

# MEET THE IRVINE CANDIDATES FORUM

## Office of Mayor

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### Akshat “AB” Bhatia

Realtor  
Entrepreneur

The candidate did not provide photos or Statement Filed



### Felipe Delgado

Automation  
Project  
Manager

I am deeply rooted in the Irvine community because I moved here in 1969, have two children enrolled in an Irvine public school, where I serve as a Board Member. I also serve as a Board Member for the Woodbridge Village HOA.

The Irvine City Master Plan is a vision for the development of parks, open space, streets, schools, commercial, industrial & residential.

Over the decades, the city appears to have strayed from the balance of growth and quality of life.

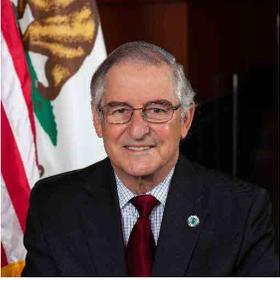
The city's economic and population growth contributed to the increased traffic, crime, and deteriorated the quality of resident experience. The city's growth should support the needs of the changing demographics, be within our transportation infrastructure, policing capability, and schools. Development should not reduce our business/industry centers and resident experience for profit. Professionally, I've developed project management, implementation, and communication

skills from a 45-year career working for Fluor Corporation. In both my public service and professional roles, I have a proven track record of solving problems and project execution with care and dedication.

A vote for me will help keep Irvine on track with the vision in the Master Plan and continue a great future for Irvine.

The list of candidates is in alphabetical order by last name

Photos are provided by candidates



**Larry Agran**

Vice Mayor,  
City of Irvine

I ask for your vote to become Irvine's next Mayor.

Good leadership and citizen activism make a difference! Working together, we preserved 10,000 acres of open space; built beautiful community parks; and defeated the County's dangerous international airport plan.

Now we're building museums, restaurants, and the Veterans Memorial Park & Gardens at our Great Park. And we recently implemented my strategy to shut down Irvine's largest industrial polluter and replace it with a 700-acre nature preserve.

But we have more to do:

We must lower skyrocketing electricity prices by exiting the scandal-ridden Orange County Power Authority.

We must combat climate change by expanding Irvine's rooftop solar program, planting another 200,000 trees, and transitioning to greener transportation.

We must reject massive warehouses in residential areas and wild schemes to cram 57,000 additional houses and apartments into Irvine.

We must increase investments in public safety, childcare programs, school nurses, and school bus transportation.

I don't accept money from big corporations and out-of-town special interests trying to control our City Council. Please join our grassroots campaign for Mayor — [LarryAgran.com](http://LarryAgran.com) — powered by neighborhood volunteers and small donations. Together, let's protect our quality of life and build an even brighter future for Irvine residents!



**Lee Sun**

Irvine Finance  
Commissioner

Dear Fellow Residents,

Leadership is crucial as Irvine embarks on a new phase of growth and transformation, confronting challenges in public safety, affordable housing, and traffic. Our city needs a leader who listens to the voices of residents, approaches issues with a fresh perspective, and remains steadfast in integrity, responsibility, and transparency.

With dual doctorate degrees in Engineering and Law (PhD and JD), over twenty years of high-tech business experience, five years serving on the city's Investment Advisory Committee—including two years as unanimously elected chair—and two years as president of Asian American Advocacy Alliance, I bring both passion and expertise to serve our community and lead Irvine through its upcoming challenges.

For over twenty years, my wife and I have proudly called Irvine home, engaging deeply in the community through service on nonprofit boards and city commissions. Our four children, graduates of Irvine's exceptional public schools, have continued their education at Harvard and UC Berkeley.

As Mayor, I will prioritize the needs of residents, resist special interests, and focus on balanced growth, enhanced public safety and education, robust economy that creates jobs, and more transparent and responsive City Council.

Together we will make Irvine safer, greener, and more affordable!



**Tammy Kim**

City of Irvine  
Councilmember  
Educator

Irvine's firefighters, first responders, veterans, elected officials, and working families are supporting our campaign because they want forward-thinking solutions and trust my record of getting things done.

As your current Irvine City Councilmember, educator, mother, and former corporate executive, I have dedicated myself to serving our community. I ask for your vote to continue this service as Mayor. My work has kept Irvine among America's safest cities, boosted our economy, created jobs, increased government transparency, and protected thousands of acres of open space. I also ended years of inaction, mismanagement, and wasteful overspending on the Great Park.

As Mayor, I will:

Prioritize public safety and implement new technologies to combat crime and keep our neighborhoods safe.

Create housing options at every income level, so our teachers, nurses, police officers, firefighters, and grown children can afford to live here.

