

# Q&A

WITH SEAN LOLOEE

BY THEA MARIE ROOD



Candidate Sean Loloee with his wife and two children.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN LOLOEE

## Meet the North Sac businessman who hopes to represent District 2 on the Sacramento City Council

### Can you give me some background on yourself?

I immigrated to America in the early '90s to attend college. When I arrived I had very limited resources and could barely speak English. After working my way through school, I tried my hand at running a business. Years after running a successful business in Southern California, I received a call from Jerry Brown, who at the time was the mayor of Oakland, requesting (me) to open a store in an underserved area of Oakland. I accepted his invitation and without any financial

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Sean Loloee  
City Council Candidate, District 2

support from the city or the taxpayers, I opened a store that was named one of the top Bay Area stores by major news outlets. I met my wife in Oakland and we decided to move to Sacramento. We love this community and have been business owners here for about 15 years. My wife is such a treasure; she has gifted me with two beautiful children who I would do anything in the world for. One of the greatest joys I have in life is being a father.

When we first opened VIVA Supermarkets in Del Paso Heights, it was the first full-service grocery outlet opened in the area in more than 20 years. We're proud to be an integral part of this community and to provide working-class families with access to fresh foods at affordable prices. A huge part of who I am is based on the idea that you should pay things forward.

### Tell us about some of the work you've done in the local community.

I'm really proud of VIVA's free lunch program. We serve food to roughly 1,200 students from our

district each weekend. Additionally, every year during the holiday season, we provide resources to individuals experiencing homelessness in the forms of "blessing bags." We do this in partnership with Sistahpat Rivers – she is a great person to work with who really understands this community and its needs.

### What do you believe is important for your district to thrive?

North Sacramento is diverse and has such a rich history. The people in this community are great, ambitious and have a real sense of community. From a business perspective, I believe this neighborhood can be a real economic engine and a center for creativity. But...I think North Sacramento needs a real plan – one that's economically diverse and inclusive of all our residents. I'd like to work with the City to also bring more college and career pathways to our local schools. We...have to prepare our students to be able to compete regionally and globally.

### What sets you apart from other candidates in this race?

The incumbent has been in office for eight years. It is time for a change...As a business owner I have seen things get worse. Businesses are leaving. I'll bring my business experience and connection to the community and make a real difference.

### Can you talk about some of your specific goals for your district you can achieve on the city council?

Tackling our homelessness and joblessness crises is imperative. I will be very aggressive in reducing barriers that prevent job growth and will work to bring other businesses here (who will) make a commitment to hire locally. Another top concern of mine is public safety. I believe in partnering with our peace officers to build a community-based model that strengthens and protects our neighborhoods. We should expand our mental health services and look to hire social workers to help those in need. Access to basic government services is another priority of mine. Our roads should be smoothly paved, our parks clean and our environment healthy. One of my top goals is to bring a world-class learning center to our district. I will get it done.

PAID FOR BY SEAN LOLOEE FOR CITY OF SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL