

PETALUMA CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Candidate Name: Teresa Barrett
 Office/District: Petaluma City Council
 Campaign Address: P O Box 901
 Petaluma Ca 94953-0901
 Campaign Phone: 707.953.0846
 fax: 707.762.6411
 Occupation: City Councilmember
 Employer: City of Petaluma
 Proposed Ballot Designation: City Councilmember
 Elected offices currently/ previously held:
 City Councilmember 2006-10 _____
 Other campaigns for elected office: None _____



Appointed offices currently/ previously held: Sonoma Co. Community Development Committee, 2003-2006; Planning Commissioner 1999-2005; SitePlan and Architectural Review Committee: 2001-2005; Tree Advisory Committee, 1997-1999

	NAME	PHONE / FAX
Labor Consultant	_____	_____
Campaign Consultant:	_____	_____
Media Consultant*:	_____	_____
Mail Consultant*:	_____	_____
Fundraising Consultant*:	_____	_____
Field Consultant*:	_____	_____
Pollster:	_____	_____
Campaign Manager:	_____	_____
Scheduler:	_____	_____
Other Campaign Staff:	All campaign work done by volunteers _____	

Anticipated Budget: \$ _____ Information supplied at interview _____,
 Funds Raised to Date: \$ _____ (please attach campaign finance report)
 Current/Prior union membership: CWA 1970-1971 _____

- I. Heritage Homes of Petaluma (lifetime member)
- II. Petaluma Museum (lifetime member)
- III. Petaluma Garden Club
- IV. Association of American University Women, Petaluma Chapter
- V. Sonoma County Historical Society
- VI. League of Women Voters

- VII. Sonoma County Conservation Action
 - VIII. Amnesty International
 - IX. American Civil Liberties Union
 - X. Sierra Club
 - XI. Greenpeace
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Please attach your biography, a list of current endorsements and any campaign literature you have printed as of yet.

- *if applicable*

1. Briefly describe why you are running for this office and what your top priorities will be if elected. To represent the interests of the residents of Petaluma who want smart, managed growth that respects our city's character, protects our environment, encourages economic vitality and diversity.
2. What is your vision for the City 5 years from now?
Continue development in the downtown area around the SMART train station including a reuse of the historic silk mill as a boutique hotel, evolution of a bike boulevard on East D Street between Lakeville and Payran to ease congestion impacts on the neighborhood and businesses; no asphalt plant on our riverside; increased occupancy in the downtown business area as the economy improves; spinoff services related to the expansion of our Petaluma Health Center from a 5,000 patient facility to a 40,000 patient operation; increased tourism in Petaluma.
3. Demand for local services has been outpacing revenue growth for a number of years. Workers have been asked to take on more and more work as a result, but are reaching the breaking point and services are suffering as a result. What, if any new revenue sources would you support to address this problem?
In this economic downturn we have heard a drumbeat for retail revenue, but it is clear from looking at the woes in neighboring cities with lots of shopping opportunities that this is not a panacea. I believe retail tax dollars are part of the answer, but to that we must also work to stop state raids of local funds. On a broader level, I support increasing taxes on the top 1% of Californians, considering regional tax sharing, and supporting efforts to better collect sales tax revenues from internet purchases.
4. Some say that contracted city services save the city money. Some cities have had the experience that privatization provides lesser service at a higher cost than having services provided by a city workforce. What is your opinion?
In Petaluma we have privatized both our planning department and our janitorial service. In both areas we have seen less service, because the contracts have been let to do only the essential

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maintenance in the case of the janitorial services, and only cost recovery work in the case of the planning dept. While both entities doing the work are performing well, I do not believe the contracted planning staff is viable in the long run, as it affords no long term planning capability for the city and that is an essential service from my perspective. Janitorial services being contracted out is more manageable but it does increase the workload of the management staff in having to secure the building after evening meetings. In principle I oppose contracting out and believe it can be done only under extremely limited circumstances. It is also my opinion that as the economy regains a stronger footing, we move to reinstate departments and positions that have been outsourced first.

5. Are you willing to seek the opinion of city workers regarding policy formation that could ultimately impact city workers?

Yes.