Fulfill the promise of the Great Park, ensuring it becomes the landmark our community deserves.

Fight traffic by improving our transportation infrastructure.

I humbly ask for your vote - together, we can build a stronger and safer Irvine for all.

"Irvine's Firefighters stand with Tammy Kim because she puts public safety first. Tammy Kim is the right choice for Mayor"

Chris Hamm, President Orange County Professional Firefighters



**Ron Scolesdang**

Irvine Business Owner

As a community leader, entrepreneur, world champion, and family man, I'm honored to announce my candidacy for Irvine Mayor. My journey in this city has been rooted in service, business, and community. I own several businesses in Irvine and OC. My businesses contribute to the local economy and provide services that foster a stronger community.

Service to the community is at the heart of everything I do. I am cofounder of Seniors Fight Back, an NPO that empowers seniors with self-defense workshops. My efforts have earned recognition from community leaders. I am committed to enhancing public safety and e-bike safety, demonstrated by my hands-on approach to educating my community.

My vision for Irvine focuses on strengthening public safety, supporting businesses, enhancing community services, and promoting environmental sustainability. My family and I are deeply invested in Irvine's wellbeing, and I am committed to making our city an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. I ask for your support to serve as your Mayor, to bring fresh ideas, unwavering dedication, and a strong commitment to our community. Together, we are Irvine!



**Wing Chow**

Retired CPA

My family have lived in Irvine since 1985 and it is time for me to give back to the community.

My daughter and son graduated from University H. S. and Irvine H. S, respectively. My daughter was ASB President in High School while my son was ASB President in Elementary School. The trail of leadership runs high in my family.

My education includes a diploma in communication, a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in accounting and finally my CPA certificate.

During my career, I was the Audit Director and Corporate Controller for several major real estate development companies and the CFO for a savings bank during conservatorship by FDIC.

My goal is to make Irvine a safe, happy, and prosperous city. I will emphasize caring for the old and education for the young. Also, I will create new opportunities for business to make Irvine a prosperous city.

# MEET THE IRVINE CANDIDATES FORUM

## Office of Councilmember District 1



**Jackie Kan**

Small Businessowner  
Mother

Hi I'm Jackie Kan, and I'm running for City Council because I love our city. I'm committed to keeping Irvine safe, preserving our beautiful open spaces, and making sure residents' voices are heard in City Hall. My love for Irvine began during my undergraduate years at UCI, and I've seen how much the city has evolved over the last twenty years. We are now at a pivotal moment in our city's growth, and we need thoughtful planning, robust infrastructure and a strong city council to support the Irvine of the next twenty years and beyond.

I believe in a life dedicated to service, which is why I volunteer for organizations that support survivors of sex trafficking, and I'm a member of the Irvine Community Emergency Response Team, a program that prepares residents for emergencies such as fire disasters.

Professionally, I work for a medical device company and also own a small business that operates out of Irvine.

As Councilmember, I will advocate for residents and prioritize safety, childcare and services that enhance Irvine's exceptional quality of life. Our community deserves a councilmember who will listen with empathy and work to uplift residents. Join me in shaping Irvine's future.

**Jeff Kitchen**

Systems  
Engineer

The candidate did not  
provide photos

My wife and I love Irvine's trails, open spaces, cultural and artistic events. Irvine is a vibrant and thriving city, among the safest in the country, thanks to our fire, police, and emergency response professionals. With a background in research and development of advanced technology, I understand the importance of innovation in maintaining and improving our standard of living. Irvine is blessed with a diverse economy, excellent public schools from preK through high school, community college, and world class universities. I volunteer as a judge for team robotic events. Students develop robots for competition, having fun while learning. Irvine's many startup incubators also provide young entrepreneurs creative space for their innovative endeavors. We can do more with activities like these to connect students with the jobs of tomorrow.

Irvine needs more lower cost, quality housing opportunities for entry-level ownership. The state's requirement to add thousands of housing units over the next quarter-century can be a catalyst for this positive change.

We must plan effectively for the future to ensure continued prosperity. I am committed to working with you, and together, we can create opportunities for all residents and build a bright future for our city.



**John Park**  
Irvine  
Commissioner  
Businessowner

I truly believe Irvine is worth fighting for.

We've been here 24 years, raised our three kids in public schools, and love this city. I'll fight to preserve our master plan and quality of life.

Public safety is my top priority. I'll collaborate with police to combat retail theft, home burglaries, and Fentanyl intrusion. I'll ensure school safety and champion comprehensive E-bike safety standards.

