

SONOMA COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE for April 2008

Please fill out the following questionnaire and return to the Santa Rosa Chamber no later than 5 pm on Thursday, April 17th. Please limit your responses to no more than 200 words per question.

The responses to this questionnaire will be posted on the Chamber website (www.santarosachamber.com) after the April 23 Good Morning Santa Rosa event.

1. For nearly a decade Sonoma County has lagged other California communities in economic and income growth. Yet the current and draft 2020 Sonoma County General Plan, unlike many other counties including Napa, does not have an economic development section to address job creation and future location of businesses. Should such an element be included in the plan?

The goal of economic and income growth should be to foster and stimulate a sustainable, diversified, and vibrant economy while preserving the County's vision and values. As Supervisor I will support the inclusion of strategies for economic growth and change with such plans to include: continued economic vitality, social equity and improved environmental quality. It is important to maintain a sound and diverse economic base, in particular in our current economic environment, and provide expanded employment opportunities for residents of the County.

The goals of economic and income growth are interrelated with maintaining and enhancing our environment. Sonoma County is a uniquely beautiful area and is an attractive place for residents to live, businesses to locate, and tourists to visit. The quest to achieve these goals must not be at the expense of the environment appreciated by all.

Do you believe in the following statement? Why?

There needs to be a balance between enhancing a community's economy and protecting the environment. You can enhance both without being detrimental to either.

Personal, community and business engagement is critical for developing and implementing effective solutions for sustaining a healthy environment and a vibrant economy as well. Enhancing environmental quality and promoting business successes can and do go hand in hand. Historically, we are all well aware that this hasn't always been the case. We should continue to provide clear and accurate information (and resources) to assist businesses integrate environmental responsibility into operations in a manner that supports profitable success.

2. Board of Supervisors also serves as the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency. What do you see as the biggest obstacle to securing a sustainable water supply to meet General Plan needs for the County and for the Agency's customers?

It is vital that Sonoma County ensure a sustainable water supply for future generations. We must increase public awareness and promote conservation throughout our County. Though it is understood that formulation of management objectives is often complex, an effective water management plan is crucial to ensure that our water resources are sustained and protected.

There are various challenges to securing an adequate water supply, including the feasibility, economic viability, as well as environmental and social concerns. Water assessments of surface water, groundwater, recycled water and conserved water should be in the equation when considering long term solutions. Additionally, as statewide water suppliers fall behind demand and target other areas for water imports, Sonoma County needs to be proactive in protecting this resource.

3. Sonoma County has the worst rating for quality of County roads in the entire Bay Area, principally due to deferred road maintenance in the unincorporated area of the County. How do you propose to fund repairs, maintenance and improvements of local roads?

As Supervisor I will work diligently to make sure the County gets its proportion of roads funds, including for much needed road maintenance in the unincorporated areas of the County. I would continue our current efforts to put pressure on the Governor to not delay paying out gas tax moneys for such repairs. Additionally, the issue with our declining quality of roads conveys the importance for supporting mass transportation and freight and passenger rail in our County. Rail in this instance is good for the environment, good energy policy and good for the local economy.

4. Please state your position on the recent decisions by the County to adjust employee's benefits. How would you address the OPED (Other Post Employment Benefits) issue?

I am well aware that the benefit pension plan is in a state of flux and I am very open and willing to work with County employees and other affected parties to find viable solutions. I support maintaining retiree health benefits at a level the County will be able to support without having to cut any of the services it currently funds.

Constituents and taxpayers expect fiscal integrity and accountability in the use of tax dollars. The County of Sonoma is not alone when it comes to dealing with long-term financial concerns, in particular with those involving employee benefits. Many counties across the state have failed to set aside money for the future and now have to balance reworking employee benefits with cutting services. I will work diligently to ensure financial sustainability for the County

and in how we provide services, but also in how we care of those delivering those services.

5. The key to Santa Rosa's Economic Health is our ability to implement Redevelopment areas throughout our City. Do you support Santa Rosa Redevelopment efforts?

The purpose of redevelopment projects is to reinvest local property tax dollars in the area and spending it on upgrading blighted areas. I support the principle of redevelopment projects to enhance and upgrade blighted areas.

Please return this questionnaire to the Santa Rosa Chamber, 637 First St. Santa Rosa, CA 95404, attention Mary Ann Barr or email at maryannb@santarosachamber.com.