

2010  
NORTH BAY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL  
C.O.P.E. CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

COPE Candidate endorsement is a commitment of the resources of thousands of workers and the unions that represent them. Therefore, we view all resources contributed to campaigns as an investment in the future of the working families who make up the 70 affiliates of the North Bay Labor Council. Please return the completed questionnaire within two weeks of receipt. You may attach additional sheets to respond to the questions. If you have any questions or do not understand a particular issue, PLEASE, do not hesitate to call (707) 545-6970.  
Thank you!

**Background**

Name Teresa Barrett Phone (day) 707.953.0846 \_\_\_\_\_ (eve.) same \_\_\_\_\_

FPPC ID # (if not available, then Treasurer's Full Name) \_\_\_\_\_ 1286593 \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Address POBox 901 Petaluma Ca 94953-0901 \_\_\_\_\_

Exact Committee Name Teresa Barrett for Council 2010 \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign Manager's Name Elizabeth Mori (volunteer) \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Office Phone 707.953.0846 \_\_\_\_\_ With what party are you registered? Democrat \_\_\_\_\_

Office Sought City Council Petaluma \_\_\_\_\_ Employer (if any) DNA \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been a union member? yes \_\_\_\_\_ If "Yes", which union, and any role or office you

held: Communication Workers of America 1970-71 \_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership**

1. Why are you running for this position? I am running for reelection because there is plenty of work that still needs to be done and I have the experience and expertise to bring to that task. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are your top priorities and the policy areas that will be of most interest to you if elected? I continue to be interested in keeping Petaluma a great city to live in, as well as a city that attracts jobs that complement our community. We need to continue the work that has been started downtown and within our central district with TOD development in our SMART station area districts. This type of development allows us to protect our environment, cut GHG and eliminate sprawl, secure our UGB for the life of our current GP. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why are you seeking Labor's endorsement? Because I think there is going to be major attacks on city employees' salaries and pensions as a means to balance the budget. While I believe there will have to be changes, I firmly am committed to those changes taking place in collective bargaining. I was raised and have lived my adult life in union households, and understand the importance of middle classes wages and benefits and want to continue that voice on the city council. \_\_\_\_\_

**Endorsements**

4. A) Who/What organizations are your strongest supporters?

Coalition for a Better Petaluma, Sonoma County Democratic Party, Moms for Clean Air, Mayor Pamela Torliatt, Vice Mayor David Glass, Councilmember Tiffany Renee; Santa Rosa Mayor Susan Gorin, Councilwomen Marsha Vas Dupre and Veronica Jacobs; Petaluma Park and Rec Commissioners: Heidi Rhymes, Marjorie Helm, Planning Commissioners, Jennifer Pierre, Marianne Hurley, Melissa Abercrombie, Marty Bennett, and many more.

B) List other endorsements

full list on my website Barrett4petaluma.com or

Facebook: Teresa Barrett for City Council

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C) Endorsements sought

Latino PAC of Sonoma County

Young Democrats

Petaluma Tomorrow

Sierra Club

Sonoma County Conservaton Alliance

5. Who do you consider your base of support and how will that impact your race?

**Political Funding**

6. How much money do you project you will raise to win this election? Funding has not been an issue. I would be happy to discuss specifics in person.

**Voters**

7. How many votes will it take to win this election? Probably fewer than when I was elected 4 years ago (11,200 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a field of 3 for 2 open seats). This year there are 9 candidates, 2 incumbents and one open seat.

8. How will you communicate with all of these voters? I am precinct walking, participating in candidate forums,

**Current Issues**

9. Increasingly, employers are choosing to utilize part-time, temporary and independent contractors for whom they do not provide benefits as a cost-cutting measure. What do you think of this trend? I don't like it, I supported our city's living wage ordinance.

10. In December 2009 workers at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital voted to join a union. Hospital Administration has used legal tactics to delay recognizing the workers' decision. What specific action(s) will you be willing to take to support these employees?  
I remember this hospital organizing was an issue when I ran in 2006. I supported the workers at that time and would be willing to lend my name to their support again. Memorial has a sister hospital in Petaluma.