Everyday expenses have skyrocketed for everyone, I will fight for affordability including keeping taxes low, fees down, and stopping new expenses that burden residents.

District priorities include wildfire prevention, protection from environmental hazards, sustainable infrastructure, traffic mitigation, pedestrian and bike safety, and developing Gateway

Preserve with world-class amenities while preserving our open space.

Key Endorsements:

Orange County Sheriff, Don Barnes

Orange County Firefighters

Orange County Supervisors Chairman, Don Wagner

As an Irvine Commissioner, Orange County Food Bank board member, and as founder of an award-winning business, I am uniquely qualified to serve. I have executed business plans, worked with partners worldwide, and created opportunities for thousands. In the community, I have served as HOA President, supported PTAs, and I am a Rotarian.

Should I earn your vote, I will work tirelessly for all of us.



**Melinda Liu**  
City of Irvine  
Commissioner  
Attorney

I've had the privilege of serving our community as City of Irvine's Finance Commissioner and a dedicated community volunteer. I'm now ready to serve as your next Irvine City Councilmember.

I've been endorsed by Irvine's Firefighters and first responders because they believe in my vision and know I will ensure our neighborhoods remain safe and resilient by prioritizing public safety.

As Finance Commissioner, I've overseen Irvine's \$750+ million budget, ensuring responsible fiscal management and transparent allocation of your tax dollars. My proven ability to make sound financial decisions ensures I'll hit the ground running on Day One.

As a working mom who has raised three children while caring for my aging parents, I understand our residents' challenges. My experience drives my dedication to creating a thriving environment for all Irvine families.

As Councilmember, together we will:

Create housing options so the children who we raise in Irvine, can afford to live in Irvine.

Enhance prevention measures to protect our homes from wildfire threat.

Invest in schools to ensure our children have access to excellent education.

I am proud to be supported by Congresswoman Katie Porter, Councilmember Tammy Kim, and working families.

I humbly ask for your vote. Thank you.

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## Michelle Johnson

City of Irvine  
Planning  
Commissioner

I'm a 23-year resident of Northpark where I live with my husband, a Navy veteran. I drafted the proposed Irvine District Map that established six voting districts and was overwhelmingly passed by voters on March 5th. I was the leader for the Yes on D campaign for District 1.

I'm running for City Council to use my 25 years of finance and banking experience to deliver local solutions to improve the quality of life of our residents and preserve our City's Master Plan that balances development with open space, parks, trails, and schools.

My priorities include:

Control the build-out of the final 1300 homes in District 1 and prevent impact on schools and traffic  
Develop and implement a Wildfire Management and Evacuation Plan to lower homeowner insurance premiums

Protect the health and safety of District 1 residents from the environmental hazards of the Bowerman landfill expansion

Plan, design and build the first District 1 Community Center

Establish the Gateway Preserve, replacing the former All American Asphalt plant, with over 700 acres of accessible open space

Ensure our schools and police are adequately funded

I ask for your vote to be your first elected District 1 Council Member.

The candidate did not  
provide photos

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## Office of Councilmember District 2

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### Gang Chen

Architect/Author  
Businessman

Irvine is a great city, however, there is definitely room for improvement. The quality of life has gone down in the past few years. The main reasons for this are the recent safety issues, traffic problems and housing prices.

I came to California with scholarships from USC in 1990, and I have lived in Irvine since 1997. Irvine gave me and my family a lot, and I want to give back to the community. This why I am running. I am a licensed architect, a LEED AP BD+C, and a real estate broker (DRE#01232392), and served in City of Irvine's Green Ribbon Environmental Committee.

I would be honored to have your vote. I am running to make our city better. My campaign platform is one vision with three focuses. The vision I have for Irvine is to become a real first-class city while still maintaining its unique features of having many parks and green spaces, nice architecture, and a relaxing family ranch feeling as well as being the safest city in the nation. My focuses are safety and traffic, managed growth, and education.

Irvine belongs to all of us. Let us work together to make Irvine better.



**Jeff Starke**

City of Irvine  
Finance  
Commissioner

I am Jeff Starke. I am running for Irvine City Council in District 2 and currently serve Irvine as a Finance Commissioner.

I have lived in Cypress Village and Portola Springs with my wife and 2 children for the past 10 years. During this time I have been an active community member volunteering at Cypress Village Elementary. I served on the PTA board for several years.

We need to find ways to grow sustainably while preserving the parts of Irvine we all cherish; our wonderful open spaces, excellent schools and safe neighborhoods. It will be important to listen to our neighbors and craft solutions that we can all support.

