

## **Connie Chan**

Meet the candidates, week 16: “What is your plan to fill empty storefronts in District 1?”

Empty storefronts were a problem before the pandemic, when commercial property landlords prefer to leave properties empty rather than leasing out. To combat this, I supported the Legacy Business Program and Commercial Property Vacancy Tax ballot measures approved by San Francisco voters.

But when the pandemic hit, things got worse.

As supervisor, I have worked with the Office of Small Business (OSB) to establish a Neighborhood Anchoring Business Program, prioritizing businesses 15 years and older for COVID relief to help them stay open. I worked with OSB to amend commercial zoning, allowing for flexible and multi-use of small business spaces bringing in arts, professional services, restaurant and retail. I have supported the streamlining of small businesses permits, and waivers for first-year fees to help businesses open.

I also work closely with our Richmond small businesses, providing access to city services, applying for grants, reporting crime, removing graffiti, preserving parking, and bringing street festivals to keep our corridors vibrant allowing our businesses to thrive.