



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

**COUNCIL ITEM REQUEST FORM**

CITY OF SANTA CLARA  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

2021 JUN 28 PM 4:06

The Council Item Request Form is for members of the City Council to submit written requests to the City Manager's Office for inclusion of an item on a future City Council meeting agenda. At the meeting where the initial written request is heard, discussion should be limited to whether the item should be added to an agenda and a date, not the merit of the item. A majority vote of the City Council is required for the item to be added to future Council meeting agenda for action.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Requesting Member of City Council Kathy Watanabe

Contact E-mail kwatanabe@santaclaraca.gov

Contact Phone 408-941-5664

Today's Date 6/28/2021

**WRITTEN REQUEST**

I, Kathy Watanabe, hereby request that the following item be placed on the City of Santa Clara Council and Authorities Concurrent meeting agenda:

Preparation of a letter from Mayor and Council to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission requesting that Santa Clara continues to stay in the same Congressional district, CA17, along with Cupertino, Fremont and Sunnyvale and others. CA17 is home to the largest Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) population of any Congressional district in the United States, which is something we should support maintaining and be proud of.

Reference: Council Policy 030 – Adding an Item on the Agenda  
Resolution No. 20-8895

July X, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

As Councilmembers in the City of Santa Clara, we are aware of the central placement our city holds in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the only minority-majority district in the country. Our city is home to many tech companies and community-wide events, including the Silicon Valley Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum, Silicon Valley International Invention Festival, Art and Wine Festival, and United We Stand rallies against the recent spike in anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes.

Santa Clara is home to hundreds of tech startups and thousands of workers, drawing in thousands of employees from surrounding cities who work in Santa Clara. As a result, Santa Clara must ensure that the infrastructure to handle traffic from cities such as Cupertino or Fremont, both of which are home to thousands of tech employees with offices in Santa Clara. Santa Clara residents, nearly 75% of whom drive alone to work, spend an average of 23 minutes commuting to work.

Many Santa Clara residents rely on public transit and affordable housing. 34,000 homes have been built with assistance from federal funding, yet tens of thousands of more families seek assistance. However, those who cannot find homes often do not have means of personal transportation either, therefore forcing the homeless population to solely rely on public transit as a way to get to shelters or kitchens.

The issues facing Santa Clara are not unique. Many of the issues Santa Clara faces are also found in and can be resolved by working with surrounding cities, such as Cupertino and Fremont. Resolving these issues requires cooperation not only between local leaders and officials, but federal backing as well.

Therefore, it is our recommendation that Santa Clara continues to stay in the same congressional district as Cupertino, Fremont, Milpitas, Newark, North San Jose, and Sunnyvale.

Respectfully,

Lisa M. Gillmor, Mayor  
Kathy Watanabe, Councilmember, District 1  
Raj Chahal, Councilmember, District 2  
Karen Hardy, Councilmember, District 3  
Kevin Park, Councilmember, District 4  
Sudhanshu "Suds" Jain, Councilmember, District 5  
Anthony J. Becker, Councilmember, District 6