I am motivated to run for office because the villages of our district have been underrepresented. We must build the Great Park, especially the retail portion. We need to build safer streets and sidewalks for pedestrians and bikers. We deserve a representative that is supporting our interests, not outside interests.

I am the candidate with deep community roots that will work tirelessly to represent our District on the Irvine City Council. We know what our neighborhoods need to thrive and our voices need to be heard at city hall.

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**Mohamed  
Kothermydeen**

IT Service  
Manager

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**Parrisa Yazdani**

City Commissioner  
Businesswoman

I'm Parrisa Yazdani and I'm running for City Council to ensure your voice is heard.

My children have thrived attending schools in Cypress Village, Portola Springs, and the Great Park Neighborhoods, and I started my small business in the Woodbury Town Center.

When our community faced a string of robberies, I led the effort with fellow residents to form a Neighborhood Watch group.

When the City proposed a permanent street closure that caused evacuation concerns in our high fire risk area, I organized meetings with City leaders and we successfully petitioned the City to keep the street open.

When decisions affecting our neighborhood were being influenced by outside political forces, I helped mobilize residents to ensure their voices cut through the special interests.

As your next Councilmember, I will:

Keep Irvine America's Safest City by supporting Irvine Police officers

Protect Irvine's quality of life by ensuring responsible and managed development, as well as reducing traffic

Support Irvine's healthy and robust economy by partnering with employers and local small businesses

I've spent years advocating and fighting for our community. I hope I can earn your vote so I can be your voice on the City Council.

Please visit [ParrisaForIrvine.com](http://ParrisaForIrvine.com) for more information.



**William Go**

Irvine Commissioner  
Businessowner

I'm running for City Council to be a voice for our neighborhoods and champion for residents at City Hall. I am the only candidate in our district endorsed by Irvine Firefighters and First Responders for my track record, commitment to public safety, and proven ability to get things done for our city.

I'm a longtime volunteer, business leader, and community advocate who has worked to improve our city as a Great Park Task Force Member and Irvine Transportation Commissioner. I'm also a youth coach and neighbor who loves Irvine.

I immigrated to this country as a child and was raised by my single mother alongside four siblings. Her sacrifices taught me hard work and resilience, shaping my dedication to family and community. As a successful business owner, I proudly employ thousands of workers, contributing to our community's growth and prosperity.

As your Councilmember, I will lead Irvine forward on key issues:

Delivering the promise of a world-class Great Park.

Keeping our neighborhoods safe and protecting our quality of life.

Increasing the availability of housing for mid-salary professionals.

Investing in our transportation infrastructure to reduce traffic.

Please join our campaign - Vote William Go for Irvine City Council!

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## Office of Councilmember District 3

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**James Mai**

City Commissioner  
Businessman

I'm a husband and father of boys 5 and 13 who chose Irvine to start and raise my family. A proud long-time resident and business owner excited for the opportunity to represent you!

My priorities are Public Safety, Affordability, Transparency, Education, Fiscal Responsibility, ensuring our way of life and the Irvine Master Plan are maintained, and our beautiful parks and neighborhoods receive the attention they deserve.

In challenging times, we need leaders with experience, empathy, and common sense. I am supported and endorsed by numerous elected officials and longtime Irvine Residents.

Key Endorsements

Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes

Orange County Supervisors Chairman Don Wagner

Orange County Superintendent of Schools Stefan Bean

Orange County Clerk-Recorder Huy Nguyen

As an Orange County Housing Commissioner, Irvine Commissioner, and active parent with schools (like Greentree), and the founder of a Children's Foundation, I am truly dedicated to the community. As President/Chairman of the Irvine Community Alliance Fund, we raised over \$3.5 million in donations for Irvine.

My candidacy is distinguished by my deep-rooted commitment to social good, underscoring my dedication to practical, empathetic, and community-focused leadership. I'm committed to ensuring Irvine remains the city we love, united and strong.

It would be an honor to earn your vote!



**Jing Sun**

Irvine Commissioner  
Father

After coming to this country 25 years ago, I earned my MBA at UCI. For more than a decade, my wife and I have lived in Irvine and raised our two daughters. Meanwhile, I have been a leader for civic engagement in the Chinese American community.

It has been my honor to serve on the Irvine Community Services Commission for nearly four years, and this past January, my colleagues unanimously elected me to chair the Commission. I have spent many hours evaluating grant proposals and making recommendations to the City Council for the funding of programs to improve the lives of our low- and moderate-income residents, especially youth and elders. I have also consistently worked to improve our city's outstanding parks, recreational facilities, and cultural events. I also serve on the Irvine Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, helping to identify opportunities for innovative ways to address family needs in Irvine.

