



Neighbors United For Fullerton (NUFF) is a nonpartisan organization committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the city of Fullerton, CA through political action. NUFF offers public forums which provide information of community interest and opportunities for civic involvement. Membership in NUFF is open to anyone interested in making a difference in the community in which we live and work.

NUFF FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 11PM PDT on September 25, 2018 to endorsements@nuffpac.org

Note: ONLY electronic submissions will be accepted.

Name: AHMAD ZAHRA

City Council District #: 5

Indicate one of the following by checking the appropriate box:

- I do not plan to request NUFF's endorsement, so I am not responding to the questions.
- XX** I am submitting the questionnaire and would appreciate receiving NUFF's endorsement upon approval of the membership.

If you are seeking NUFF's endorsement, please answer the following questions in your own words. Your responses will be shared with NUFF's membership as the basis for their endorsement vote (space provided is not intended to limit the length of your response; use the space you need).

1. What is your vision for Fullerton?

With 50% of children in Fullerton under poverty lines – higher in South Fullerton, and with 170 homeless kids in our school districts, my focus will be uplifting all parts of our city economically, eliminating our deficit, reinvesting in crucial community services, open spaces, public safety and infrastructure, and creating housing opportunities for all economic brackets.

2. Why are you running and what impact do you think you will have, if elected?

I'm the only candidate who's lived in the district continuously for the last 17 years and has experienced both rent and homeownership in the district. My family is an immigrant bi-cultural Latino-Arab American family and experienced the same struggles from affordable housing to parking limitation and being out-priced from our own community centers. I've seen my neighbors and folks in my district struggle to make ends meet, live in sub-par conditions, seniors unable to visit family because of limits to the Taxi Voucher program, and witnessed kids digging in dumpsters for plastic bottles. I'm involved in organizations that serve South Fullerton and started my own charity (Ahmad's School Drive) providing school supplies to elementary schools in our area. This all gives me a strong and in-depth understanding of the district from parking and safety to the economic situation and what needs to be done on council to help uplift all parts of our city to make sure every family and every child has equal access to affordable living and to the city's amenities and services.

Please watch this video that tells a bit more of my story and why I am running.

<https://www.ahmadzahra.com/media/>

3. What do you hope to accomplish?

Short Term: Lower fees on community centers and after school programs. Expand Senior Discount Taxi Voucher Program for use around town. Long Term: Improve business development beyond just the downtown and in our industrial section to increase our city's revenue, create higher paying local jobs and reinvest in public safety and infrastructure. Prioritize policies to tackle rising poverty and especially child poverty.

4. Please share your thoughts on the following:

a. Fullerton's Parks

I'd like to see more trees incorporated in our South Fullerton open spaces (or new developments) to offset the pollution from the 91 Freeway, and make sure we have adequate dog park areas and enough lighting for safety. In addition, I'd explore efficiencies that allow for a more streamlined and faster renovation process of Woodcrest Park and others in the future. I also will push for more affordable access to residents and kids to some of the sports fields that are currently under joint use with the School District such as the one behind Richman Park that has out priced the neighborhood.

b. West Coyote Hills (development, Measure W results and city response)

I favor saving all of West Coyote Hills. It remains our last open space that the majority of residents had voted to save.

c. Development Policies

Supporting developments that create a balanced housing stock and provides opportunities for all income levels with more affordable rentals and entry-level condos to encourage homeownership for young people, seniors, lower income and the forgotten middle class. I prefer designs that maintain the character of the city and encourage developers to incorporate more greenery and adequate parking. Being area sensitive is equally important as even one "luxury" apartment in a highly lower income rental area could drive up rent and have dire effects on those residents. This has been from my own experience living in District 5 and seeing the affects of certain developments that caused an increase in rent in the Highland/Orangethorpe area.

d. Road and other infrastructure repairs

Improve our business and economic development policies that attract business and emerging industries to increase our revenue, then prioritize reinvesting in our infrastructure. Explore a road repair selection process that includes more residential streets.

e. The Hunt Library

Improving business development and increasing our city's revenue, in addition to seeking public-private partnerships to reinvest in restoring Hunt Library Services.

f. Homelessness

High paying local jobs, housing affordability and other homelessness prevention policies while collaborating with reputable non-profits to address community concerns and provide our fair share of permanent supportive housing while keeping up the pressure on the county to provide funding and expand our regional cooperation so other cities take on their fair share of this crisis.

5. Is there anything you would like to add?

I'm officially endorsed by:

Fullerton Firefighters Association, Local 3421

Sharon Quirk-Silva | Assembly Member, 65th District

Joanne Fawley | Trustee, Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Molly McClanahan | Mayor, City of Fullerton (ret.)

Pam Keller | Council Member, City of Fullerton (fmr.)

Elizabeth Hansburg | Community Development Citizens' Committee, City of Fullerton

Kitty Jaramillo | Community Leader

Bob Jensen | Dean Emeritus of Arts, Fullerton College

Rusty Kennedy | CEO (ret.), OC Human Relations

Jane Rands | Citizens' Infrastructure Review Committee, City of Fullerton

Moramay Sanchez | Transportation & Circulation Commissioner, City of Fullerton

Mark Shapiro | Professor Emeritus, Cal State Fullerton

Marty Burbank | Attorney, Senior and Veterans Advocate

More on: <https://www.ahmadzahra.com/endorsements/>