



## Affordability and Hope



Photo by [Ted Balmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

As we close out 2025, our focus is on affordability in the Bay Area, California and beyond. Affordability, despite Trump's alleging it a "hoax," is far from it. Housing costs are at an all time high, pricing valued community members out of the Bay Area and California to more affordable places and tariffs, in the form of higher prices, are following consumers wherever they are in the US. No matter how you look at it, Trump and the Republican Party are doing everything in their power to ensure the American Dream is no longer a reality, and, more accurately, a fantasy. The good news is that California is doing what it can to ensure there is more housing inventory for all income levels in the form of SB 79 and the SCCDP is working hard to ensure its endorsed candidate for County Assessor, Neysa Fligor is elected to ensure all our local properties are accurately assessed to allow all our local cities to afford their part of the implementation of SB 79.

### **Quite Simply, Raising the Cost of Goods... Raises the Cost of Goods**

In both 2016 and 2024, Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to raise taxes on imports on various goods coming into the United States (aka tariffs). Traditionally, conservatives abhor new taxes, seeing them as freedom limiting and a governmental intrusion into daily life. This time, crowds cheered at his proposal, thinking these tariffs would bring jobs and better pay to American workers. But they were wrong. The only thing tariffs have done was raise the cost of goods.

When an American business imports goods, U.S. Customs and Border Protection sends it a tariff bill that the company must pay before the merchandise can enter the country. Because tariffs raise costs for U.S. importers, those companies usually pass the expense on to their customers by raising prices. This forces the US importers to either raise prices consumers pay to make up the difference or cease imports entirely. In the end, this means that consumers, like you or me, either pay for the increase or suffer from scarcity of the product. A report by the [Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco](#) found that Trump's tariff proposals would result in an average price increase of 9.5% for investment goods (goods used by corporations) and 2.2% for consumer goods. Not to mention, those jobs are not coming to American workers, because US domestic manufacturing is suffering from the increased price of raw materials and components.

As evidenced by Trump's [10% increase in tariffs on Canadian exports](#), caused by a perceived slight involving an ad running during the World Series, his tariffs aren't in place to help workers, they're in place to bolster his own ego and enforce his idea of "America first": to isolate American workers, and make everything from food to shoes to electronics even more expensive. Workers in Santa Clara County and beyond need lower prices on basic goods, not for US businesses to skim off the top of bad government policy.

### **Affordability in the Bay Area? SB 79 is Part of the Solution!**

Housing prices and rents have increased drastically in the Bay Area and California as a whole. Not to mention, the supply of housing has not kept up with demand. Adding on to that, transit agencies like BART, Caltrain, Muni and VTA are facing financial cliffs, with BART funding expected to run out by 2026.

[SB79](#) is the double edged sword that tackles both the housing crisis and the transit crisis. SB79, through state mandated rezoning, allows for higher-density housing developments near major public transit stops. This rezoning and the expected development spurned on by the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), that requires every city and town in CA plan for specific numbers of new homes across all income levels for an 8-year cycle, will mean there is more ridership for our transit systems, hopefully closing the budget deficits that those agencies are facing. While SB79 is not the entire solution to both issues, it is a start to helping solve these issues that make California and the Bay Area a costly place to live.

### **Help elect SCCDP endorsed candidate Neysa Fligor**

[Neysa Fligor](#) is the SCCDP endorsed candidate for Santa Clara County Assessor. This is the only contest on the ballot for this critical Special Election. Vote by mail ballots dropped and in-person voting started December 8th.

As always, turnout is key to winning this election. We know Neysa has the support of a majority of the eligible voters. But we need your help to make sure their votes are cast and counted for this hard working, more than competent and experienced County Assessor candidate.

If you have time, you can volunteer to help Neysa win. If you don't, donations help, too.

- Phone Bank for [Neysa Fligor](#) on Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and Sundays, 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. You can do it from the comfort of your home at your own pace. Online training is provided. Register [here](#).
- Donate to Neysa's campaign [here](#).

### **Under The Radar**

- By pardoning a lot of drug traffickers, Trump is showing his anti-drug trafficking lies are just that.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/12/07/trump-drugs-pardons-hernandez-venezuela/>

- Trump is also grifting the GOP with his own fundraising platform.  
<https://www.axios.com/2025/12/05/maga-trump-cash-fundraising-clash>
- Mike Johnson is slowly losing control. Well, further.  
<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5624268-republican-discharge-petitions-johnson/>

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Santa Clara County Democratic Party | 2901 Moorpark Avenue Suite 110 | San Jose, CA 95128 US

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