My priorities as your Councilmember will be to ensure that our district's neighborhoods thrive as newer neighborhoods continue to grow, to promote housing that's affordable for Irvine's workforce, and to make Irvine a leader in sustainability.

Please join me in helping to make Irvine an outstanding city.

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**Tom Chomyn**

Irvine City  
Commissioner

Irvine City Council District 3 — our own Council District — needs a representative who will address concerns specific to our neighborhoods, while solving citywide problems and improving our quality of life. I know how to do this!

My wife Jeannine and I have lived across from Irvine High School and Heritage Park for 27 years. We raised our three children here, and I now serve as Irvine's Community Services Commissioner. I know the issues.

First, we need to refurbish, modernize and expand the Heritage Park Library.

Second, we need to transform the Walnut Trail (along the railroad tracks) from an eyesore into a beautiful pedestrian parkway, with hundreds of trees.

Third, we need to plant thousands of trees throughout District 3, bringing beauty, fresh air, and value to every neighborhood.

Fourth, we need to reinvest in improvements to our treasured District 3 Parks — Heritage Park, Deerfield Park, Harvard Athletic Park, and Northwood Park.

Fifth, we need to invest additional resources in community policing to maintain our outstanding public safety record in District 3 and citywide.

If elected, I promise to serve all our Irvine residents with honesty, integrity, competence, and care. I respectfully ask for your vote.

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## Office of Councilmember District 4

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**Ayn Craciun**

Nonprofit Director

Our city needs leaders who prioritize public safety and health, making decisions based on evidence rather than politics.

My name is Ayn Craciun, and I am a mom, nonprofit director and proven community leader. I am running to make Irvine safer, more sustainable and focused on the needs of residents, not special interests.

As a 20-year Irvine resident, I successfully deliver results for our community.

Proven Track Record:

When three Quail Hill children were diagnosed with brain tumors tied to toxic landscaping chemicals, I collaborated with UCI scientists and neighbors to win a non-toxic landscaping policy which was later recognized for excellence by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Championed a school bus program to safely transport University High School students to school, improving traffic by taking 50+ cars off the road every day.

Successfully advocated for transparency and accountability at local public agencies.

I will focus on reducing traffic, protecting and expanding our green spaces, improving public safety, addressing our housing needs, and supporting local businesses.

As a working mom, I understand the struggles many families face. I will ensure that Irvine remains a place where everyone can thrive.

I respectfully ask for your vote.



**Mike Carroll**

Councilmember  
City of Irvine

My wife and I love raising our two children in Irvine. We own our small business here, and my wife was an Irvine Unified School District Boardmember.

I've volunteered in community nonprofit organizations as President of the Vista Verde Foundation, Parks Commissioner, and Boardmember of Child Aid, One OC (Volunteer Center of Orange County), Hurtt Family Health Clinic, and Orange County Press Club. It's been an honor to serve as your Councilmember for the past 5 years. I've worked to protect Irvine and delivered results for you:

Helped Irvine residents recover \$100 million in unclaimed property

Obtained \$10 million from UCI to pay for Irvine neighborhood traffic improvements

Held 65 community forums with Irvine residents

Kept Irvine America's Safest City

Improved Irvine parks to be ranked #1 in California and #10 in the United States

Ensured Irvine ranked America's fiscally strongest city

Reelect me to the Irvine City Council, and I will continue fighting for you:

Provide our Irvine Police with what they need to ensure Irvine remains America's Safest City

Reduce traffic by improving road design and alternative transit

Enhance our parks and open space

Support our Irvine public schools and families

My record has earned endorsements from:

Irvine Police Association

Orange County Firefighters Association

Orange County Business Council

Orange County Taxpayers Association

Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes

I would be honored to have your vote.



# MEET THE IRVINE CANDIDATES FORUM

## 爾灣亞裔問政會

更好的爾灣由您決定

September 7, 2024

3:00~3:55pm Mayoral Candidates 市長候選人

4:00~5:45pm City Council Candidates 市議員候選人

Location: South Coast Chinese Cultural Center  
9 Truman, Irvine 92620

### Co-hosted by:

Asian American Senior Citizens' Service Center 亞美老人服務中心  
Chinese American Association of Orange County 橙縣華人協會  
Cambodian Family Community Center  
Irvine Chinese School 爾灣中文學校  
Irvine Evergreen Chinese Senior Association 爾灣華人松柏會  
Korean American Center

KCS, Korean Community Service  
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance  
Orange County Chinese-American Chamber of Commerce 橙縣華人商會  
Orange County Chinese-American Chamber of Commerce Foundation 橙縣華人基金會  
Orange County Herald Center 橙縣角聲中心

