

Mayor Sam Liccardo
City of San José, CA

In the four years since Mayor Sam Liccardo took office in 2015, San José has thrived. Sam settled intense battles over pension reform with 11 unions, saving taxpayers \$3 billion over three decades, and enabling the restoration of San José's police force. He has led the most successful period of economic growth in the City's history, announcing major expansions from such employers as Adobe, and securing three dozen new routes at the nation's fastest-growing international airport, San José Mineta. He is implementing innovative approaches to reduce homelessness—such as rehabilitating deteriorating motels, expanding work-first programs, and building “tiny home” villages—while working with community partners to house more than 1,000 homeless veterans. Sam has led a regional coalition to raise the minimum wage in Silicon Valley, partnered with employers to provide jobs to more than 2,000 teens living in gang-impacted neighborhoods, teamed with community colleges to eliminate tuition and fees for 1,600 low-income college students, and launched after-school learning programs in sixteen of San José's least affluent neighborhoods. San José has become the largest city in the nation to rapidly decarbonize through a community choice energy program, San José Clean Energy, and led the passage of one of the first Paris Agreement aligned sustainability plans in the country. This work has helped make San José a national leader in climate action, outpacing nearly every U.S. city in solar and electric vehicle deployment. Sam led the passage of a ban on natural gas in new construction, has co-led the passage of measures to bring BART and other transit improvements to San José, and helped protect our hillsides and open spaces from sprawling development. A native of the Santa Clara Valley and former criminal prosecutor, Sam is a graduate of Georgetown University, Harvard University, and Harvard Law School. In 2018, San José residents overwhelmingly re-elected Sam, with 76% of the vote.