

Personal Information

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Office you seek: City Council
Term of Office: 4 years
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Part 2: Campaign Questions

1. Please describe your approach to the role of elected office, and what role constituents play in that role.

I have been a councilmember for almost 4 years and I consider myself to be the voice of the residents of Petaluma. I seek opinions and respond to voter's concerns. My record of keeping in touch with the public is excellent.

2. If elected, how would you ensure that constituents have access to you and your office?

My contact information is readily available and I am frequently in attendance at many public events.

3. Have you been a registered member of any party other than Democrat in the past 5 years?

No.

4. Why should Young Democrats in particular support your candidacy?

Because I am the only progressive incumbent currently up for reelection and I believe I have a good chance to win. I would be able to provide mentoring should any of the other younger progressive candidates win a seat.

5. Have you run for public office in the past? If so, please provide details, including dates and outcomes.

I successfully ran for city council in 2006.

6. What makes you more qualified for this office than your opponent(s)?

Over 6 years on Planning Commission, 4 years on the Council and that I do my council homework.

7. Please detail any boards, commissions, or other appointed public office in which you have served in the past 5 years.

I completed my tenure on the Planning Commission in 6/05; I have served 3 one-year terms as council liaison to the Planning Commission; 1 one-year liaison term on Park and Rec Commission; 1 one-year term on Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee; 3 years on Sonoma County's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), one as an alternate and 2 as a city member; and 4 one-year terms on the Transit Occupancy Tax subcommittee.

8. If elected, what is the most significant issue you will face in your first year in office?

Maintaining city services and a balanced budget. As the economy continues to sputter, our city is challenged to reconcile services with a declining budget.

Part 3: Issues Questions

9. The continued recession has exacerbated the challenge for many to make ends meet. What role should local government play in this situation? Explain.

Local government is challenged with providing many of the services people look for in their day-to-day lives. We must attempt to continue providing these local services.

10. What steps do you believe are necessary to address budget issues for the office you seek? If you propose cutting services, or increasing revenues, please provide examples.

I think job cuts are a last step. If the budget falls out of balance, changes may have to be negotiated with the various bargaining units at the negotiations table. I am not proposing a tax increase.

11. What concrete steps would you take, if elected, to increase the number of living wage jobs for young people and low-income families?

Petaluma has a living wage ordinance and I led the fight to make sure those who benefit from this ordinance receive a COLA this year, rather than skip it because current City employees are taking a pay cut through furlough days. I will continue to support that action and the extension of living wage to all recipients of city funding (e.g., contract employees, non-profits)

12. How do you see long-term water needs being addressed in relationship to new growth and development?

I think new growth and development need to demonstrate how their impact will be as close to zero as possible. I support incentivizing new growth to be as energy and water efficient as possible, even beyond our

13. How would you address concerns that our communities are too dependent upon automobiles?

Petaluma is currently designing the station areas surrounding the SMART train depot, both downtown and at Corona/North McDowell. I joined in supporting selection of a design team that presented a deep knowledge of pedestrian-oriented development to address these areas, in which

circulation issues are fundamental.

14. Please describe your position on solid waste management in Sonoma County.

I think it is something that should be kept in public control with strict and strong local oversight.

15. Please describe your position on gaming and the current and proposed casinos.

I oppose them.

16. Do you support requiring affordable housing projects to serve all age groups? Please include in your answer an assessment of the current state of affordable housing.

Yes. Petaluma is currently (and has been for quite some time) the only city that meets its ABAG affordable housing numbers. We lead in this field and I am very proud of that. We need to continue this work.

17. When was the last time you biked, walked, or used public transit to get to or from work?

I believe in the four years on Council I have never taken my car to the meetings, I walk. I live nearby, but I love walking and do a lot of it! I'm walking precincts for my campaign! I also ride my bike regularly. I do not use public transit in town, but I do occasionally take it to San Francisco.

18. What do you believe should be done by local municipalities, if anything, to incentivize entrepreneurship by local residents?

We encourage home-based businesses, and have recently had a business license amnesty program. I support the shop/buy/go local movement. We allow for a broad range of uses in our mixed use zoning ordinance and our form based zoning codes.