

# **San José District 6 Civics Forum Event Script**

**Hosted By  
True Fellowship Lodge no.52, IOOF**

**January 24, 2024  
7:00PM - 8:30PM**

**RUN UP TO START:**

**6:45PM**

**ANDREW:**

**Announce to all assembled in the Community Center to go take their seats**

**Announce several times that “If your vehicle is parked on the opposite side of Emory Street, please move your car now to avoid being ticketed during the Civic Forum.” (Last Warning given at 6:55pm)**

**6:55PM**

**All Candidates + Moderator assemble on stage & take their seats.**

**7:00PM**

**ANDREW:**

**Announce at the front of the room:**

**“Please take out your cell phones and place them on silent mode.”**

**[Wait 30 Seconds]**

**“Join me for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.”**

**[Pledge of Allegiance]**

**“It pleases me to introduce our present San Jose District 6 Council Member Dev Davis!”**

**[Applause]**

**7:02PM**

**Dev Davis Speech**

1. Introduce yourself [District 6 City Councilmember Dev Davis]
2. Thank Odd Fellows for organizing this nonpartisan, friendly civic forum.
3. Introduce the Civic Forum:
  - a. a chance for all candidates in the District 6 city council race to share their positions on key issues facing us.
  - b. This format is intended to have a positive nature by both discouraging unproductive character attacks while encouraging the positive focus on the ways these community leaders would like to improve our neighborhoods.
4. Thank all four candidates for agreeing to attend this event
  - a. Alex Shoor
  - b. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
  - c. Michael Mulcahy
  - d. Olivia Navarro
5. Compliment the civically engaged people attending the event.
6. A final plug about upcoming events:
  - a. March 2nd thru March 5th, the Odd Fellows Community Center will host the Primary Election Vote Center for this neighborhood.
  - b. On March 27th, the Odd Fellows will be hosting the documentary about the civic advocacy work of Dr. Robert Putnam - author of "Bowling Alone" - with the Documentary being introduced by one of his former students: San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan!
  - c. If you would like to know about other events here, then please sign up for the Odd Fellows Community Center email list on True52.org.
7. Introduce moderator Andrew M. Crockett, a civil servant and civic activist presently sitting on the administrative boards of 3 separate community organizations including True Fellowship Lodge no 52 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and who spearheaded creating this event for the benefit of the neighborhood.

**7:08PM**

**ANDREW: OPENING REMARKS**

Welcome to the first ever San José District 6 Civics Forum hosted by True Fellowship Lodge no.52, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. I am Andrew Crockett, Trustee of the San José Odd Fellows Community Center, Chair of this Lodge's Civics Committee, and your moderator this evening. I am pleased to sit on stage with 4 of our district's leaders - Alex Shoor, Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti, Michael Mulcahy, & Olivia Navarro - who are here tonight to earn your vote.

This Civics Forum will be a little different from the debates and candidate interviews you may have encountered in the past. We are the Odd Fellows, an all-gender inclusive democratically-organized civic organization dedicated to organizing community around the principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth. Principles which are symbolized by the three link chain containing the F, L, & T above us on stage. Our organization does not (and can not) endorse a particular candidate or tie ourselves to any party. That said, we have a vested interest in the civic health of our nation and community. Foundational civic principles of toleration, the relief of distress, and the elevation of human character. In this Civic Forum, we hope to witness those principles exemplified in our candidates' remarks this evening.

The format of this Civics Forum is quite no-nonsense, for in each round I will:

1. state a topic
2. provide a summary prompt about the topic
3. then pose the question for that topic.
4. then I will prompt the candidate that speaks first in that round to begin
5. Each candidate will have two uninterrupted minutes to speak about their answer, followed by a moment for the next candidate to begin

with providing their answer in the two minutes allotted. This handing off will continue until all have spoken, at which point we begin the next topic. I will only (if necessary) remind a candidate to address the question asked if their answer meanders.

Like the rest of this event, tonight's questions were assembled by the Civics Committee of this lodge. We sought voter suggestions through the website, and through iterative reviews incorporated voter guidance into the questions presented this evening.

The rules for how to respond are simple: answer truthfully, be friendly, do not disparage your fellow candidates, and don't interrupt the other candidates when they are speaking.

Since we take these things seriously at the Odd Fellows, we will be keeping score:

- We have a fact-checker on hand, to encourage the candidates to speak truthfully. We want the voters to hear the candidates, and should something false be uttered, it will be noted.
- We will also have a "friendliness checker" who will record when any candidate mentions another candidate, and whether the statement was positive, neutral, or disparaging.

Our hope is that all candidates end this evening with a clean scorecard we can share with pride to our community.

