

James Christopher O'Malley
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Statement of Qualifications

My wife and I had the good fortune to join the Altadena community shortly before the birth of our first child in 2016 and we couldn't imagine rooting our family anywhere else. Altadena is a gem of a town that manages to mix diversity with small-town friendliness and proximity to the greater metropolitan area with suburban remove. We love the restaurants, small businesses, the library and, most importantly, our neighbors.

I teach Advanced Placement (AP) Economics, AP US History and College-Prep US History at Glendale High School, where I was recently elected to my first term as Chair of the Social Studies Department. I manage fourteen teachers, numerous collaborative groups, a robust AP program and a diverse College- Prep curriculum. I just finished serving two terms as the Chair of the School Site Council, an elected representative body of stakeholders – teachers, students, parents, and staff - that is responsible for reviewing and allocating federal Title I money across a variety of programs and initiatives. As a founding member of the Glendale High School California Democracy Program, I have led the charge to incorporate student civic engagement into all grade-level social studies courses.

It has been my honor to serve on the Altadena Town Council Land Use Committee for the last year, representing our census tract for Dr. Sandra E. Thomas. In my time on the Committee, I have walked our tract and talked to our neighbors to ensure that decisions made by corporations in our community are responsive to the desires and opinions of the people who live here. I have regularly voted to expand opportunities for our local small businesses. As a parent with an almost-school-age child, I believe we should support our public schools and our local library, continue and expand our community outreach and engagement programs, work to ensure equity and justice in community policing, and make our streets safe for all Altadena residents.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our democracy. I hope I can count on your support.