



Long Beach Public Library Foundation 200 W. Broadway Long Beach, CA 90802 info@lbplfoundation.org (562) 628-2441 Friends of the Long Beach Public Library 200 W. Broadway Long Beach, CA 90802 lb.libraryfriends@gmail.com



# Dear Long Beach Voter:

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library are two nonprofit organizations that support the 12 Long Beach Public Libraries. We have jointly created this Voter Guide for the March 3, 2020 Primary Nominating Election to prepare supporters of the libraries, literacy, and education to make informed decisions regarding the candidates running to serve on the Long Beach City Council.

The <u>Library Foundation</u> was created 24 years ago with the mission to provide support to enhance the Long Beach Public Library and encourage literacy and education for all members of our community. The Library Foundation raises about \$1.2 million annually for programs, technology, and enhancements at the Library in support of this goal. You can learn more at www.lbplfoundation.org.

The <u>Friends</u> are a membership organization founded in 1963 to promote, provide support, and advocate for the Main Library and 11 neighborhood libraries and continue to guard against censorship. The Friends manage the used bookstore in the Main Library, support literacy programs, and provide scholarship opportunities for librarians continuing their education. You can learn more at www.longbeach.gov/library/connect/friends-of-the-library.

To prepare this guide, we sent a letter to all official candidates running to represent City Council Districts 2, 6, and 8, the City Council Districts on this March's ballot, asking each to complete a brief questionnaire about our community libraries. 13 candidates responded by the submission deadline and their answers are presented in this guide.

Please note both the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library are 501(c)(3) organizations and, as required by law, will not endorse or advocate for any candidate. We have presented the responses from the candidates exactly as we received them, without edits. This guide is an educational piece without commentary.

We invite you to read the complete comments from all the candidates who participated and we encourage you to make sure you are registered to vote by February 18 and participate in this important civic process. Check your voter registration status online at <u>voterstatus.sos.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Weissman President

Long Beach Public Library Foundation

Barbara Sosa President

Friends of the Long Beach Public Library



# **IMPORTANT DATES**



MARCH 3, 2020 PRIMARY

**FEBRUARY 18, 2020** 

Last day to register to vote.

Check your voter status at <u>voterstatus.sos.ca.gov</u>. Register to vote online at <u>registertovote.ca.gov</u>.

**FEBRUARY 22, 2020** 

First day of voting period at Voting Centers where voters will be allowed to cast a ballot at any Voting Center location in the county over an 11-day period leading up to the election. Find your nearest Voting Center at locator.lavote.net/locations/vc.

FEBRUARY 26 to MARCH 3, 2020

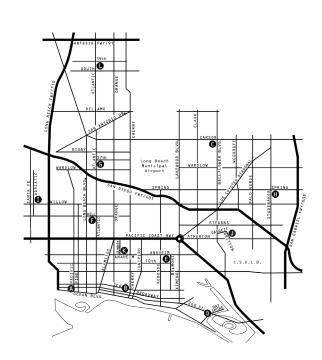
Emergency Vote-by-Mail Period. During this time voters may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot if conditions require their absence from the polling place on election day. Learn more at <a href="mailto:lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voting-options/vote-by-mail/apply-to-vote-by-mail">lavote.net/home/voting-elections/vote-by-mail/apply-to-vote-by-mail.</a>

**MARCH 3, 2020** 

Election Day.

# Pick up a voter registration form at your local library!

- Billie Jean King Main Library
- **B** Alamitos Branch
- C Bach Branch
- Bay Shore Branch
- **B**rewitt Branch
- F Burnett Branch
- G Dana Branch
- El Dorado Branch
- I Harte Branch
- J Los Altos Branch
- K Mark Twain Branch
- L Michelle Obama Branch



