

SONOMA COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE for April 2008

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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?

An economic development plan should definitely be included in the draft 2020 Sonoma Co. General Plan. It is a grave omission that one has not been proposed. Sonoma County needs to encourage green businesses that would create many new jobs. For instance, the County should set the example of installing photovoltaic electrical generation for all county services. The General Plan should outline how to develop and use "green" technologies for the environmental and economic benefit of all the people of the County.

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.

This is a provocative and rich statement. I believe it is true that protection of the environment (both physical and social) will enhance the economy of Sonoma County. The environment and the economy are totally interrelated, and if the environment is out of balance, the economy will suffer. For example, the preservation of agriculture and open space is essential to a flourishing tourist industry. Our wineries, dairies, orchards and ranches all depend upon clean air, sufficient and clean water, and biodiversity; our hotels, restaurants and all tourism are also dependent upon these.

I would like to point out that the labor force for all agriculture and the tourist industry needs to be fairly compensated, with a wage sufficient to afford housing here in the county.

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 biggest obstacle to securing a sustainable water supply is the lack of a long term (50 year at a minimum) management plan for this resource .

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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?
 - a. The problems we face are due to the absence of longterm, comprehensive planning for our county roads. Many roads are in need of major repair from the road bed up. We cannot afford band-aid repairs year after year. The more heavily traveled roads should be prioritized for complete restoration. The Board of Supervisors needs to budget for engineered plans for road bed drainage systems to prevent asphalt failure. They also need to replace undersized culverts that cause bank erosion flooding and are barriers to trout and salmon passage. All of this would be money well spent for roads that will last. All the money that has been spent for years on ineffective patching can be saved and applied to cost effective, thorough reconstruction.
 - b. Funding for such work will have to come from property taxes, matching federal and state monies, and from weekend tolls on Hwy. 1 along the coast, to be shared with the state.

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?

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?

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.

