

Cupertino Library Foundation Candidate Interview Questions

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1. As a council member, what would you do to continue the success of the Library in Cupertino and what changes would you like to see made to the library or how it is used?

The Cupertino Library operates as partnership between the Santa Clara County Library District which staffs and provides library services, and the City of Cupertino, which owns the Library facilities and provides additional funding for extended operating hours.

As a Councilmember, my top priority would be to understand resident Library needs and continue to provide ongoing funding to meet demand for 7-day-a-week access at the times when people want to use the library. I would also continue our commitment to maintain the adequacy of the facilities, which include regular operating space, community/social areas, meeting spaces, the library grounds, and parking facilities.

Cupertino has always demonstrated a strong love for its Library, not only as an educational center but also as a vibrant community center, bringing together residents from the entire city as well as across generations and ethnicity. This is reflected in the enthusiastic patronage of the Cupertino Library's seminars and activities which extend beyond traditional library services. As a key social hub in Cupertino, the Library warrants special attention and support from the Council.

It is clear that the popularity of the Library is taxing the current facilities, particularly around parking availability and meeting space for activities which are often held in Community Hall, which is conveniently located but has many competing schedule demands.

2. What do you think of the proposal to add a new program room to the current Library?

I support the concept. Having a dedicated program room would enhance many programs at the Library including events/speakers, classes, student study space, and offer the library greater freedom in scheduling these activities, instead of contending with City events at Community Hall. I have no doubt that a new program room would be fully utilized. My only concern is whether there is sufficient parking available to support full programming of this addition. This is a question that should be directly addressed as part of the planning for the project.

3. In July of 2015 the Cupertino Library Commission recommended to City Council that Option 4, which was the "Perch Addition" involving the new construction of a two story building that would be built above the Children's Reading area and provide room for 130 additional seats for events at a project cost estimated at \$6.9 million, be considered over the other Options presented. Do you support Option 4?

Yes, given the tradeoffs between the four configurations that were studied, I believe that Option 4 was the superior option, including greatly reduced impact on the trees in Memorial Grove, and better integration with the existing building facilities and infrastructure.

4. How do you see the parking issues at Community Hall and the Library being addressed in the next years?

The failure to come to consensus with a Civic Center Master Plan in 2015 has made the path for meeting Library parking demands unclear. Within the existing physical infrastructure, I believe the only method to increase availability would be to consider reducing the library patron parking time limit from 4 to 3 hours. Another option would be to study the parking patterns for City Hall and Library employees and consider finding an offsite alternate parking lot with shuttle service to the Civic Center so that some of the current permit parking could be returned to patron use.

Addressing parking demand in the longer term will probably require some of the very expensive alternatives considered in the Civic Center Master Plan process including an above-ground parking structure, underground parking, or repurposing some of Library Field for surface parking. As additional bicycle improvements on the roads around Civic Center are completed, bikes can also help become a solution for more library patrons.

5. Do you support building additional parking spaces to be made available for Library patrons?

As mentioned in #4, I believe that some relief for library parking may come from shortening the patron time limit and coming up with a remote parking solution for Civic Center employees. Today, lack of parking has a major impact on current library users and this will only become worse should the library build an extension. Finding a long-term solution to meet expanded parking demands will require the construction of additional parking.

6. Do you see a role for adding remote Learning and or Community Centers for various library programs (i.e. TED talks, film series, performing arts) in one or more of the proposed developments currently being considered in Cupertino?

Cupertino currently does not have a dedicated city auditorium facility that would support these kinds of programs. I believe that there should be analysis of the needs of the City and Library to decide whether independent or shared facilities will meet needs. Today the shared Community Hall site has both pros and cons.

I believe that potentially locating a civic auditorium facility in one of the major development projects would have significant benefits, particularly in improving the visibility and access of Library and City activities happening there. This same visibility benefit accrues if you have other Library functions available in a new development project such as an Innovation Center or satellite library facility.

7. Anything else you would like to add in regard to the Library in Cupertino?

As a long-time resident of Cupertino (since 1986), I have been devoted library patron and supporter, including as a donor to the 2004 fundraising drive for library furnishings when the new Library opened.

The promise then of the new Library as a vital focal point for our community has been met and exceeded. I hope to be able to continue to make meaningful contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Cupertino Library into the future. If elected, I would hope to use that bully pulpit to increase community-wide awareness and build greater support for our Library.