

Ms Barr - please confirm receipt of my response to your inquiry. See you on April 23rd! Take care -  
Tim

## **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 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**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?

Adding economic development as a General Plan section, while not legally required, could provide better focus upon a critical element of sustainability and I would generally be supportive of its inclusion, provided its addition at this time would not inordinately delay the on-going General Plan process.

Do you believe in the following statement? Yes. Why? The foundational principles of my campaign are to work on behalf of all Sonoma County residents for the: ECONOMY through fiscally responsible decision making based upon our Shared Values; ENVIRONMENT to protect our natural resources for a Sustainable Future; and EQUITY to assure Social Justice for all within our diverse society. Without all three elements of sustainability, we will not survive as a society.

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?

Funding implementation of necessary protections for endangered aquatic species while developing water delivery systems that comport with our climate protection goals.

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 a supporter of Measure M, I understand that as a "self-help county" there will be some enhanced funding available to improve the quality of Sonoma County roads. However, such funding will not be sufficient, nor will other local, state and federal funding that currently exist likely be sufficient to do the entire job. The most heavily traveled roads, relied upon by the most residents and visitors alike, need to be prioritized for the best use of the funds that are available. Those "roads less traveled" may deteriorate further unless we can determine other funding sources.

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?

It should first be noted that the County has generally done well with its funding of retiree pension

obligations. However, the retiree health care and related liability that is unfunded from between \$381 million using 8% as the discount rate and \$578 million using 5% as the discount rate, is another matter. In the City of Rohnert Park we recently reduced our retiree health care unfunded liability by more than one-half, from about \$56 million to about \$27 million. Resolution of this challenge was a goal of my 2004 City Council campaign and it garnered state-wide attention during my term as Mayor. Please refer to my campaign website - [www.vote4tim.com](http://www.vote4tim.com) - for links to articles. Of significant importance in the resolution of this financially complex matter was the cooperation that developed between our City employees, represented by their respective bargaining units, and the City Council, which was represented by our City Manager and other key staff members. The County of Sonoma is faced with issues that are quite similar to what we faced in Rohnert Park, with the magnitude of the burden being more and its complexity being greater due to the number of employees, retirees and their respective bargaining units. The current Board of Supervisors has been working on this issue and it is my hope that a resolution fair to retirees, current employees, future employees and Sonoma County residents can be adopted during 2008. In the event that is not accomplished and the voters of the 3rd Supervisorial District honor me as their selection to represent them beginning in January of 2009, I am well-prepared to work for the fair resolution required to best assure the financial stability of our County.

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 disagree with the statement that precedes this question. The key to economic health for Santa Rosa and for Sonoma County is its people. While redevelopment efforts are worthwhile and should be encouraged, without an educated workforce that can earn living wages and be provided fundamental needs such as healthcare services for all, what is built through redevelopment will be of little consequence. It should be noted that the primary role in oversight of redevelopment within Santa Rosa is the City of Santa Rosa and its jurisdiction must be respected. As Supervisor, I would help Santa Rosa to encourage its city-centered development, as protected by Urban Growth Boundaries, primarily through the County's participation in various multi-jurisdictional agencies, such as the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit, the North Coast Rail Authority, etc.

**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).**