

Shirley Nakawatase has spent more than 40 years serving San Diegans as a Certified Public Accountant and small business owner. She founded what is now HNK CPAs, helping thousands of San Diegans navigate their taxes, grow their businesses, and get their finances on solid ground. When organizations found themselves in financial trouble, they called Shirley — and she delivered, finding the waste, fixing the problems, and getting them back on track.

That is exactly the experience this office demands.

Shirley is not a career politician. She is a lifelong San Diegan who has spent a lifetime giving back. She served as board president of the Boys & Girls Club, providing after-school programs and safe spaces for kids who need them most. She chaired the San Diego-Imperial Counties Regional Center, the organization that connects people with developmental disabilities and their families to the services and support they need to live full, independent lives. She served for 25 years on her city's Design Review Board, the local body that ensures new construction fits the character and needs of the community. And she has been a longtime leader in Kiwanis, a nationwide volunteer organization dedicated to serving children and strengthening local communities. Her daughter Mariko now serves on the Imperial Beach City Council, carrying on a family tradition of public service.

San Diego County's Treasurer-Tax Collector is responsible for billions of dollars in public money — your money. That job should be held by someone who has spent a career managing finances, solving real problems, and delivering real results. Shirley Nakawatase has done exactly that. She is ready to put that experience to work for all 3.3 million residents of San Diego County.