

## Katie's Plan: Increase Accountability to the Community

Any good government should be fully accessible and accountable to its residents, and should actively seek the input of those who will be impacted by their decisions. Sacramento's budget is impossible to access in full without submitting multiple Public Records Act requests, and many decisions are made during daytime meetings downtown without significant public input. When tragedy strikes through the shooting of unarmed residents, the City has failed to be proactive to ensure accountability for the actions of our officers.

As a resident and community organizer, I'm frustrated when elected officials don't follow through on their promises. I have long expressed concerns about city decision-making and accountability, and have deep experience with community engagement that I'm ready to put to work for District 4.

As your Councilmember, I will:

- **Make city spending more transparent** by advancing real-time systems for tracking spending as well as annual assessments of program and project outcomes.

*The City of Sacramento needs to collect data on performance to help inform budget spending from year-to-year. One great model is the [City of Boston's CityScore website](#) that tracks performance in real time to help hold the City accountable to the metrics established with the community. Sacramento should also establish annual assessments before each budget that examines the impact of funding on neighborhoods and communities of color to ensure that spending is equitable. These metrics and assessments should include the entire budget, not just special funds like those from Measure U.*

- **Establish strong police oversight** by pushing for the adoption of the [recommendations from the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission](#).

*Decisions about guilt or innocence must be made in courts of law, not on the street. Our Police officers must have the mental health services and de-biasing training. The City established the Sacramento Community Police Review Commission to provide oversight and recommendations, but has failed to adopt the recommendations finalized in fall 2018. These recommendations are an important step forward in re-establishing trust between the Police and the community.*

# Katie VALENZUELA

## CITY COUNCIL

- **Strengthen community engagement in decision-making** by requiring staff to conduct robust outreach with language translation in impacted communities before any decisions are brought to Council.

*Residents deserve to be heard in decision-making processes. There are ample examples and resources to help staff conduct better outreach, like the [California Environmental Justice Alliance's SB 1000 Toolkit](#). This isn't just about process - it's about ensuring effective outcomes. By partnering with community-based organizations and local schools, it is possible for Sacramento to conduct meaningful outreach - and thus make better decisions.*

*We need to undo the recent charter amendment that removed the requirement for City Council meetings to be in the evening. I will establish an expectation for my office and the city as a whole that proactive outreach and engagement with communities should occur before a proposal is brought to council or planning commission. I will also establish working groups of impacted community members and organizations working to tackle tough challenges so our interventions stay grounded in best practices and real outcomes, like for small business owners or affordable housing developers.*

*Sacramento should invest in the equipment and contracts to ensure that translation and interpretation is available at every public meeting. Then, staff must go out and engage communities that don't speak English so we can build trust and establish methods for communicating with them in an ongoing way. This will look different in every community, but establishing systems and expectations will go a long way in creating a norm for city staff and communities that can inform better policy and planning.*

- **Ensure City employment practices are equitable** by implementing equal pay standards and proactively seeking a workforce that represents the community.

*A [2017 Audit of the City's Gender and Ethnic Diversity](#) found that white employees and male employees were overrepresented when compared to city demographics. The audit further found that full-time female employees persistently make less money than their male counterparts. I will push for continued, annual review of these numbers and targeted outreach to communities that remain underrepresented in our workforce. The City should also use the data to establish deadlines for achieving pay equity.*

- **Be accountable to my constituents** by sending out weekly updates detailing everything I've been working on.

# **Katie** VALENZUELA

## CITY COUNCIL

*As your councilmember, my job is to work for you. You should know everything I'm up to when I'm on the job. Every week, I will send email updates detailing every event and meeting I went to as well as updating you all on longer term projects and initiatives. I will also publish my full office budget online so my constituents can see how we're spending the discretionary budget I'm allocated every year.*