# **DISTRICT 2**





# These candidates responded to questionnaire:



Cindy Allen
Long Beach Small Businesswoman
(562) 253-6513
cindy@cindyallen.com



Jeanette M. Barrera Mental Health Provider (562) 257-6777 info@barrera2020.com



Jesus Cisneros School Safety Officer (562) 472-5271 Ibcisneros2020@gmail.com



Robert E. Fox Small Business Owner (562) 794-0076 rfoxent@gmail.com



Eduardo Lara Long Beach Teacher (562) 294-6055 info@doctoreduardolara.com



Nigel Lifsey
Accountant/Entrepeneur
(323) 896-7464
lifsey4longbeach@gmail.com



Ryan Lum YouTuber (562) 451-9166 info@ryanlum.net

# **DISTRICT 6**





# These candidates responded to questionnaire:



Sharifah Hardie Entrepreneur/Business Consultant (562) 822-0965 sharifah@asksharifah.com



Suely Saro
Teacher/Nonprofit Director
(562) 684-2457
suely@suelysaro.com

No Photo Provided

Craig Ursuy
Professor
(478) 396-7637
ursuy.craig@gmail.com



Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor Small Business Owner (562) 528-2911 josephinefor6thdistrict@gmail.com

# **DISTRICT 8**





# These candidates responded to questionnaire:



Juan Erick Ovalle Small Business Owner (562) 304-6906 ovalle4council@gmail.com



Tunua Thrash-Ntuk Economic Development Director (626) 535-0710 dcendejas@strategygroup.com

MARCH 3, 2020 PRIMARY





# **QUESTION 1**

Which public library or libraries in Long Beach do you visit most often and which resources do you most frequently use?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Cindy Allen**

The public library I visit the most often is the Billie Jean King Main Library, and I mainly use it to check out books of interest.

## Jeanette M. Barrera

I love the library and use Long Beach's public libraries regularly. Over the last decade, I've tutored children in Long Beach's libraries. The library branches I visit the most often include Billie Jean King, Burnett, Alamitos, and Dana.

#### **Jesus Cisneros**

I have been using the new Billie Jean library a lot during my campaign. It is an amazing library and investment in our community. I use the library to get away and work in peace. Plus, you have amazing resources.

# **Robert E. Fox**

I visit the 3rd Street and the Main Libraries. As a Rotarian, we donated the children's section to the Main Library.

#### **Eduardo Lara**

I visit my local library, the Alamitos Neighborhood library and use the book borrowing privileges the most frequently.

# **Nigel Lifsey**

Billie Jean King main library. The resource I use the most is just perusing books and reading them in the library.

#### Ryan Lum

I almost always have at least one book checked out at all times as I currently do. Via my wife's membership, she checks out books for us regularly from the Alamitos branch. And we often ride our bikes together to the library from our home in Rose Park. We truly appreciate the great resource it is.

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Sharifah Hardie**

Mark Twain Library is amazing. Pedro is Thee Man and everyone are class acts. I use your Printing Options.

## **Suely Saro**

Mark Twain and Burnett Library. I usually bring my kids to read books there and attend events hosted there.

#### **Craig Ursuy**

CSULB Library and Mark Twain Neighborhood Library. As a kid from a low-income family, I depended on the library. I am so proud that having books and the internet available allowed me to go to college and be here today running for City Council. Thank you!

#### Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

I used to go to the Main Library but I use the Mark Twain Library. I read upon on the tax code and business.

MARCH 3, 2020 PRIMARY





# **QUESTION 1 (CONT.)**

#### **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

## **Juan Erick Ovalle**

Dana Branch Library 3680 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807

# **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

My family and I visit the Michelle Obama Neighborhood library often. We enjoy the children's section and have attended many community meetings and events there. We also use the Dana Branch library, utilizing the afterschool program and the children's section. My family supports the non-profit, the African American Heritage Society, which founded the African American Resource Center within the Burnett Library. My children and I have participated in events at the Burnett Library including as members of the Living History Museum during Black History Month programming.

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# **QUESTION 2**

What library services and resources do you feel are of greatest priority at the library branch(es) in or nearest to your district?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Cindy Allen**

The most important services in my opinion are the teaching events that are held at this library. These free classes can skills for life, work, or just to pick up a new skill. In addition, these classes can help the unemployed learn more job skills and can help our students get ahead.

