Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Throughout my career as an attorney and political watchdog, I have rarely seen attacks as unprincipled as those made by Cindy Chavez and her allies against Matt Mahan, her opponent in the San Jose mayor’s race.

Having served as President Obama’s appointee on the Federal Election Commission and as Governor Jerry Brown’s appointee to California’s Fair Political Practices Commission, I’ve seen many attacks leveled by one politician or political party against another. But the actions of Chavez and her backers stand out in their flagrant disregard for the truth.

Supervisor Chavez and her campaign have claimed that Councilmember Mahan is anti-choice and pro-NRA – not because of Matt’s positions, but because he founded a tech company that allowed legally protected speech on its platform. Chavez and her allies have spent millions in attack ads trying to distort Matt Mahan’s record. To be clear, these ads are intended to mislead. It’s wrong, and it is unfair to the voters of the City of San Jose.

In fact, Councilman Mahan is [100% pro-choice](https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/06/03/editorial-hit-piece-tells-voters-all-they-need-to-know-about-labors-tactics/), and he [had the courage to take on the NRA](https://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2022/01/26/san-jose-city-council-gun-insurance-mandate.html) – both on the City Council and in his private sector work. No amount of lies by Supervisor Chavez and her allies can change the facts about what Matt Mahan stands for.

Cindy Chavez is putting her political self-interest above the best interests of the people of San Jose, and it’s damaging to our political discourse at a time when people’s trust in those seeking public office is particularly fragile.

These are serious times, and San Jose deserves a leader who will tell the truth, fight tough fights, take on special interests, and protect the rights of everyone. Matt Mahan is that leader, and I support him because of his ethics and honesty. The Mayor of San Jose is important to all of Santa Clara County, and I urge you to vote for him by November 8th.

Sincerely,

Ann Ravel

Former commissioner and chair of the Federal Election Commission and CA Fair Political Practices Commission

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