



Imperial Beach Democratic Club
2022 Imperial Beach Mayor Candidate Consideration Survey

General Information

(please use bold blue font when filling out the questionnaire)

Candidate: Paloma Aguirre

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Campaign Manager: Jeremy Addis-Mill

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Please provide any website or social media information here:

Website: www.paloma4ib.com

Facebook: @paloma4ib

Twitter: @paloma4ib

- 1.) Have you been registered OTHER than a Democrat? YES NO
- 2.) How long have you been registered as a Democrat? 20 + years
- 3.) How long have you been a resident of the district? 15 years
- 4.) Have you run for or been elected to public office previously? YES NO
If “YES”, what office did you run for, or previously hold?

I am currently IB's councilmember at-large

5.) Please share how much money your campaign has raised to date, and how much you expect to raise.

\$15,000 USD I expect to raise \$60,000

6.) Please list your endorsements (or attach the list on a separate page).

see attachment

Goals, Issues & Policy Objectives

1.) Why are you running for office?

I'm running for IB Mayor to keep fighting for our community. Whether it's the sewage crisis, the pandemic, sea level rise, or keeping our streets safe, we need someone who not only has the grit but the experience to take on these fights.

Serving as Imperial Beach's council member has been the greatest honor of my life. As a first generation Mexican-American who fell in love with Imperial Beach back in 2003 while surfing its waves, I never would have imagined that today I would have the opportunity to serve as Imperial Beach's next Mayor.

We've made tremendous progress these last three years-particularly as we faced so much loss due to covid. We came together as a community and worked to bring help to those who needed it. I want to build on that momentum and work to address IB's existential threats such as protecting the federal funding we secured for sewage infrastructure to help stop the sewage crisis, prioritize public safety including keeping our streets well lit, and increasing crosswalks, and, ensure a post-covid fair recovery for all IB residents, including addressing the housing crisis, helping small businesses, and protecting public health.

2.) Why are you seeking endorsement from the Imperial Beach Democratic Club?

3.) List your top three policy agenda goals for your campaign:

Fighting cross-border pollution

Ensuring housing affordability and addressing homelessness

Keeping IB a safe and family-friendly community

4.) Imperial Beach is ever increasingly under greater threat of sea level rise, high-tide flooding, coastal erosion, and higher storm surge.

a) Do you believe the science that says climate change is real?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

b) Do you believe that climate change can be mitigated or reversed?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

c) If elected, how will you use your office to meet the climate-related challenges facing South Bay communities? Please explain.

The city of Imperial Beach is already being impacted by sea level rise. We are a low lying community that is under threat of flooding. Our infrastructure will be severely impacted by seawater encroachment (stormwater and sewage pipelines). I have and will continue to advocate for state funding to address this emergency in our community. We need to invest in living shorelines, and natural solutions. As a Coastal Commissioner, this is something that is a priority for me, especially as we consider coastal development permits and local coastal plans. The commission published last November its *Critical Infrastructure Guidelines* to help local municipalities address sea level rise and its potential impacts. The City of Imperial Beach is currently partnering with a number of academic institutions to study the saltwater intrusion of our stormwater infrastructure and its potential damages. I will continue to advocate for funding for more studies and solutions.

We have a Climate Action Plan, and we are co-founding members of Community Choice Power. We have invested millions of dollars in improving our roadways and increasing bike lanes in Imperial Beach, including a protected bike lane. However, we could do more. As a MTS board member, I have consistently voted in favor of policies and initiatives to promote and increase public transit ridership to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I

As a SANDAG board member, I voted in favor of the Regional Transportation Plan, which will significantly help reduce vehicle miles traveled and enhance low impact modes of transportation, especially in the first mile and last mile of public transit commuting.

I will continue to support IB's lawsuit against the big twelve oil companies so that we receive the damages incurred by their gross negligence.

5.) Will you affirm a commitment to housing justice: housing is a human right regardless of status and not for the marginalization of poorer residents into less desirable areas that frequently have higher pollution levels and other health risks?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

6.) Will you affirm a commitment to environmental justice: no community should be subjected to environmental hazards due to race, economic standing, or immigration status?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

7.) Will you promote food safety, the "eat local" movement, small family farms, urban gardens, and healthy food alternatives?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

8.) COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our Imperial Beach community. Though South Bay communities and its residents have received emergency funding and services from county, state, and federal governments throughout the pandemic, how will you fight for South Bay to make a strong recovery in the years to come? Please explain:

I have been actively participating in the County-led organizing efforts to secure and distribute \$500 million dollars for our region through the Community Economic Resiliency Fund, an allocation of funding intended to complement the existing funding received by cities and counties to offset the economic hardships caused by covid. I will advocate for grants and funding for the City of IB to help our small businesses be resilient. Additionally, we need to continue working with our public health partners to ensure vulnerable populations such as immuno-compromised residents and elderly people are protected and receive the resources they need, whether it is PPE, testing, additional vaccine boosters, etc.

9.) If elected Mayor, what do you feel are the first three (3) most important issues to address?

1. Protect the \$300 million for sewage infrastructure and secure the additional \$300 million in partnership with Mayor Gloria, CM Moreno, and Vice Chair Vargas through our congressional delegation.
2. Implement community-building programs through our Parks and Rec department, including programs for our seniors and finish the building renovations needed to host the programs.
3. Increase street lighting and traffic calming measures in D1 and D4 and finalize our LCP so that the coastal commission can consider its approval.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. O. O.', written in a cursive style.

Date: 06/01/22