6. Would you consider selling public assets to the private sector as a way to reduce demand on City revenues?

I would consider selling odd lots and other real estate the city owns and is not and cannot use. I am not interested in selling assets that provide city services, i.e., pools, parks or athletic fields, wastewater treatment systems, etc.

7. Do you support a worker's right to organize? Would you publicly support union organizing rights for all public and private sector employees?

Always.

8. Which of the following actions would you take to support workers engaged in union activity such as bargaining and organizing?

YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walk picket lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mediate with employers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write letters of support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fight for proper enforcement of current labor law
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold a press conference
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speak at rallies

9. Would you cross a picket line?

Never have.

10. If elected, which of the following will you commit to for the purpose of building a strong working relationship with organized labor? I'm not really certain about how some of these activities play out, and would want to discuss this at an interview.

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YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Call for and welcome organized labor input on relevant policy matters
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend meetings with City employees on a regular basis to discuss issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with organized labor to develop legislative proposals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure direct access to members and union staff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work to appoint qualified union members to appropriate Boards and Commissions

11. Do you support or oppose continuation of current defined benefit pension plans for public employees?

I support defined benefit pension plans.

12. How would you propose these obligations be funded?

I believe this is going to be the major political/budget fight we will be facing as we move forward, and to me it is an issue that can end up in catastrophe or with increased education of the general electorate. In the immediate timeframe I believe negotiations with unions are going to have to take place.

13. What ideas do you have to grow the local economy and promote the creation of more middle class jobs in our community?

I think we have to realize there is no magic bullet, that we are part of the larger economy and cannot expect to flourish in a vacuum. We have just had the groundbreaking on our Petaluma Health Center which intends to expand from its current population of 5,000 patients to over 40,000. We should be looking at how we can encourage ancillary businesses that supply the center, its employees and its patients, so that that infrastructure, both vertical and horizontal, is locally available. We need to grow tourism, ag support industry--especially in the organic and locovore niches.

14. Do you favor community impact reports that can track whether development increases the number of good jobs being created in the community?

I do, but that is not what we have in Petaluma.

15. Would you encourage the use of Project Labor Agreements on government projects?

Yes

16. Is there anything else you believe is important for us to know about you and your campaign as we continue the process of evaluating the candidates?

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**CANDIDATE PLEDGE –
SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF WORKERS TO CHOOSE A UNION**

Section 923 of California’s Labor Code states it is the public policy of this state that ”It is necessary that the individual workman have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives....”

Employers have the power to fire, promote, change work assignments and other wise reward and punish their workers. There are many responsible employers who respect the rights of their workers and obey the law. Unfortunately, many employers abuse their power in the workplace to deny their workers the right to freely choose a voice on the job by joining a union and bargaining contracts determining the terms and conditions of their employment.

Each year workers seeking to organize a union in their workplace are fired although the law says this is illegal. After years of litigation, employers are required to rehire these workers and pay back wages minus any income the worker earned after being fired. Employers pay no other penalty. Workers receive no compensation for the harm done to their lives and careers. And unions receive no compensation for the impact of such illegal activities on their organizing drives.

Even after workers overcome employer interference and vote for a union many employers then refuse to bargain a contract in good faith.

SEIU asks you as a candidate and elected official to exert moral leadership and to actively support public policies that protect the right of workers to freely choose a voice on the job by participating in a union and to bargaining with their employers.

As a candidate and elected official I hereby pledge:

1. To publicly support and actively encourage workers who are organizing a union with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
2. To publicly support and actively encourage the position that workers should be able to freely choose for themselves whether they want to gain a voice on the job by unionizing without the intimidating effects of any employer interference. This includes publicly supporting and encouraging employers to remain neutral on the question of unionization.
3. To publicly support and actively encourage the position that no taxpayer money should be spent interfering with the right of workers to freely choose a union.
4. To publicly support and actively encourage a fair and fast process for determining worker support for unionization including secret ballot election or card check recognition.
5. To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate an agreement with the union within 90 days after the majority of workers express their choice in favor of forming a union.
6. To publicly support and actively encourage employers to negotiate good faith collective bargaining agreements with their workers and to abide by the terms of those agreements.

Signature: _____ Date: August 16, 2010

Print Name: _____ Teresa Barrett _____

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