

Guy Smith

1. Sonoma County has many development opportunities. The industrial and commercial complexes along Airport Boulevard, Sebastopol Road and the Rohnert Park area are critical to our economic growth. We must promote through developing a strategic plan for the locations of these businesses to ensure economic stability.

Developments offer opportunities for mitigation properties that otherwise may not be set aside. The Sonoma County environment is especially unique in its diversity. I believe we can continue enhancing our communities and diligently protect our natural beauty without contradiction.

2. Sensible growth limitations must parallel our water availability. We are very fortunate in Sonoma County that the Russian River flows through it and the Laguna de Santa Rosa flood plain does such a great job of recharging our aquifer, however having these assets is not enough. We must treat these waterways with absolute diligence to guarantee clean water for future generations. As a board member of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, I am working closely with ranchers and farmers to arrive at science based solutions to environmental challenges while at the same time making their property sustainable enough to last for generations.

3. As we all know, the counties budget is at a challenged state. Priorities must be placed on roads most frequently traveled. River Road, Guerneville Road and portions of Occidental Road have had extensive improvements over the years. Todd Road, as a primary artery to South Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park is in need of serious focus.

Our rural roads in many cases are historic right of ways, with base materials originally placed by horse and wagon. Each winter potholes rapidly develop along these routes. Repairs must be rapid to avoid further costs.

Funding still has all the obstacles encountered in managing a large construction company and should be viewed as such.

4. Financial imbalances are at or near a crisis level. The cost of providing services have outpaced revenues. Too offset these unfortunate circumstances, we must all be willing to sacrifice some, for the good of the whole. Health insurance within the labor market has always been a difficult balance. Many retirees have structured their lives around their healthcare benefits, making this issue a highly emotional one. Strategies must be developed to address options that minimize the loss of human needs. While we are deciding this course of necessary adjustments, we cannot ignore those that have little or no healthcare at all.

5. Having served on Sonoma County's Historical Society Board for many years, I am very much aware of how much this community has evolved. Caution must always be observed to protect our rural surroundings as well as criticisms should be weighed

carefully to ensure historical integrities are not jeopardized. Changes are inevitable and necessary for vibrant economic growth. Redevelopment of areas that have exhausted their viability can become critical assets to the community when alternatively developed.