

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** roger heyder <mrheyderus@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:42 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment for Council Meeting of 10/22/24  
**Attachments:** BS post.jpg; bashir.JPG

Public comment for Council Meeting of 10/22/24

Hello Council,

I wish to raise an issue with violation of the Code of Campaign Fair Practices, as voluntarily signed by the three involved candidates. The candidates are Johnathan Weinberg, Sally Meadows, and Larry Lang. Record request #24-154 will provide jpegs of their voluntarily signed forms.

The violated clauses are -

- 2) I shall not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his or her personal or family life.
- 3) I shall not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on a candidate's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, .....
- 6) I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group that resorts, on my behalf of my candidacy or in opposition of my opponent, to the methods and tactics that I condemn. I shall accept responsibility to take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

The perpetrators of the violations are Bill Shepard and Vice Mayor Pete Daily. Attached is a recent NextDoor post by Bill Shepard, clearly attacking candidate Bashir, and specifically stated to be on the behalf of the candidates mentioned above. Since candidate Lang 'thanked' one of the posts in the thread, he clearly knows about this attack. If candidates Weinberg and Meadows did not know about the post attacking Bashir, then they do now, and can take the action they promised to take.

Also attached is an ad appearing numerous times in the Daily Post attacking Bashir paid for by Daily (see investigative report of the ad source from the Daily Post). Clearly it is in support of his fellow council members, or perhaps just for the benefit of his landlord, candidate Weinberg.

Please assure that the appropriate actions are taken in line with the commitments made in binding document the candidates have voluntarily signed. Truly shameful behavior.

Regards – Roger Heyder

Bill Sheppard  
Loyola Commons • 3 days ago • Edited •

Why is Ibrahim Bashir running for City Council? I have my doubts.

Ibrahim Bashir is one of the five candidates running for three open seats on the Los Altos City Council. He is running on a very scant record of public service to Los Altos. He was appointed to a four-year term to the Library Commission, but resigned with eighteen months left in his term and missed 9 of 19 meetings prior to resigning. His website bio doesn't claim any other Los Altos-related activities. He has rarely been seen at City Council meetings. According to public voting records Bashir didn't vote in the most recent Los Altos City Council election.

Of greater concern to me is the prolific fundraising, primarily from outside Los Altos. According to the Palo Alto Daily Post and his filed forms he has raised nearly \$68,000 for this race, which is over double the funds of all other candidates combined, and, to my recollection, is roughly twice the previous record amount raised from donors. He has undoubtedly raised even more since the last filing. Of greater concern is that 110 of the 140 individual donations (almost 80%) are from outside Los Altos, including 14 from out of state. See the details of who donated at <https://app.box.com/s/sworjany3n0felm8k7e3xeglj56cxjx6> and <https://app.box.com/s/x9coekks6ammaie30ptum2uzon8pyxvg>.

What are Bashir's motivations for his sudden interest in Los Altos politics? Several incidents have raised concerns that Bashir's candidacy may not be primarily based on a desire to address the needs and concerns of Los Altos residents.

- Bashir has 31 donors in common (\$28,000) with Omar Din (who is also a donor to Bashir), the controversial and divisive Sunnyvale city councilmember who has a long history of anti-Israel views and who made a declaration at a Sunnyvale City Council meeting that Zionism is a form of hate speech. This was rather ironic, as he made this assertion during recognition of United Against Hate Week.

- Bashir unsuccessfully requested \$15,000 from the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Commission for a community Ramadan dinner (see <https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/losaltosca-meet-778897d586d94808b315af8efc065db77ITEM-Attachment-001-9abb70350fac4a10a6874ab3953dc75c.pdf>).

- Bashir's wife was one of the co-authors of an opinion piece in the Los Altos Town Crier which excoriated Councilmember Pete Dailey for his support of Israel during council discussion of the proposed resolution regarding the Israel-Gaza war. In my opinion and that of others I've spoken with, the piece Khan co-signed contained an unjustified level of vitriol against Councilmember Dailey and accused him of stoking hatred in the community. The local organization she works for also posted the heinous message "O Allah, grant victory to our brothers and sisters in Palestine and everywhere." on 10/7 (the anniversary of Hamas' murder of over 1,200 civilians and kidnapping of 251, among other atrocities).

In short, I don't trust Bashir's stated motivations for running for City Council. He has been inconsistent on why he stepped down from the Library Commission. When he resigned he stated that "work commitments precluded him from fully participating". In a recent Instagram post, however, he claims that he resigned to care for his sick son. Which is it? If the latter, why not state that at the time of his resignation?

Bashir has had far, far less engagement in Los Altos civic matters than any candidate in the last fifteen years. Does he know how the City operates, including the City's budget? Does he have productive relationships with other councilmembers and city staff, or knowledge of issues which Los Altos has faced in recent years? If not, how can he be an effective councilmember and make wise decisions?

And my greatest fear is that he is running in order to inject his view of Middle East politics into the City Council. I can imagine no other reason why over 100 donors from outside of Los Altos would suddenly take an interest in our town's politics to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars of donations. We've already seen it happen in Sunnyvale, and Bashir has far too many donors in common with Omar Din to believe it's not on his agenda here.

