

# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

1948-2023

*#WeAreSanPablo*

# SAN PABLO THEN AND NOW



## QUICK FACTS

	1950 Census	2020 Census
Population	14,476	32,127
Number of Households	4,244	9,446
Median Household Income	\$3,454	\$67,294
Education (college 4 years of more)	2.4%	15.2%

Source: Bay Area Census, 1950 Census | U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

## HOW SAN PABLO GOT ITS NAME

**1811** The colonial government supported a 70-man expedition to take place from Mission San Jose to explore and map out the Bay Area shores. The expedition leader was Father Ramon Abella. Father Abella kept a diary of the expedition, which mentioned their arrival to Point of the Huchiunes, which they later called Point San Pablo. Point San Pablo was across another point they named Point San Pedro, both being named after the saints Peter and Paul. The name San Pablo was the only name that stuck, later being used as Rancho San Pablo, San Pablo Avenue and San Pablo Bay.

SAN PABLO AVENUE, 1906



## SAN PABLO BECOMES A CITY

**1948** San Pablo was the oldest town in Contra Costa County, but it was not the first city. San Pablo residents had the choice of either incorporating and becoming a city or being annexed by the city of Richmond. Annexation to the city of Richmond was placed on the San Pablo ballot in the mid-1940s, but it failed. The Chamber of Commerce designated local developer, J. H. Crawford to lead a campaign in order to convince residents about the benefits of incorporating into a city. The campaign ran from 1947-1948, and finally concluded on April 27, 1948 when voters approved incorporation, 1,437 to 838.

Once all the ballots were checked and confirmed, the County Board of Supervisors declared the city of San Pablo as incorporated via resolution. Official documents of the City's incorporation were driven directly to the Secretary of State in Sacramento.

# FIRST CITY COUNCIL/CURRENT CITY COUNCIL

**1948** To celebrate the victory of the incorporation of San Pablo, there was a dinner held at the Richmond Golf Club on May 6, 1948. The guests of honor were the newly elected Mayor J.H. Crawford and the members of City Council: James Dodd, Benedict Yacorzynski, William Olson, and George Tandy. In 1949, there was a recall election for four out of the five council seats.

CITY COUNCIL  
1948



**Ben A. Yacorzynski**  
Councilmember



**James P. Dodd**  
Councilmember



**J. H. Crawford**  
Mayor



**George S. Tandy**  
Councilmember



**Wm. H. Olson**  
Councilmember

**2023** The City Council is formed by Mayor Abel Pineda, Vice Mayor Patricia Ponce and councilmembers: Arturo Cruz, Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, and Rita Xavier.

CITY COUNCIL  
2023



**Rita Xavier**  
Councilmember



**Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado**  
Councilmember



**Abel Pineda**  
Mayor



**Patricia Ponce**  
Vice Mayor



**Arturo Cruz**  
Councilmember

## ONGOING TIMELINE

San Pablo's history dates back to the late 1700s from when the Europeans discovered the San Francisco Bay and San Pablo. This timeline begins the year of San Pablo's incorporation.



**1949** San Pablo's first playground opened on October 22, 1949. It was located off of Market Avenue between Mason Street and Powell Street.

**1948** The residents of San Pablo voted to incorporate as a city on April 27, 1948.





**1954** San Pablo was chosen as the location for Brookside Hospital, which was later renamed to Doctor's Medical Center. Doctor's Medical Center closed its doors in 2014.



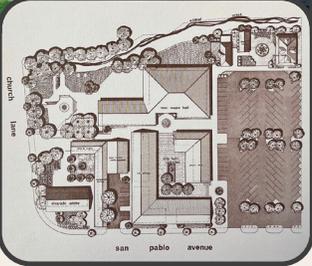
**1955** San Pablo's official City Hall was dedicated on November 6, 1955. The City Hall building was the former Market Street school, located at the corner of Market and 21st Street.



**1966** Kennedy Plaza, located at the corner of San Pablo Avenue and 23rd Street, was dedicated on October 8, 1966. Then Governor of California, Pat Brown attended the dedication.



**1978** Alvarado Adobe was replicated on the new City Hall site. The Alvarado Adobe was the home of the governor of Mexican Alta California, Juan Alvarado. The Alvarado Adobe and Blume House Museums are open on the first Saturday of each month from 11am-3pm and by appointment.



That same year, the new City Hall was dedicated.



**1989** San Pablo's only public high school, Middle College High School opened on the Contra Costa College campus.



**1994** The former Ladbroke Cardroom, called Casino San Pablo, was established at the former site of a trailer park and the Lucky Lanes bowling alley on San Pablo Avenue.



**1999** The former Ladbroke-operated cardroom became the San Pablo Lytton Casino, after purchase by the Lytton Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, after securing necessary approvals from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Indian Gaming Commission.



**1976** The City of San Pablo won its first All-America City award.

**2014** San Pablo is named an All-American City by the National Civic League for the second time.



**2014** The San Pablo Community Center opened its doors to the community.



**2019** The City of San Pablo is named one of the top workplaces by Bay Area News Group.



**2021** New City Hall opens at 1000 Gateway Avenue.

*Historical photographs courtesy of the San Pablo Historical Society.*

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