#### Jeanette M. Barrera

The library has a lot of programs that support District 2 residents, including technical assistance. They have resources for young people to better educate themselves (i.e. resume building, job search, and college application assistance), and family storytime and head-start reading programs to help families bond. Both of these initiatives are critical for building a strong community. Finally, the library supports our most vulnerable populations by providing critical internet connectivity, including "how-to" technology courses for older adults.

#### **Jesus Cisneros**

In order to compete with fast paced technology available at home that can hinder our library expansion, I believe your digital library and computer use are of greatest priority. Not only does it attract a younger base that will keep using our library for years and years to come, but also introduces an older population to a modern library world.

#### **Robert E. Fox**

Extend the hours of operation to 12 midnight and every day. As a child, the Andrew Carnegie Library as my second home. My parents felt it was safe for me to be there under the supervision of the librarian. Also, it helped me integrate my German with my English. The written word is imperative in the development of communication skills and coordination of multi languages. We are in a State with Languages from around the world. The Libraries take an essential role in uniting our people under one government and society.

#### Eduardo Lara

The use of public computers and both hard-copy and online book borrowing are a priority for residents of the second district.

# **Nigel Lifsey**

The most important resource and service that the library provides is internet access. Many lower income households do not have access to the internet, but in the 21st century so many vital resources are only available via internet, like submitting job applications for example.

# **Ryan Lum**

Computer access should be expanded as they are always in high demand when i visit the Alamitos branch. And I support the new social work intern pilot project for those who are experiencing homelessness to find the services they may need. The scarcest resource is hours of operation, which needs to be increased.

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# **QUESTION 2 (CONT.)**

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Sharifah Hardie**

As a business owner I absolutely love your print options. It cost me \$0.75 per copy at a Staples or a Office Depot to print. However, only \$0.50 per copy at the library. As a parent I love the programs, speakers and workshops. Even as a child, I remember my Mother bringing us to the library.

# **Suely Saro**

I think it is important that we provide free computers and wifi to ensure everyone has access to technology and the internet. I think it is also important that there are special collection such as the Khmer Collection in Mark Twain Library and the African American Resource at Burnett Library.

# **Craig Ursuy**

Internet, books, and news media. I actually enjoy the cook books too. And some people just need the AC to cool off from the heat.

# Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

The readings to the young kids. That was the best for my niece's and nephew's. They got to see other kids and got to escape into a magical new adventure.

I also think by having more of them and creating a safe place for the children to be creative. That all library's can create something that is geared towards the neighborhoods that they are in.

#### **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### Juan Erick Ovalle

We must expand hours, first and foremost. The main library should be open late every single day of the week. What excuse do we have not to keep our brand new main library open in a city with so much taxation and other sources of revenue? Noting the lack of literacy programs available for children at many schools and the lack of affordable tutoring in our community, our public library is a place to take children to support their literacy development. Library attendance can serve as a springboard for parents and children to reach their goals as readers.

## **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

Libraries are important for increasing literacy and providing a place where people of all ages can access reading materials. I believe what is equally important is access to the internet. Many areas of the city still lack access to broadband. Libraries provide a space for people to use computers for research, job searches, or connecting to others.

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# **QUESTION 3**

The Billie Jean King Main Library is open 35 hours per week and 9 of the 11 branch libraries in Long Beach are open 34 hours per week - 2 branches are open 38 hours per week. In comparison to other California cities that have similar populations to Long Beach, Oakland's Main Library is open 60.5 hours per week and 15 of the 16 Oakland branch libraries are open 48 to 55 hours per week - 1 branch is open 41 hours per week. Anaheim's Main Library is open 58 hours per week and 5 of the 6 Anaheim branch libraries are open 38 to 50 hours per week - 1 joint-use branch is open 19 hours per week to the public.

Would you consider expanding library hours a priority and, if so, what suggestions do you have for expanding hours?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Cindy Allen**

I strongly support expanding library hours because of the high number of services they provide. I am open to hiring more staff for the expanded hours, as well as increasing the number of volunteers. I want all our residents, especially those with irregular work hours, to be able to utilize library services.

