

Katie VALENZUELA

CITY COUNCIL

Katie's Plan: Invest in Our Future

When a large project or business comes along, [the City is quick to rally significant resources and commitments](#) - a level of mobilization we do not see for our local entrepreneurs. Focusing on building small, locally-owned businesses makes our economy more diverse, appealing, and resilient to future economic downturns. I ran a small business, and understand firsthand how hard it can be to build a successful business in Sacramento. I also helped start the Sacramento Urban Agriculture Coalition and staffed the Sacramento Food Policy Council, making me uniquely positioned to take our food economy to the next level.

[Sacramento's annual budget for 2019-2020 was \\$1.2 billion](#). The City lacks any process for assessing previous spending, or of informing residents where the non-Measure U money is spent. I have been working for years on increasing the transparency of the City budget, [most recently in a push to get a commitment from the City before Measure U was put on the ballot](#). I firmly believe that residents should know where money is spent, and have a voice in how that money is spent in the future.

As your Councilmember, I will:

- **Advocate for fiscal responsibility** by advancing zero-based budgeting practices and a public process for long-term budget planning.
Where we spend our money is a reflection of our values. Sacramento's budget is a mystery of budget adjustments, shown without year-to-year analysis or any assessment of the previous allocation's impact on communities. When elected, I will advocate for the City to implement zero-based budgeting and will ask for year-to-year analysis of the impacts of investments by neighborhood and racial group. Only then can we evaluate our spending and ensure it matches the values and needs of residents.
- **Invest in our neighborhoods** by ensuring that every community has robust programming and resources for youth and adults.
Communities need public spaces to gather together and thrive. If elected, I will work to ensure every neighborhood has a community center and/or library to ensure youth and adults have places to gather, study, or take classes.

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- **Build business opportunities** by convening a small business roundtable to identify opportunities for the City to support the development and growth of small businesses in our communities.

I've heard from too many small, locally owned businesses that they have issues with permitting or other challenges that the City is well-positioned to help with. Small businesses provide the vast percentage of jobs in our region, and collectively represent a significant percentage of our sales tax revenue. There are plenty of small businesses or potential businesses here in Sacramento, and I believe that the City should focus its resources on helping residents here succeed. I will work to create a Small Business Ombudsman position at the City; having regular roundtable meetings and an ongoing point of contact at the City will help elevate issues and hopefully expedite solutions. I will also work to reinstate the "big box ordinance" that the City significantly scaled back in 2013.

- **Increase living wage jobs** by requiring community benefit agreements for large projects. Ensuring access to high quality jobs is a critical responsibility of the City and all elected officials. The Council can do a great deal to promote good jobs through their own procurement and contracting policies, but could also create incentives and programs to help employers who have commitments to provide good jobs with benefits as well as promotion and training opportunities. This City should also never use any incentives to help a business that does not have good labor practices.

Sacramento can also address income inequality by targeting resources and training opportunities to communities of color and low-income communities to ensure that they have adequate skills and resources to obtain the jobs available. That could mean public funding of those programs, or simply matching available programs with communities in need and assisting with public meeting spaces for classes to occur.

- **Take our food economy to the next level** by working with stakeholders to develop new regional food processing and commercial kitchen facilities, and promote urban agriculture and microenterprise home kitchen businesses.

*The [Sacramento Region Food System Action Plan](#) included recommendations that have been discussed for more than ten years, specifically the gaps in local food processing capacity. Creating industrial level processing and commercial kitchen facilities will enable local producers to aggregate products for sale to larger customers, and also create options for creating value-added goods; a great example of this, [Spicin Foods](#), was just featured on Netflix's *Queer Eye*, and has been attributed to helping small businesses scale up and become economically successful.*