

I am writing today with a set of questions that we would ask of Monica Montgomery Steppe regarding the issues affecting the community of Casa de Oro. We appreciate your time regarding this.

**a. What do you think are the most pressing issues affecting Casa de Oro and how will you work to address them?**

I think the most pressing issues affecting Casa De Oro are wildfire risk, sprawl development, and the economic, housing, and environmental concerns that emerge from these issues. All of these issues are intricately tied to each other. As Supervisor, I will address these challenges by incorporating smart growth and development policies into my leadership.

In general, sprawl is detrimental to the environment and public safety, as it induces greater vehicle miles traveled (VMT), increases greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions significantly, and increases wildfire risk. While I support the recent changes the County made regarding VMT standards, I do believe this policy needs to be monitored to ensure we are meeting its intended goals. From my many conversations with young people of color, I also know that there is still a desire to own a home in San Diego one day. Casa de Oro's revitalization must reduce sprawl and still provide affordable homeownership opportunities for people who would like to stay here in our great region. Luckily, County's broad land-use authority extends to the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. As Supervisor, I will advocate for mixed-use, affordable development within designated unincorporated areas to address these issues. In addition to reducing sprawl, I will also champion the infrastructure needed to mitigate wildfires.

I also support the Campo Road Corridor Revitalization Specific Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors this January. The plan to revitalize the commercial and residential area by increasing walkability, bike-ability, and public transit accessibility is a step in the right direction. Having served on the board of the MTS, I understand the value of freedom of movement, particularly for young, unhoused, and disabled San Diegans. This is particularly a concern for low-income workers, who are forced outside high-opportunity zones near major job centers and beyond the best elements of our regional public transit system by high housing costs. I will continue fostering transit connectivity and affordability throughout the unincorporated areas of our region as Supervisor and make our streets safe for everyone.

**b. How will your approach be different for communities like Casa de Oro that aren't incorporated?**

Unincorporated communities have unique concerns and needs and should be treated as such. I am not new to representing diverse communities, or recognizing that all communities in San Diego are different. In fact, I am the only candidate with the experience to effectively address constituent concerns and to deliver. This experience is especially important when it comes to engaging unincorporated areas of District 4. I am proud to champion a community-governance model which invites those closest to the issues at hand to help make the policy. I have proven this to be effective over time at City Hall, and it is my greatest honor to compete to bring this model to the broader region. I will commit to this model for every community I serve where an issue is important or specific to them. There are some issues important to me that are universal

to all San Diegans - housing costs, public safety, homelessness, etc. - and I will continue to do the hard work and take the hard votes if needed to represent the people I serve.

**c. The Casa de Oro community constituents are very diverse (ethnically, economically and politically). What is your experience working with people with differing points of view?**

In my 5 years on the City Council, I have navigated difficult votes where constituents have very different opinions with integrity, empathy for all sides, and a willingness to compromise when it aligns with my values. My approach has been informed by my work as a staffer for three different elected officials, both Republican and democrat. I have built coalitions between opposing groups and worked to increase political engagement among the Black, Latino, and AAPI communities that are often ignored by traditional voter outreach to keep these communities from getting left behind. And most importantly, I have gotten results doing it. I helped foster business diversity and inclusiveness in bid and contracting opportunities. I also helped secure a \$7.5 million grant to help first time homebuyers. That is what qualifies me to represent District Four, our County's most diverse district, on the Board of Supervisors. I believe our diversity is our strength and I will continue working to foster unity and inclusion throughout our County's diverse communities.

**d. What is your experience working with grassroots organizations such as the Casa de Oro Alliance?**

I have extensive personal experience with grassroots organizations. My 2018 campaign was grassroots, and I will always advocate for people to have a voice in their government. That's why my City Council office collaborated extensively with local grassroots organizations and nonprofits. I worked with grassroots organizations to help pass Measure B to establish an independent civilian review board for increased police accountability and to call for an end to gang violence during the "Season of Peace" campaign and "No Shots Fired" program. I was also a graduate of RISE San Diego. Grassroots organizations and the people they represent are the backbone of my work, and I would be honored to continue working in partnership with them on the Board of Supervisors.

**e. The Board of Supervisors recently adopted a Specific Plan for the Campo road corridor in Casa de Oro. What is your experience with the development and implementation of similar land use plans? What are your ideas and suggestions on how to implement the Specific plan as adopted by the Board of Supervisors? Reference: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/advance/CasadeOroRevitalizationPlan.html>**

As stated in a previous response, I support the Campo Road Corridor Revitalization plan. The County's land-use authority allows us to meet the goals of its Sustainable Land Use Framework by implementing such plans. I am also the only candidate in this race who has made land use decisions, so I am well aware of their impacts. On the City Council, I helped secure a historic over \$100 million worth of investment into paved roads, libraries, parks, and a senior center. By creating more opportunities within the communities of District Four, we have reduced commute distances and times to access resources and made life safer, easier, and more sustainable for

our residents. I am the only candidate with the credentials to replicate this at the County level. In addition to the current suggestions for the Campo Road Corridor plan, I would implement traffic calming measures and advocate for expanding public transportation networks. Traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks and speed bumps would increase the area's walkability and safety for pedestrians and cyclists and ease drivers' transition towards slower, safer, more mixed-use-friendly traffic. Increasing the frequency of public transit stops and expanding transit networks to connect unincorporated areas to high-opportunity commercial zones would also increase economic opportunity and protect the environment by reducing VMT.