#### Jeanette M. Barrera

Yes expand hours. Use 5% of the money allocated to police to cover expanded hours. More available resources = less crime, poverty.

## **Jesus Cisneros**

I would fight to extend library hours to all our Long Beach libraries. Libraries provide for the community a service that you can't find anywhere else. A service that any person of any age benefits from, that service is knowledge and information. I would extend library hours to 9pm weekdays and 8 pm weekends.

#### Robert E. Fox

I would expand the hours for all libraries. Within our Libraries we can teach in depth classes on Civics, and community engagement. Younger people just don't have enough interaction with the political process, so the country is marketed to a 6th grade education Level. That is unhealthy for any democracy. I was a self-taught computer person. It would have been much easier to go to the Library had they even had courses on computers and the like. Many of our elderly still cannot use the computer, nor use social media. I bought I mother a computer, and she never took it out of the box. At 93 she is still hand writing letters, paying bills and responding to requests. Young people get some education in school, but the Library serves as a training ground for online interaction. Now that systems of government and billing are going paperless, it is important to have a place for everyone to learn this new way of interacting.

#### **Eduardo Lara**

Yes, absolutely. As a teacher, you can count on me as a partner to expand hours. For example, I can help further fundraising efforts for both organizations while exploring earmarking funds to increase hours. As a researcher, I can identify grants that the city can apply to that can fund additional library hours. Most importantly though, as a Councilmember, I can prioritize additional funding of the library to expand hours.

# **Nigel Lifsey**

I would definitely consider expanding the operating hours of our libraries. I would like to see them open more in the early evening hours. As an entrepreneur, I think some of our libraries have spaces that would be great to hold productive business meetings. For those of us entrepreneurs that have a day job on top of our side business, the early evening hours after work would be the best time to make use of those spaces.

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# **QUESTION 3 (CONT.)**

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES (CONT.)**

## **Ryan Lum**

Yes! For example, many branches including Alamitos and Billie Jean Main open at noon several days a week, but more patrons would be better served with a 10am opening. And for the Main Library, 35 hours a week is embarrassingly short. I strongly back prioritizing funding to increase library hours.

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Sharifah Hardie**

I would expand library hours as soon as I could. I believe with expanded hours we would be able to get more young people off of the street, continue to educate them and teach them valuable skills AND as a business owner I would love to be able to have more time to utilize your print options.

# **Suely Saro**

Yes, it is a priority for me to expand library hours, especially in lower socio-economic and dense areas such as the Mark Twain Library and Burnett Library because many people have access to technology and internet there. As a local public agency in the neighborhood, it is a safe place for many young people to do their homework and get access to information they need to complete them. And by increasing the hours of the libraries in the weekdays, there are potential opportunities to conduct programmings with other city departments and nonprofits that brings important resources into the community.

# **Craig Ursuy**

Yes! I am amazed by the few open hours. Suggestions:

Add 1-2 Part Time Mobile Staff to add a few hours to each library

Consider Consolidating the smallest or slowest library and merge resources and staff with no cuts to staff.

# Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

I would like to see more hours at our libraries and more programs for our children and teenagers.

I know we can go on Google, go to Starbucks but they need a place to interact with other peers that is fun. Going to the library can be fun.

# **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Juan Erick Ovalle**

As institutions, our libraries support not only literacy programs but can become central in the larger cultural practices of coming together as a community. Libraries are in essence a temple of knowledge and literary works of art that can stimulate the minds of all visitors and add value to our democratic republic. I am convinced that libraries need to be open a minimum of 55 hour a week for branch libraries and more than 100 hours for the Main Library downtown. We have the resources, we just need to prioritize education and public engagement more than vanity projects that leave very little in the way of education.

# **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

Yes, expanding library hours are a priority for me. It's how we ensure our young people have safe spaces to go to in our community. I will work to increase our sales tax base by investing in small businesses so we can grow the budget and afford more hours at the library.

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# **QUESTION 4**

According to a January 2019 report by the City of Long Beach Technology and Innovation Commission, 28% of Long Beach households lack a broadband internet connection. While about 8% of this population relies on their smartphones to connect to the Internet, nearly 16% of households lack Internet access altogether.

