption of decision making by financial inducements of many kinds. San Jose, as a major city, can influence the rest of the country through the implementation and enforcement of common-sense rules, regulations. I am an avid reader of books on history, economics, fiscal and electoral policy. Of particular interest in this case is "Making Democracy Count" by Volič.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I have a website that expresses my political "platform", if you will. It has not been well maintained, lately, but you can see it at <https://america2.shulers.net>, and particularly <https://america2.shulers.net/democracy>, which outlines my thoughts and considerations on voting laws and policies. I have also published a list of "inputs" -- books, websites, etc. -- at <https://america2.shulers.net/resources>.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

[REDACTED]

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Are you currently experiencing homelessness or have you experienced it in the past?

☐ Yes ☒ No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

Question applies to multiple boards

If appointed, you will be required to fill out a disclosure statement, which identifies certain of your financial interests beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment and annually on or before April 1 of each year thereafter. Please confirm that you have read Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Form 700 Reference Pamphlet and agree to file required FPPC Form 700 Statements of Economic Interest, as required by current City Council Conflict of Interest resolution.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

Have you ever been required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and failed to do so?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If yes, please explain in complete detail.

Question applies to multiple boards

Please confirm that you have reviewed and agree to comply with the San Jose Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Prohibition of Gifts), City of San Jose Ethics Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.1), and City of San Jose Gift Policy (City Policy Manual 1.2.2).

☒ Yes ☐ No

Reference 1 Name

Stan Dutrow

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

John Olsen

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Email address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

John Shuler

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission

Are you a registered voter in the City of San Jose? (Please note, your voter registration will be independently verified)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Civil Service Commission, Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, Planning Commission

Please provide the name and residential address under which you are registered to vote. If it is the same as listed above, please note see above.

[REDACTED]

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

Have you participated as a candidate in any election to public office in the year prior to your application to the Commission? Please note, if you have, you are ineligible for appointment.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Question applies to Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices

If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

I am politically well-read, and have read Federal voting laws and proposed laws in original text.

If applicable, have you ever attended or watched a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

I have never served on a governmental commission or board. I have served as an officer of public and private corporations, and of one 501c3 organization, and as a board member and CEO of a private corporation.

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, School, professional, social, Commissions, Boards, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment.

I have an MBA from a top business school, in which I took courses that discussed business ethics. I have read extensively (see <https://america2.shulers.net/resources>) in the areas of history, economics, public policy, including voting laws and mechanisms. I consider myself to be inexhaustibly curious, and have dedicated myself not only to continuous learning, but to "giving back" of what I have learned to my community, as evidenced by my voluntary work in the music departments of Campbell United High School District, and as an Adopt-A-Park volunteer for Houge Park near my home.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

I see the Commission as currently having responsibility for the monitoring and enforcement of campaign law, particularly around campaign finance and ethics. I am hoping to learn more about the Board and the nuances of San Jose elections through involvement in the Board, and to understand how I can apply my knowledge to influence the continuous improvement of democracy (small "d") in the city.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Council should address.

1. Democracy, tempered by the protection of basic rights, is the absolute foundation of a just society. As stated above, I see a flaw in the plurality election mechanism, which leads to people being compelled to vote contrary to their preferences to ensure their vote matters, and that leads to a winner that does not have the support of the majority of the electorate. The simple resolution of this is instant-runoff, rank-choice voting. This would also save the City the expense of runoff elections under circumstances that have arisen even recently. 2. The reality of elections in the City (not to mention State and Federal) elections is that it requires a candidate to have a large number of wealthy friends and acquaintances to enable them to afford the considerable expenses of a campaign. This is admittedly not a simple problem to solve! Public funding of elections is one mechanism, but this requires that the City has the funds, and it would also require a stringent system to enable someone to qualify for those funds (probably that the candidate acquire a large number of qualified signatures on a petition for them). But it is definitely something to consider to promote true democracy. 3. Then there are issues not related to the Board (and I know I am cheating): homelessness, budget, city planning to reduce traffic congestion and increase economic prosperity, and climate preparedness (SJ is a low-lying city that is threatened by climate change).

Question applies to multiple boards

Do you meet the requirements for appointment to this commission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the purpose of historic preservation in San José and what is the role of the Historic Landmarks Commission in achieving that purpose?

Historic landmarks educate the public in the history of the city and region. Landmarks should be truthful in their representation of the city's history. But preservation for the sake of preservation is anathema to progress in solving other tenacious issues in the city. This could mean whether to preserve a building, or even whether to limit the updating of a building to make it more energy efficient. This is the delicate balance that must be struck by the Commission.

Please explain your prior experience with historic preservation, with San José's public planning processes, and in working with City or other public agency staff.

I have had excellent, productive meetings with the City Planning commission in the past (ca. 2007-2012) with regard to the deployment of LED lighting... including intelligent LED lighting.. throughout the City. My experience with historic preservation is more limited... to understanding the limits on renovation of, for example, my sister's historic house in Hingham, MA.

Anything else you would like us to know?

I have made my living, and want to give back. I have been a "starving musician" as well as a successful Tech employee and entrepreneur. As implied above, I see an appointment to this Board as a first major step toward greater engagement with the City. I see most of the major evolutions in Federal law as originating at the local and State level, and see San Jose as a progressive, caring community where good -- and influential -- things can happen!

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

☒ I Agree *



John H. (Jay) Shuler

• • • shulers.net

Education: The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

- Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance, May 1979
- Master of Music, Dec 1981
- Master of Business Administration, May 1990

Musician and Music Educator: 1978 - 1995

- Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Brass Quintet, Lansing, Michigan (1978 - 1988) – Principal Trumpet
- Detroit Symphony Orchestra – Extra (1981, 1985)
- North Carolina Symphony – Extra (1991 - 1995)
- Private Instructor of Trumpet for ages 9 to adult. Students went on to achieve top honors in solo competitions, and success at the U of Michigan School of Music, the Berklee College of Music, Interlochen International Music Camp, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Academy.

Marketing Executive in Networking and LED Technologies: 1990 - 2020

Nortel Networks: Research Triangle Park NC and Alpharetta GA (1990-1998) - Marketing Manager

Advanced Fibre Communications, Petaluma CA (1998-1999) – Director of Marketing

Mariposa Technology, Petaluma CA (1999-2000) – Director of Marketing

Luminous Networks, Cupertino CA (2000-2002) – Vice President, Marketing

Beyond Category Consulting, San Jose CA (2002-2004) – President

Terawave Communications, Hayward CA (2004-2007) – Director of Marketing

Philips Lumileds, San Jose CA (2007-2009) – Regional Marketing Manager, The Americas

Xeralux / Sensity Systems, Santa Clara CA (2010-2012) – Vice President, Marketing

Beyond Category Consulting, San Jose CA (2012-2014) – President

Xicato, Inc., San Jose CA (2014-2020) - Director of Marketing

Musician and Music Educator: 2020 - Present

- Symphony Parnassus (2022 - Present) – 2nd Trumpet
- Menlo Brass Quintet (2023 - Present) – Trumpet
- Campbell Union High School District: Specialist Instructor of Brass at Leigh and Branham High Schools
- Freelance contractor in Santa Cruz Symphony
- Additional performances with Bay Area Rainbow Symphony (BARS), Cambrian Symphony, Redwood Symphony, Peninsula Symphony

Member, American Federation of Musicians local 6

Volunteer Work

Taproot Foundation – several projects between 2002 and 2006

San Jose Adopt-A-Park prime for Houge Park Native Gardens - 2024 - present