

Real Name – *Ramoncito Firmeza*, Ballot name – *Jing Firmeza*

Office you are seeking: *Dublin City Council Member*

Current or former Dublin offices held (elected or appointed) or any significant volunteer activities:

1. *Housing Committee,*
2. *Green Initiative*

Questions:

1. Why are you running for Mayor or Councilmember?

*I have been fighting housing in Dublin since 2006. I did not like the clustered housing and quality of designs they were approving. As a realtor, we learned Principle of Regression. I was afraid that clustered housing were going to affect home prices. I believe in protecting the investment of my clients. Never did business in Dublin since the start of my opposition. Housing approvals has gone from worse to now a calamity. In 2009, I warned city council that they are facing budget deficits and school overcrowding. 5 years before they acknowledged my prediction. I am running for city council because what I have been fighting since 2006 up to now. I moved here in Dublin in 1988 when I can still see open spaces. Not anymore. I want to fight for whatever I can save to keep Dublin the way it was when I moved and decided to raise a family.*

2. What is your vision for Dublin? What policies as city councilmember will you try to enact for your vision to become reality?

*My first priority is schools. Specifically, a comprehensive high school in the east. Sad to say that the only cheap way for bond money to afford is Fallon Sports Park. I will support that move. Secondly, not really second but top priority is to reject any new housing approval. To the point of even stopping issuing building permits. Until schools and infrastructures catch up in all the previous housing approvals. I intend to reject any additional housing. I will use public safety as my primary reason to back up my rejection. I strongly believe that our school kids are placed in danger on over exploding school population. I also believe that Dublin school kids are being deprived of their basic human right of "Right of Education". Including indirectly their constitutional right. Our constitution was based on our basic Human Rights. Our residents are also placed on high risk of danger due to traffic, less police and fire services. 10 min response time as a police service level is unacceptable. If anyone sues the city in rejecting housing, I want us to defend public safety in any court. I am sure Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon will support us. As we are all on this problem or will be.*

3. In your opinion, what are the most significant issues facing Dublin in the next two years? If elected, what would you do to address them? What are the most significant environmental issues, and what would you do to address those? (Two years is the time frame of the Council that will be in place after the November election.)

*School overcrowding needs to be addressed. I will stop housing approvals until schools and infrasture catches up. I strongly believe, that Dublin have their share of building more homes at the max. Traffic in the city and freeway will just get worsed than better. As long as Sacramento Democrats dominate legislature, traffic will get worse. We need to move companies closer to where employees live. Residential transit communities are the biggest failure in this decade. There are 1 transit residential Bart commuter to 10 office/commercial commuters in Bart in my assessment. I will make sure Sacramento knows this. Open spaces that we have worked so hard might be challenged and I wholeheartedly will fight any move to challenge our open spaces. I want a total ban of using plasting and styrofoam in our city.*

4. School overcrowding in Dublin is a serious problem and a great many residents feel that the city council must play a role in addressing it. In your opinion, what role should the city council play?

*Stop housing on its track to stop fueling the school shortage issue. Stop putting the burden of schools to residents and particularly seniors on fixed income. Developers should pay more impact fees for all the sins they did in our city with the blessings of Sacramento Democrats.*

5. In recent years, developers have approached the City to change their approved development plans, often to replace commercial areas with additional residential development. Without saying how you would vote on any specific request that may come before the council, what is your thinking on these changes in general?

*I am the biggest opponent of Downtown Dublin Specific Plan of converting commercial to residential. I fought for this in many city council speeches. I intend to junk this plan and replace it with a good plan that all of Dublin can agree with. This plan is like a big hole.*

6. Similarly, last year the city council approved a study (“At Dublin”) for a project that includes 700 residential units on land now zoned General Commercial and Neighborhood Commercial (i.e., without residential capacity). Without stating how you would vote on this particular project, under what circumstances would you support the re-zoning of commercial properties to residential?

*No, No and No. 700 units and 200 plus units nets the city the same property tax revenue increases. I proved this in my 2009 prediction that Tim Sbranti council ignored and became true in their announcement in 2014. If we are contractually obligated for vested units, that is all they will get when recovery in schools, budget and traffic are attained. That will be for sometime.*

7. In east Dublin along I-580 between Fallon Road and the city limits most of the land has not been developed and currently is in agricultural use, primarily grazing. It is designated, however, for commercial, business park, and industrial uses. Some of the land could be retained as open space, for uses such as recreation (e.g. ball fields, tennis courts, city parks), equestrian facilities, or agriculture. Do you think that any of these uses would be more appropriate for some of this area than commercial or industrial development?

*I have been fighting commercial to residential conversion for a long time now. I don't like what is happening in our traffic gridlock in surface streets and freeways. If we have any zoned commercial parcels, I will support office spaces first, then parks, schools and retail in that order. All existing zoning for those parcels must remain the same. But I will vigorously protect all the open space initiative that has been won in our city and in our state.*

8. Just to the east of Fallon Road, between the freeway and the proposed alignment of the extension of Dublin Blvd., is an important seasonal wetland. Will you ensure that everything possible is done to protect this valuable wetland as the road alignment is finalized and the area surrounding the wetland gets developed?

*I volunteered in the Doolan Canyon initiative. You have my word that I will do everything in my power to keep open spaces untouched.*

9. In recent years, Dublin has been one of the fastest growing cities in California. Last year, it was the sixth fastest growing city and now has surpassed 63,000 residents. It will continue adding population as already-approved development is constructed. Dublin also is relatively small in area, has both natural and infrastructure constraints (e.g., limited water supply, limited roadways), and has urban limit lines in place on both sides to curtail sprawl. Given that population growth cannot go on forever, do you believe there is an optimum population size for Dublin? If you do not have an optimum size in mind, how would you approach issues that come before the council that exacerbate the tension between growth and the limited natural and infrastructure capacity to support increased population?

*Dublin has reached the plateau in population growth. I will fight any more attacks from Sacramento (Democrats specifically Scott Wiener and David Chiu) for our city to maintain a no growth policy in population and residential.*

10. Who is endorsing your campaign and who are your biggest contributors?

*Not sure at this time. I have commitment from Assembly woman Catharine Baker. I will be doing the same thing with Bay East Association of Realtors of which I am a long standing member. My policies go against the grain of their policies in housing. I will use the moment to let them understand what has happened in Dublin.*

11. Have you ever taken campaign contributions from developers, PG&E, or Waste Management? If so, how much and when?

*Home developer money will be refunded if I know it is coming from them. I only intend to take contributions from Dublin residents who believe in my fight. If companies are contributing to my campaign that is against my platform, I will reject their money. I know I can win on my own convictions and platform.*

12. Is there anything else you want us to know about you? (Optional)

I still have to do a lot of learning to protect our environment. I hope Sierra Club can make that easy.