Do you see libraries as important to closing the "digital divide" in Long Beach?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Cindy Allen**

Yes. For many residents, not having an internet connection can significantly complicate their lives. Libraries can bridge the digital divide by providing an access to information and important skills. I will ensure that our libraries receive the necessary support to serve our community.

# Jeanette M. Barrera

I personally, for many years used the library daily for internet service between 2010 – 2013 after graduating in the middle of the economic crash and was unable to find full time work and afford internet access.

Libraries are the most effective place to Closing the digital divide is exclusively one of the most important benefits of our public libraries. It gives people a voice and a chance. Without internet access people are precluded from advancing themselves.

Job application forms are online. You need to email a cover letter and resume. Job postings, news, entertainment, the internet has become the world wide portal to everything.

No one should be denied access to the internet. It would be like making that part if the population go about their days blindfolded.

#### **Jesus Cisneros**

Definitely, libraries are the best way to close that digital divide. Wifi has become a necessity in today's world.

#### **Robert E. Fox**

I believe it is now imperative that all citizens and residents have access to broadband internet. Since most communication ever from the government today is going digital, I think we should make Internet free for all people. If you are going to communicate a change in poling place via internet, then people have to have the facility to get your message. This is the government's job.

The libraries are crucial to this universal training of our people. If we are to preserve the democratic process, we need a centralized location to coordinate training.

## **Eduardo Lara**

Yes, public libraries play an important and key role toward creating a city that is digitally inclusive. Public computers and Wi-Fi access are resources that residents need and rely on to be connected to the broader community. In particular, students rely on such resources to complete their homework and advance academically. In other words, libraries are an integral part of communities, allowing residents to thrive.

# **Nigel Lifsey**

Absolutely. Internet access in the 21st century is all but a requirement now, libraries are probably the only spaces in the city that work to bridge the digital divide.





# **QUESTION 4 (CONT.)**

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES (CONT.)**

# **Ryan Lum**

Absolutely. I support a city municipal broadband to help close the digital divide. However until then, internet access at libraries is essential towards reaching that end. I always see library patrons using computers for internet access; even more reason to increase their hours of operation.

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Sharifah Hardie**

Absolutely. Many people who would not otherwise have access to computers go to the library to use the computers. I would love to see more computers and more computer classes like on Microsoft Office Suite.

## **Suely Saro**

Yes, absolutely. Growing up, I did not have a computer, a printer, or the internet. The library provided access to technology and the internet so I could complete my homework or submit applications for various things.

# **Craig Ursuy**

Yes. Libraries are the frontline to our Homeless population. They need internet access In regards to the internet gap in households, I see it as important in the short-term, but I want to expand internet options for our lowest-income residents.

# Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

Yes, I do. The lack of funds to get internet or cable is a set back. Everyone should be able to go to the libraries to use the internet and be able to hold a book in their hands. Having internet at your fingertips helps to focus on your paper, on your essay or looking up certain subjects.

#### **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Juan Erick Ovalle**

Libraries can be a great option to assist in closing the digital divide. However, not the only option, we should strive to make internet access affordable and or even free to residents in financial need.

# **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

Yes. Libraries provide an opportunity for those who don't have broadband internet at home to remain connected. This is especially important for people who are applying for school or looking for jobs and need to submit applications online. We have to continue to serve those without Internet access through our library system.

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# **QUESTION 5**

How do you feel about the importance of public spaces in Long Beach, including the public libraries?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Cindy Allen**

Our public spaces, including libraries, are an integral part of our Long Beach community. These spaces are where we can connect with each other and help move our community forward. Libraries provide an important service to our city, and I will always support them.

#### Jeanette M. Barrera

Parks, libraries, gardens, our beaches, museums, and libraries are all essential to providing a better quality of life for LB residents. For anyone with a less than desirable home situation, they provide an essential alternative space where one can learn to define oneself outside of sometimes limited home life.