11. State and Federal law requires the payment of prevailing wages on public works construction projects. Do you support these laws? Yes

12. What's your position on SMART? I am a strong supporter who is a little disappointed this has not happened yet!

13. Would you support action that, if allowed by law, would prohibit contracts to employers who have been found to be in violation of wage and hour laws? Health and safety laws? Yes

14. Public employers throughout the state are faced with increasing health benefit costs. Some employers have responded to this crisis by reducing benefit levels and/or requiring workers to share in the cost of premiums. Do you support this approach? If not, what do you think should be done to address the crisis? I think this is an area that should be covered by universal health care, and I hope our national health care reforms offer some relief in this area. Until that is determined I have to say that this is an issue that must be settled at the bargaining table.

### **Workers' Rights**

The law of the land ensures collective bargaining rights under the National Labor Relations Act. Since 1935 this act has been the principle policy regulating the relationship between employers and employees in an attempt to ensure that the democratic process is upheld in all workplaces across the country.

However, through both the legislative process and administrative rule changes those promised protections have essentially been gutted, and under the Bush administration it has gotten worse.

Unfortunately, 4 of 10 workers involved in an organizing campaign are fired. In addition, less than 30% of all workplaces that vote for a union ever gets a contract with an employer. Workers who organize a union are subject to verbal and sometimes physical abuse. Moreover, companies threaten to close plants and move them out of the area, state, or even the country if the workers win the right to be represented by a collective bargaining unit.

16. The right to organize is a fundamental right of all working people. What role should elected officials play relative to this right? I favor the right to organize. And, I would do so if that ever became an issue in our city

17. Given the hostile climate against workers who are engaged in Union activity, what actions would you take to support workers who are organizing for a collective bargaining agreement?

- a) Walk picket lines
- b) Mediate with employers
- c) Write letters of support
- d) Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law
- e) Hold a press conference
- f) Speak at rallies
- g) Other Teach-ins? Link information on my website and Facebook page

18. Do you support the Employee Free Choice Act? (EFCA) (For more info on EFCA go to: [www.afl-cio.org](http://www.afl-cio.org))

Yes     No     Undecided    

19. Are there any circumstances under which you would cross a picket line? Never have.

20. When public funds become involved in a project (e.g. a hotel), would you support and facilitate the use of neutrality agreements? Yes



27. Should any tax breaks to business be conditioned on its agreement to provide health benefits to all employees? yes

**Organized Labor and the Workplace**

28. What is your position on privatization ("contracting-out") of services in Sonoma County? I think it is to be avoided as much as possible., a last resort. We have done it in Petaluma and I have gone on record saying that as soon as the economy turns around and we are able to build up our reserves (which we now no longer have), restoring services in-house should be our priority. Especially the planning services.

29. If in favor, under what circumstances would you consider "contracting out"? Please specify which service you would consider "contracting out": See above

30. State and federal laws require the payment of prevailing wages on all government construction projects. These laws helped local jurisdictions provide jobs for local contractors and workers to stimulate the local economy. If you have a redevelopment agency, will you require a prevailing wage condition on all your redevelopment contracts?  
Yes

31. Would you support a "pre-qualification" for contractors wanting to bid on city public works projects? (Qualifying conditions could include performance record, prior public works infractions, sufficient bonding and insurance, financial health, mechanical liens, etc. Meeting such conditions would "qualify" a contractor to bid for city projects.) yes

32. Would you encourage and support the use of Project Labor Agreements in Sonoma County? yes

33. Do you support "green building" standards? If so how would you make them a reality? I do and in Petaluma we only have voluntary green standards and the new state standards will be a bonus for us. I will work to get Petaluma to adopt state standards at as high a standard as possible.

34. If elected, will you work to appoint union members to boards and commissions? I

If they are the most qualified applicant.

Yes                     

No                     

The undersigned stipulated that the information provided above is their own true and accurate statement and represents the position of their candidacy.

Teresa Barrett

September 8, 2010

Signature

Date

I agree to use union hotels, services, and printers whenever possible during my election campaign and for all personal political activities during my term of office. I further understand I may call upon the Labor Council for information and assistance on this subject during my term of office.

Teresa Barrett

August 27, 2010

Signature

Date

Additional Remarks:

Please attach any bio, campaign literature or endorsement list you wish. Bio, qualifications, and endorsements are available at Barrett4petaluma.com or on Facebook at Teresa Barrett for City Council 2010.

