



¡SÍ SE PUEDE!
COLLECTIVE



2024 Together We Vote Primary Election Plan

1. The Political Landscape in San José

In San José, our elected leaders rarely fall into the categories of “Democrat” or “Republican.” Instead, candidates are usually categorized as “Business” or “Labor.” Oftentimes a candidate will be labeled as such because either the Business community or the Labor community has endorsed or even sponsored their candidacy. Other times, an elected official might come to be associated with one or the other based on their voting history with regard to labor disputes, community-based policy proposals, and quite often, affordable housing policies.

Though many of our local leaders are fairly progressive when it comes to issues of LGBTQ+ inclusion and racial equity, we still often experience incredible divides around issues of housing justice, policies that would actually create racial equity, and other issues of dire economic need.

2. PACT’S Approach

We believe that if we want to win transformative policies for our community, we must be moving through the organizing cycle—identifying issues, building power among everyday people affected by those issues, and moving those people into action to hold their elected officials accountable to those whom they were elected to serve. Our Primary Election Plan is rooted in our organizing principles and prophetic narrative. A few especially important guiding principles include:

1. **Prophetic Narrative:** Our integrated voter engagement model is rooted in the prophetic narrative that *we belong to and are responsible for one another*. When we go to the polls, we do so not only for ourselves, but also for our neighbors—especially our most impacted neighbors.
2. **There are no permanent enemies, nor permanent allies.** This means that if our interests align on a particular issue, we can work with any elected official—regardless of which “camp” they fall in. We are always nonpartisan and focused on the issues.
3. **POWER is organized money or organized people.** In San José, there exists unimaginable wealth which we will never be able to contend with. However, there is also power in people. When people are informed, organized, and exercising their rights, they become powerful. We seek to build and exercise the power of organized people.

3. The Plan

1. **Launch Dr. King Weekend, January 12-14:** During worship, clergy and faith leaders are encouraged to incorporate themes of voting rights and civic participation into their worship services. This is also an opportunity to pass out 2024 Voting Pledge Cards and garner volunteers to phone bank and canvass leading up the March 5 election.
2. **Press Conference, January 23 at 11am:** We will hold a press conference at Westminster Presbyterian Church (1100 Shasta Ave, San Jose, CA 95125) to garner wider community support for our GOTV efforts and to encourage attendance at our upcoming candidate forums.
3. **Phone Banking and Canvassing:** In addition to city-wide GOTV phone banking, we will train and deploy teams to phone bank and canvass in the districts where we are holding Candidate Forums (D 4, 6, 8). The purpose of the calls is to encourage voter turnout, engage in deep listening (concerns, hopes, self-interest), and invite voters to upcoming forums. All phone bank trainings will be held on zoom on the dates below. [Link for zoom will be the same for each phone bank.](#)
 - a. Wednesday, January 17, 5:30-8:30pm
 - b. Sunday, January 28, 1:00-4:00pm
 - c. Thursday, February 15, 5:30-8:30pm
 - d. Monday, February 26, 5:30-8:30pm
4. **Candidate Forums:** we will hold candidate forums in the districts below. These are nonpartisan candidate forums, and all candidates running for each office have been invited. The questions will come from the needs and concerns expressed by our community members through our listening campaigns.
 - a. **District 4:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7pm, Bible Way Christian Center, 2090 Oakland Rd, San Jose, CA 95131
 - b. **District 6:** Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 2pm, Temple Emanu'El, 1010 University Ave, San Jose, CA 95126
 - c. **District 8:** Wednesday, February 21 at 7pm, Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, 2195 Cunningham Ave, San Jose, CA 95122