



## City of Santa Clara

### Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor State of the City Address 2018 State of the City Building a Sustainable Future for Santa Clara

Welcome to the 2018 State of the City.

We're doing something different this year.

In the past, the state of the city was hosted by a business organization.

It was a nice event.

But almost no residents attended.

That didn't seem right to me.

I wanted to open up the state of the city -- so Santa Clarans could attend.

I wanted to be in neighborhoods -- to make it easier for residents.

That's why we're here today.

And we'll be in 3 other neighborhoods in the next week.

I want City Hall to reach out to our neighborhoods.

I want City Hall to engage our residents.

I want City Hall to be more open and transparent.

And as mayor, these things will be a top priority for me -- because Santa Clarans deserve the best from our city government.

I became mayor in 2016 after former Mayor Jamie Matthews resigned. There's been a lot of changes since then.

The most obvious is we now have a female majority on the council.

#### **Introduce Councilmembers**



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I'm proud to serve with these councilmembers.

All of them are committed to good government.

All of them believe in transparency and openness.

And, perhaps most importantly, all of them have guts.

We've been criticized a lot for making changes at City Hall.

We've been criticized for enforcing Measure J -- the 2010 vote when the people of Santa Clara said we want a stadium -- but we must protect the city's general fund.

We've fought to enforce the measure -- and will continue to do so because we have to manage the 49ers and not be managed by them.

We've been questioned for enforcing a curfew to protect our neighborhoods by people who prioritize money over quality of life.

But we will continue to side with our neighborhoods in the Northside -- and all over Santa Clara -- because it's the right thing to do.

We've been criticized for conducting audits -- and establishing strong fiscal controls on major city contracts -- because no one ever did so before.

But we will continue to be strong watchdogs -- because our residents demand it and our city needs it.

We've been questioned for trying to stop dark money from entering city politics.

But we took a bold step and became the first city to enact an anti-dark money ordinance because we want clean elections in Santa Clara.



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We've been criticized for refusing to contribute millions of dollars to the major college football game at Levi's Stadium.

But we refused to do what every other city has done before and use taxpayers' dollars for a major corporate event that doesn't need it.

We were threatened with the possible loss of our Youth Soccer Park and Ulistac Natural Area.

But we refused to make a backroom deal.

Then, we passed a ballot measure that says the people of Santa Clara must vote on -- and, therefore, can stop the sale of our existing parks.

I believe that working with my colleagues we have help change City Hall and made Santa Clara a better place.

But we cannot do all these important things without strong city management.

I'm happy to say we have a new city management team.

They are a group of talented and dedicated public servants.

You know, I've been involved in city government for about 4 decades.

Okay, for the record, I'm not that old.

My father was mayor in the 70s -- and I spent a lot of time around City Hall.

So I know all the people -- from elected officials to city staff -- who have made our city a great place over the last few decades.

I can say with authority -- that today, in Santa Clara, we may have the best management team we've ever had at City Hall.



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Let me introduce some of them.

- Deanna Santana, City Manager
- Walter Rossmann, Chief Operating Officer
- Ruth Shikada, Assistant City Manager
- Manuel Pineda, Assistant City Manager
- Nadine Nader, Assistant City Manager

Because of this leadership team -- and numerous other city employees -- I can brag about some important benchmarks:

- More than ever, our residents are taking advantage of our parks, recreation facilities, and programs
- In our wonderful award-winning library, visitor and circulation counts continue to soar.
- Our public utilities rates that are among the lowest in the Bay Area.
- Our public safety officers respond to thousands of calls for service each year. They make sure that Santa Clara is a safe place to live, work and visit.

This positive data was confirmed by an survey conducted in our city about 6 months ago.

We learned about some great numbers:

- 2/3rds Santa Clarans approve of their city government. That's extraordinary given the cynicism about government these days.
- Our public works department had a higher rating at 74 percent.
- Our police department was at 81 percent.
- Our libraries had an 86 percent approval rating.



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- Our parks and recreation department was at 87 percent.
- And at the very top -- no surprise -- was our fire department at an incredible 91 percent.

It's clear from all this data, that Santa Clarans approve of their city government.

Clearly, we are doing a good job managing in the present.

But we also have a duty to manage for the future.

We have a sacred duty to our sons and daughters -- and grandchildren -- and future Santa Clarans.

In order to fulfill our duty, we need a strong financial base.

So let me share some important information about our fiscal outlook.

Revenues into our General Fund increased this past fiscal year.

We built up our reserve accounts that were depleted during the Great Recession a few years ago.

In fact, since October last year, near \$70 million has been invested in reserves.

And, more good news ...

When we started planning for this year's budget, we had an \$8.5 million shortfall.

But were able to almost eliminate it -- without cuts in services.

Here's how we did it:



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- we cut overhead costs
- we reduced professional services
- we corrected mistakes to the CalPERS annual rates.

So, the bottom line -- the good news -- is that we are in much better shape than we originally thought.

I want to thank the city management team for that terrific accomplishment.

They have done a spectacular job.

So I'd like to introduce City Manager Deanna Santana.

I don't want her to take a bow -- although she deserves it.

I want her to say a few words.

She and her team presented in January a terrific and comprehensive review of our city for the city council.

So, I want her to share that information with you -- our residents -- too.

#### ***Power Point Presentation Slides – Presented by City Manager***

Thank you Deanna,

That's a great, comprehensive presentation.

I really like the analogy of the pillars. Because pillars are a symbol of strength.

And it's because of our City leadership -- and City management -- and most importantly, you -- our residents --

**I can proudly say as Mayor that the state of our City is strong.**