Indeed, we hope that each and every one of us will leave this place knowing that practicing civic virtues gives any among us a way of serving the common good.

Let's begin.

**7:12PM**

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

- Please make a two-minute opening, introductory statement including your name, your history, and why you are running to represent the people of San Jose's 6th District on the City Council?

**ORDER:**

1. Alex Shoor
2. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
3. Michael Mulcahy
4. Olivia Navarro

7:22PM

COMMUNITY:

- This question pertains to how you engage with and prioritize communities within your district.
- Community centers like this one are known as “third places”, separate from our “first place” (our home) and our “second place” (our work), and are a space where community actually happens in a city. And while there are government-operated “third places” like libraries, and business-operated “third places” like bars: nonprofit “third places” are facing severe challenges. To use the Odd Fellows community center here as an example: half of the street parking we had access to for decades was unilaterally taken away from us by a previous San Jose City Council. And in the years ahead, choices around how to develop the vacant lot next door will similarly impact the future of this “third place”. There are many nonprofit third places reflecting our city’s diverse populations culturally, religiously, and civically that will be similarly impacted by your future choices on the City Council.
- In light of this: what is your position on engaging and prioritizing communities - especially the forgotten nonprofit third places - within San Jose and District 6?

ORDER:

1. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
2. Michael Mulcahy
3. Olivia Navarro
4. Alex Shoor

**7:32PM**

**BUSINESS GROWTH:**

- This question pertains to the obstacles to business and organizational growth in San Jose and was submitted by District 6 resident “Kat”.
- "There are several businesses on The Alameda that are currently boarded up. When a coffee shop around the corner from my condo wanted to expand into a previously abandoned dry cleaning business, they started the process with the city and then realized that the cost of permits was going to put them under [if they chose to expand].
- [In light of this,] Like permit costs, what are [the] other obstacles that prevent these abandoned spaces from being put to good use? And, what can a council member do to remove these obstacles?"

**ORDER:**

1. Michael Mulcahy
2. Olivia Navarro
3. Alex Shoor
4. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti



7:42PM

## HOUSING:

- This question pertains to housing, including housing for the unhoused, general affordability, and where new housing will be built.
- We all know that our city, and our entire region for that matter, has a problem with housing affordability and availability. We checked your websites, and every single one of you mentions housing, all either saying or implying the need for affordable housing. Making housing genuinely affordable for the people who want to live here will be challenging, and requires new housing supply to be constructed with the question of WHERE such housing will be built in both District 6 and across San Jose being of significant concern to voters. Additionally, housing for the unhoused continues to be an intractable problem.
- In light of this: what are your positions on the problems we face around housing - whether addressing the unhoused, general affordability, or where new housing will be built?

## ORDER:

1. Olivia Navarro
2. Alex Shoor
3. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
4. Michael Mulcahy

7:52PM

SUSTAINABILITY:

- This question pertains to sustainability.
- Sustainability is the question of how to live well in a place for generations. This is both an existential and cultural question in 2024. Existential; in that San Jose from Alviso into District 6 will face ocean and storm inundation this century with present projections of sea level rise, necessitating attention on climate restoration and the use of renewable resources and energy. Cultural; in that the shifts to renewable resources require making changes to our common spaces across the city, such as the changes to our roads into “complete streets” that are more suitable for pedestrians and cyclists - an action that comes at the cost of narrowing the portion of the road available for cars.
- In light of this: what are your positions regarding the implementation of sustainability policies for San Jose and District 6 in particular?

ORDER:

1. Alex Shoor
2. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
3. Michael Mulcahy
4. Olivia Navarro

**8:02PM**

**THE CITY BUDGET:**

- This question pertains to budgets and taxes.
- It has long been said that “Budgets are statements of values” - and San Jose’s budgets have a long history of heated debate. This frequently focuses on whether to cut costs and reduce city services (notably emergency services), or attempt to generate new revenues to fill the gaps through taxes and fees. In the last few decades, cuts to San Jose’s budgets have left the city with one of the least attractive pension plans in the state, with many departments described by third parties as “underfunded” given the size of our city. Likewise many proposals for new revenues have been discussed, including a Vacancy Tax, a Land Value Tax, and other Property Tax roll modifications (such as the so-called “split roll”).
- In light of this: if you were required to reduce the budget, what would you look to specifically cut? And if you were required to raise revenues, what new fees or taxes would you potentially support?

