

2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Assembly District 22

Juan Alanis

1.What are your qualifications?

While I have spent nearly three decades as an officer with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, I am the husband of a small business owner and do as much as I can to help her succeed. I am also an active member in multiple pro-business organizations, including Leadership Modesto, Modesto Rotary Club, and the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau.

2.What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities are reducing the cost of living, public safety, and bringing clean, reliable water supplies to the Valley. Finding solutions to these problems are critical to ensuring Valley families, businesses, and the local economy prosper.

3.How do you evaluate the impact to business when making voting decisions?

I am a strong believer in empowering small businesses and giving them the seat at the table when discussing policy that will directly affect them. I understand that business owners are the foundation of our local economy, especially in small towns and rural areas like the ones that make up a large portion of my district. So, advocating for legislation that benefits business and the economy will always be my top priority, and I will lean on the businesses in my community to make sure that they are represented.

4.What are your plans to make government more transparent, responsive, and effective?

I will use my investigative skills to help expose fraud, corruption and government waste. I will always have an open door so that individuals or small business owners can get the help they need dealing with a government that is too slow to respond.

5. Is the organization for which you seek office operating with a balanced budget? If not, what are your plans to make the organization more sustainable?

While the state legislature celebrates their multi-billion dollar surplus, they also continue to levy taxes that exacerbate the cost of living and doing business in California. Valley residents are already dealing with skyrocketing inflation and a recession, and as their representative, they can count on me to oppose all efforts to raise property taxes, gas taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes on Californians.

Jessica Self

1. What are your qualifications?

The valley deserves better, and as your next Assemblymember I will advocate for all of us to make sure we get our fair share. I have spent my professional career as an attorney being a voice for the voiceless. It's that work that brought me to Modesto a decade ago. I fell in love with this community and decided to make it home. One of the main reasons I got involved in public service is because of the experiences of my parents – my father, a union member working in the trucking industry, and my mother, a schoolteacher. Despite working full careers in their fields, neither has been able to retire with the financial security they deserve. This is unacceptable, and that's one reason why I want to represent us at the Capitol. I have an extensive history of service to the community. I serve as the vice president of programs for the Stanislaus County Commission for Women and chair of the Stanislaus County Democratic Party. I was previously vice President of the LGBTQ+ advocacy group MoPride, board member of the Stanislaus County Humane Society, and board member of the Stanislaus County ACLU chapter.

2. What would be your top priorities?

My top priority if elected would be to make sure our district gets its fair share of resources from the state. That means increased investment in transportation infrastructure, pre-k through postsecondary education, affordable and equitable healthcare, adequate housing for all socioeconomic situations, and economic development that will bring good jobs to our community.

3.How do you evaluate the impact to business when making voting decisions?

All sectors should be considered when weighing the impact of any legislation. One factor I'll consider is: what are the unintended consequences of well intended legislation? It doesn't mean I will shy away from tough votes either way, but I do believe that every side on an issue must be evaluated and once I have all of the information at hand, I can make an informed decision. I will also consult with local business partners and stakeholders in my district when deciding on legislation affecting our regional job sectors.

4.What are your plans to make government more transparent, responsive, and effective?

I plan to make information available and accessible to my constituents. A lot happens in Sacramento and it's difficult for the average resident to do their research on what their representatives are doing and all the new legislation that's becoming law or going through the legislative process. I want to present that information in a digestible format and provide it in multiple languages for the various communities that make up our amazing community. The Central Valley is one of the lowest funded areas in our state, and yet, we are simultaneously, one of the areas with the least amount of grants applied for and funded. In addition to working hard to secure resources, the job of a State Assemblymember obviously also includes writing and passing laws. Those laws affect the entire state, but far too often these bills are written with the mindset of the larger urban populations in the Bay Area and Southern California. I will make sure that the perspective of the central valley is heard and considered to make sure these laws don't create restrictions that will hamper the effectiveness of our government agencies and prosperity of local businesses.

5.Is the organization for which you seek office operating with a balanced budget? If not, what are your plans to make the organization more sustainable?

Yes, the State legislature and Governor's office is required by California Government Code 13337.5 to operate with a balanced budget, which has been in place since 1983. In addition, with the passage of Proposition 58 (2004), amending the California Constitution, Article IV, section 12, it has prohibited the State Legislature from providing an unbalanced budget to be considered by the Governor. California has done a good job in recent years to use our budget surplus to provide significant improvements for low and middle income Californians, while contributing to our four budget reserve accounts, and staying under the Gann Limit. But there is room for improvement to use the state budget to bolster our education, social safety net, and economic growth here in the Central Valley.