Public spaces also provide a vital meeting space. I've met so many of my neighbors at free yoga in Bixby Park than I ever would had I not gone. Our farmers market. Playgrounds. These all provide areas of meeting the people who live near you, who share the same struggles and benefits of the neighborhood. We cannot learn about ourselves unless we interact (in person) with other people. Face to face interaction is becoming more rare specially with the development of online culture and communication. Public spaces are more essential now than ever before.

#### **Jesus Cisneros**

All communities need public spaces in order to thrive in our ever changing world. Public places not only provide services, but provide community and togetherness. Libraries are best of at bringing the community together and providing what we all seek, knowledge.

# **Robert E. Fox**

I believe the heart of any community is the public space in the center of each town. City Halls, Libraries, government buildings of any sort, and social services and parks. Making these places accessible and open to the public is imperative. These spaces are statements to the glory of our Cities.

#### **Eduardo Lara**

We need to further prioritize public spaces in the city. The Billy Jean King Main Library and the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library are a testament to prioritizing public spaces. We need more initiatives like these two in Long Beach.

#### **Nigel Lifsey**

Public spaces are vital to building and fostering a sense of community. Libraries, with their educational programs and various other resources that are available, are one of the most important community-building spaces that we have.

#### Ryan Lum

Public spaces are necessary for a strong community and libraries provide our community with resources that are essential. Thus, library budgets should be the last to be cut rather than first.





# **QUESTION 5 (CONT.)**

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Sharifah Hardie**

I believe it can be difficult at times for different people to be in small public spaces together, but it is so important for us to be able to have them.

# **Suely Saro**

I think public libraries play a very important role in public space, particularly in the 6th district where it has few open and safe public spaces that people feel comfortable and can access information and resources. I would be a strong advocate and strategically think about we can do more activities and programs in partnerships with other city departments and nonprofits organizations.

# **Craig Ursuy**

They are vital to a safe and thriving city.

# Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

I would like to see more green spaces and the libraries open from 9am to 8pm. Open spaces are so little and we need to make sure we have more for our children. We need more open spaces that are safe for all children to come and explore.

#### **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# **Juan Erick Ovalle**

People prefer to live near public spaces such as plazas, parks, and of course a public library if given a choice, and often perceive public space access as part of an enhanced quality of life.

## **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

I believe public spaces provide a safe and free area for families to enjoy and recreate. I consider libraries, parks, and recreation centers as essential public services and we need to treat them as so.

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# **QUESTION 6**

Can you recommend to your voters a book you have read in the last year?

# **DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# Cindy Allen

"Hillbilly Elegy" by J. D. Vance.

## Jeanette M. Barrera

Crucial Conversations tools for talking when the stakes are high by Kerry Patterson

#### **Jesus Cisneros**

I recommend "The Right Side of History" by Ben Shapiro. Life changing book.

#### Robert E. Fox

The Auto-biography of Benjamin Franklin, and Our Big City by Renee Simon

#### Eduardo Lara

This past summer, I re-read the book, Rain of Gold, by Victor Villaseñor. It's a gem of a book that tells the story of three generations of a Mexican family who immigrated from México to the United States during La Revolución.

## **Nigel Lifsey**

Between The World And Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

#### Ryan Lum

Proteinaholic: How Our Obsession with Meat Is Killing Us and What We Can Do About It: Garth Davis

#### **DISTRICT 6 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Sharifah Hardie**

Read my book, "Signs You Might Be An Entrepreneur" & The 4-Hour Workweek by Timothy Ferriss.

## **Suely Saro**

Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World by Adam Grant

#### **Craig Ursuy**

Talking with Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell. Getting Things Done by David Allen

# Josephine "Josie" Villaseñor

I have been reading Jennifer Lyon books. The Wing Slayer series. I love reading and I have had over 300 books but I had donated them to an local library. What I love about reading a book is that it takes you away from your environment and places you in the story line. Having the imagination, the creativity brings your mind into a place that you could never see.

# **DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

#### **Juan Erick Ovalle**

Two, Our Big City by Renee B. Simon and Island Beneath the Sea by Isabel Allende

## **Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**

Becoming by Michelle Obama