**ORDER:**

1. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
2. Michael Mulcahy
3. Olivia Navarro
4. Alex Shoor

**8:12PM**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- This question pertains to public safety.
- District 6 is frequently called a safe community in San Jose though it also faces challenges, as can be seen in how the CVS Pharmacy on the Alameda shut down due to excessive shoplifting losses or with recent “sideshow” activity. For those unfortunate enough to be a victim of theft, the San Jose Police Department frequently is of little help because of staffing shortages that necessitate prioritization of large value cases over those of petty theft. Many advocate for additional preventative countermeasures, though where the money for such programs would come from is unresolved. Even programs with recognized value, like the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for tending to public safety and relief in times of disaster, have only a fraction of the resources they need to deliver on their obligations.
- In light of this: what is your position on the advancement of public safety in San Jose? What plans do you have to protect life and property in District 6?

**ORDER:**

1. Michael Mulcahy
2. Olivia Navarro
3. Alex Shoor
4. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti

**8:22PM**

**GOOGLE:**

- This question pertains to the pending Google Headquarters in San Jose.
- The Google village may or may not happen at this point. We really don't know. But if it does, it's going to present an interesting set of both challenges and opportunities. It will affect housing cost and availability, traffic patterns and transit needs, while also creating some remarkable opportunities for those individuals and businesses in a position to provide services to the new campus and its employees. As a City Council Member, you will be in a position to advocate strategies that will shape this project, with the hope being to achieve the greatest benefit for our community while incurring the least amount of harm.
- In light of this: what is your position on the pending Google Headquarters in San Jose?

**ORDER:**

1. Olivia Navarro
2. Alex Shoor
3. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
4. Michael Mulcahy

## **IF 8:30PM OR EARLIER**

### **BONUS QUESTION: HISTORY**

- This question pertains to public myth, memory, and history.
- Assuming you win election, you will serve as City Councilmember during the Quarter-millennium Anniversary of both the United States (in 2026) and the City of San José (in 2027).
- Given the present discourse around colonialism, what celebration, commemoration, or other observance do you support this city having for these momentous anniversaries during your first term as a City Councilmember?

### **ORDER:**

1. Alex Shoor
2. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
3. Michael Mulcahy
4. Olivia Navarro

## **IF 8:30PM OR EARLIER**

### **BONUS QUESTION: LEADERSHIP STYLE:**

- This question pertains to Leadership.
- Management is when one has the time and resources to adequately meet their responsibilities and promises: though it is not leadership. Leadership is when we promise to do something that we don't presently have the time and resources to manage: and then earnestly attempt to succeed regardless of these circumstances. Running for office is such an act of leadership. When our civic leaders responded to the unknowns of the global pandemic, it was an act of leadership. And when you complete a run for office, no matter the percentage of votes you get, you will have an opportunity to exercise leadership in the aftermath.
- In light of this: what have you observed to be your process to determine the issues you will lead upon? In what ways would your post-election leadership process be different whether or not you are elected?

### **ORDER:**

1. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
2. Michael Mulcahy
3. Olivia Navarro
4. Alex Shoor

**8:35PM**

CLOSING STATEMENT:

- Please make a one-minute closing statement.

ORDER NO BONUS QUESTION:

1. Alex Shoor
2. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
3. Michael Mulcahy
4. Olivia Navarro

ORDER AFTER ONE BONUS QUESTION:

1. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti
2. Michael Mulcahy
3. Olivia Navarro
4. Alex Shoor

ORDER AFTER TWO BONUS QUESTIONS:

1. Michael Mulcahy
2. Olivia Navarro
3. Alex Shoor
4. Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti



**8:42PM**

**ANDREW: CLOSING REMARKS**

[To Candidates]

There is an aphorism that says:

In a democracy:

If “I” win, then we all lost.

But if “we” win, then we all win.

At the end of the election, one of you will be the sworn representative with the sacred duty to represent all the people of San Jose District 6: including the other three leaders you have shared this stage with tonight.

They will be your allies in fulfilling upon the promise this position is to every resident of this district: the promise that you will strive to represent all of us, with no one left out. Thank you all for being here in the Odd Fellows spirit of friendship.

[To Audience]

Thank you all for attending the first ever San José District 6 Civics Forum hosted by the Civics Committee of True Fellowship Lodge no.52, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. I am Andrew Crockett, and I have been your moderator this evening. I chair the Civics Committee, and would like to acknowledge the Civics Committee members Scott, Zandria, Mason, John, & Jeffrey: without whom this event would not have happened.

If you like what the inclusive community of Odd Fellowship brought to you tonight, please be sure you provide us with your email so we can provide you with our newsletter. We do have two exciting parties coming up next month: a Jane Austen Dance Party, and our Annual Mardi Gras Party. We would love to see you all there!

And finally - all Odd Fellows, please rise and wave to our guests - if you would like to be part of this community of Odd Fellowship, please come see one of us afterwards.

Blessings to you all, and good night!

# LOGISTICS:

NEED:

- Plastic stands + Candidate Names Printed for Stands Front & Back.