**Please feel free to email your answers back to me. Additionally, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My cell phone number is 916-801-2519.**

# MONICA

## MONTGOMERY STEPPE

### EXPERIENCE

**Councilmember, City of San Diego**  
*December 2018-Present*

Creating systemic change in the areas of economic opportunity, public safety, and neighborhood investment.

Includes service on the following committees, boards, and regional bodies:

- Chair, Budget & Government Efficiency Committee
- Member & Former Chair, Public Safety Committee
- Member, Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
- Member, Active Transportation and Infrastructure
- Member, Rules Committee
- Member, MTS Board of Directors
- Chair, MTS Public Security Committee
- Member, San Diego Workforce Partnership
- Member, City-County Reinvestment Task Force
- Member, California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans

**Criminal Justice Advocate**  
**ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties**  
*August 2016 - December 2018*

**Senior Policy Advisor/Community Representative**  
**City of San Diego Council Office**  
*July 2014 - July 2016*

**Policy Advisor/Community Representative**  
**Office of the Mayor of San Diego**  
*September 2013 - July 2014*

**Owner**  
**Law Offices of Monica L. Montgomery**  
*January 2010- September 2013*

**Associate Attorney**  
**Landers Law Group**  
*October 2008 - March 2010*



### EDUCATION

**California Western School of Law**  
**San Diego, CA**  
Juris Doctor, 2007

**Spelman College**  
**Atlanta, GA**  
Bachelor of Arts Political Science, 2001

### COMMUNITY

- Member, State Bar of California
- Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Member, Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association
- Member, ACLU
- Fellow, RISE San Diego
- Former Board Member, Black Women's Institute for Leadership Development

### AWARDS

- 2018 Voice of San Diego Voice of the Year
- 2019 San Diego Democratic Party Making a Difference Award
- 2021 Ashley L. Walker Social Justice Award from Alliance San Diego



[www.Monica4SanDiego.com](http://www.Monica4SanDiego.com)

Monica Montgomery Steppe was born and raised District Four. She **represents over 160,000 San Diegans** as City Council President pro Tem and **oversees the City's \$5.2 billion dollar budget** as chair of the Budget & Government Efficiency Committee. She's also on the San Diego City-County Reinvestment Task Force, the board of MTS, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, and the San Diego Housing Authority.

Monica has dedicated her life to public service. She **fought for families** to stay in their homes during the foreclosure crisis in the Great Recession, worked at the ACLU as a Criminal Justice Advocate, and served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the City of San Diego.

### As Supervisor, Monica will:

- ✓ Increase **Economic Opportunity** to uplift our working families.
- ✓ Build out a **Public Safety Ecosystem** to prevent crime and increase opportunity and access to resources.
- ✓ Increase **Investment in our Neighborhoods** to promote healthy, inclusive communities.

Monica brought **over \$100 million worth** of investment into her district. She also led the effort to **ban the police carotid restraint** and **increase oversight** over MTS security and city policing. Monica **established the Office of Race & Equity** with a **\$3 million Equity Fund**.

In her twenties, she became chronically ill and relied on county services to save her life. She **witnessed their failings and stigma** firsthand. Monica is committed to changing how resources are delivered and ensuring those in need are treated with dignity and respect.

If elected, **she will be the first Black woman to serve on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.**



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Proven Winning Record.

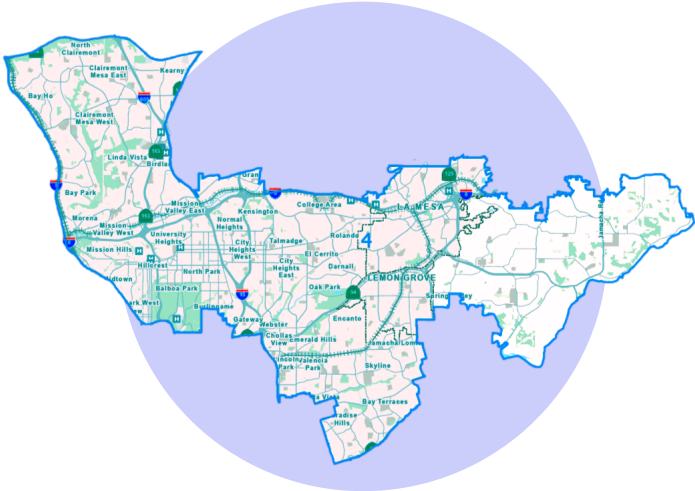
Running on accountability and inclusion, Monica earned the trust of the City District Four community. Monica's city council district makes up 21% of County District Four, giving her a unique advantage at the polls. She's in the best position to **rebuild trust** on the County level.

County Leadership.

As Council President pro Tem, Monica has experience serving on multiple regional boards. Fostering city-county collaboration, Monica oversaw the city's \$5 billion budget and helped increase opportunities for workers, small businesses, and homebuyers of color. Monica is the most experienced candidate for this seat, and she is ready to be the glue that **holds the city and county together**.

Coalition Building.

In her five years on the City Council, Monica heard and fought for the underserved communities of City District Four. That's how she earned the support of local leaders and organizations. That's how she will **build a winning coalition**.



San Diego County District Four is a Democratic stronghold, with Democrats outnumbering Republicans nearly 3 to 1. Monica, a popular Democratic candidate with strong grassroots regional support, is well-positioned to win the seat.

But she can't do it without you.

Join the Fight Today! →



DONATE

(limit \$1000 per individual)

bit.ly/Monica4Supervisor



OR



Make checks payable to

Montgomery Steppe for Supervisor 2023  
3295 Meade Ave. Suite #212,  
San Diego CA 92116

HOST a Fundraiser  
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Email [team@monica4sandiego.com](mailto:team@monica4sandiego.com)  
& Team Monica will connect with you.

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