

## **SONOMA COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE for April 2008**

**Tom Lynch**

**Please fill out the following questionnaire and return to the Santa Rosa Chamber no later than 5 pm on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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?

**Of Course, I am Supervisor Mike Reilly's appointee to the Sonoma County Economic Development Board and am very concerned about how we are not supporting the development of business and jobs in our region. Our campaign's stated position is," The measure of all our challenges with respect to the environment, the economy and government services is sustainability for the future."**

Do you believe in the following statement? Why?

**Absolutely, I believe that the environment includes not only ecology but also economy and how best we allocate our resources. Without a strong economy people are sometimes forced into unsustainable practices in order to feed their families. We are in a recession with declining income and increasing costs. Too often our Local, State and Federal Government are at cross purposes to sustainable economic practices... I agree with those that say we are seeing the "...death of a 1000 cuts of the economic engine of California.**

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

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?

**The Water Agency would say this obstacle is having full access to all the water in Lake Sonoma whenever they need it through an 8' diameter pipe connected to their distribution system. That is one very expensive pipeline that will take years to build and if we haven't implemented other creative**

**ideas and solutions, it might be like adding a lane to the freeway and finding the traffic moves even slower. I think we can go a long way toward satisfying our water needs through having a Comprehensive Water Management Plan that includes a sustainable use of our water resources with conservation, reclamation, and supply.**

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?

**Since 2000 the median household income in Sonoma County has declined by 2% while the salaries and benefits for County workers has increased by 65%. Of 4000 County workers the top 1000 average compensation is over \$160,000/year. The County has taken a windfall of increased property taxes and given it to themselves with no increase in spending on roads and infrastructure. Of all California Counties ours is among the lowest percentage of overall budget for roads. We need to freeze salaries and benefits at the County and increase funding for infrastructure.**

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 have stood in front of the Deputy Sheriffs Assn, SEIU, and the North Bay Labor Council and stated I support reforms that the Board of Supervisors are trying to implement in order to avoid laying off hundreds of workers to fund the present \$600,000,000 unfunded obligation!!**

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?

**I have been twice elected to the Russian River Redevelopment Oversight Committee...two times chair and vice-chair. I support redevelopment and have worked closely with the Community Development Commission implementing a lot of great projects. I would look forward to working with the Roseland Redevelopment Area and also representing the best interests of everyone in Sonoma County as to the recently proposed expansion of new redevelopment areas in Santa Rosa ;0).**

**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](mailto:maryannb@santarosachamber.com).**

**Thank you to Mary Ann for calling me and giving me an opportunity to answer these questions. Please go to our website at [www.tomlynch4supervisor.com](http://www.tomlynch4supervisor.com) for more info and call me at 5229-1890.**