I strongly urge that you vote for Sally Meadows, Jonathan Weinberg, and Larry Lang. Meadows and Weinberg are proven as effective and reasonable civic leaders, and Lang has the experience and sound judgment to make a great councilmember. We need experienced councilmembers with a track record of accomplishment, cooperation, and good judgment. Don't let outside donors create an atmosphere of divisiveness and rancor in our town.

[form\\_460\\_-\\_ibrahim\\_bashir\\_-\\_sept\\_2024.pdf | Power...](#)  
app.box.com

NEWS

# School district seeks parcel tax

ELIA BISCARDI  
Post Staff Writer

Los Altos City School District is asking voters in November to approve a new \$217 annual parcel tax that will cost the district about \$1.2 million a year. This tax would last eight years and would increase the school district's annual budget by 4.8%.

The district's current budget for the school year is \$53 million. Over \$25 million of that is state and federal funds.

A pollster hired by the district found that 72% of voters would support the tax, exceeding the two-thirds threshold for tax increases.

### Annual increases

If Measure S passes, the amount would increase each year based on inflation. But the increase couldn't exceed 3% a year.

No ballot arguments in opposition to Measure S have been filed with the county.

Signing the argument in approval of the tax is Ravenswood City School District Vice President Jenny Bloom, Councilwoman Lisa Gauthier, School District Board Clerk Samuel Tavera, union representative Kimberly Cheadle and resident Frank Satterwhite.

### Exemptions for seniors

Anyone over the age of 65, receiving Social Security or Supplemental Security Income can file for an exemption.

If the tax fails, the board will be able to go to voters again in either early 2025 or 2026.

### Tax expires in 2026

The Measure Q parcel tax expires on June 30, 2026. It would cost the district about \$1.2 million a year.

## Where's Ibrahim?

# Not at the Library Commission!



Ibrahim Bashir claims his Library Commission service qualifies him to serve on the Los Altos City Council:

- Appointed to 4 Year Term 9/2017
- Served a year & a half
- Missed half the meetings
- Resigned in 2/2019

## Unreliable as a commissioner! Unfit for Los Altos City Council

Ad paid for by Golden State Voices United FPPC #1460317  
Not authorized by a candidate or committee controlled by a candidate

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Eric Steinle <eric.steinle@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:50 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Election districts

The following is my personal opinion as a resident, not as a planning commissioner.

I was disappointed by the last-minute shuffling of maps at Monday's study session. It ignored the plain intent of the applicable law in favor of ill-defined (or, worse, undefined) "communities of interest" that have nothing to do with electing candidates or influencing the outcome of elections.

Of the published maps, the two with ID 256642 and 256644 come closest to doing the actual job and respecting the neighborhoods and natural patterns of the city.

The proposed "new" map does neither of those things.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Anne Paulson <anne.paulson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 11:14 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** District maps

Please vote for map F2. I realize that Grant Park residents would be unhappy with it, but in this unfortunate situation, it's impossible to please everyone. Map F2 strikes a good balance.

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-- Anne Paulson

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Maria Bautista <maria@specker.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** City Council; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Item #6. Public Hearing 10.22.24

Hello Councilmembers,

I appreciate the time and care you are taking to craft the voting district map.

I have lived and raised a family in both areas of north Los Altos that are being defined as Districts 1 and 2. They each identify differently than what was suggested at last night's special meeting with the presentation of the new "10/10/24 Special Meeting Map:"

The neighbors in and around Los Altos High School/Almond School have always seen **Almond Avenue as a defining line.**

-Those south of Almond (and west to east, San Antonio to El Monte) identify as downtown neighborhoods.

-Those north of Almond (again west to east, San Antonio to El Monte) identify as the LAHS and Egan neighborhoods: these see the most movement of students.

West of San Antonio to Foothill Expressway, neighborhoods **north of Mount Hamilton** up to either Yerba Santa (or Pine Avenue) also identify with **downtown.**

North of Yerba Santa (or Pine Avenue) to El Camino is a distinct distinct with Egan, the Sweet Shoppe, the PG&E trail and the Village Center as defining characteristics.

As proposed in 10/10/24 Special Meeting Map, the narrow reach up to El Camino deemed a "downtown neighborhood" is not an accurate characterization.

The justification voiced for this configuration was offered by introducing Councilmember Filgor who said this arm is made up residents who she knows "support the development and vibrancy of downtown." All Los Altans support a well-designed, cared-for and lively downtown. Development objectives should not determine how we shape voting districts.

Councilmember Eng pointed out that many senior living facilities sit in the proposed arm; these residential enclaves are also together in any configuration that keeps the neighborhood north of Yerba Santa (or Pine) in place.

Please see the attached map of a possible configuration for the two districts of the north Los Altos area.

With respect to “urgency,” the adoption of voting districts is a very significant change. I urge you to take time to circulate your choice of a final map, especially if you are drafting a new one tonight, for final consideration by all residents. The final map should be published, at a minimum, in the Los Altos Town Crier and/or other regional newspapers to ensure broad public access, and be granted some reasonable period of time for feedback.

Thank you,

Maria Bautista

Please see attached map.

## Melissa Thurman

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**From:** Maria Bautista <maria@specker.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 6:15 PM  
**To:** City Council; Public Comment  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment: Item #6. Public Hearing 10.22.24

On Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 12:18 PM Maria Bautista <[maria@specker.com](mailto:maria@specker.com)> wrote:

Hello Councilmembers,

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