

MAYOR RESPONSES

KRISTI AH YOU - CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

As your Vice Mayor, I now have 5 years of experience; I am ready to hit the ground running. My experience includes BS in Business Management, successful financial management in both public and private sectors. I managed the budget as Chief Deputy Coroner with the County and currently manage our budget in the private sector.

Education :

- Associate in Arts, San Francisco College of Mortuary Science
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management, University of Phoenix
- Completed 80% of Coursework Masters in Forensics National University

Values that I hold dear are integrity, authenticity, honesty, equality, respect, human dignity and justice. I will be accessible, willing to listen and learn. Humility is necessary when leading others, it is possible to be humble yet courageous and I will always do the next right thing. As your Mayor, and elected leader, I would have the authority to work within our City Charter and the law to require a civil, professional decorum that is both courteous to each other, city staff and the community we serve. I would require decorum, grace and civility from your elected officials. Imagine your best interest, our cities best interest, and mutual respect being the cornerstone of your leadership at City Hall.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

The Mayor is recognized official head of the City for all political, representative and ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for military purposes. However, keep in mind; we are not a strong mayor system per our charter. Therefore, I recommend remembering that the Mayor does not actually run the city. The Mayor may review with the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk prior to each Council meeting the items on the Council's agenda and add any items necessary. The mayor recommends policies, and makes suggestions to the City Manager. The mayor may provide direction to charter officers and ask for detailed information about policy. The mayor may also ask for detailed information regarding finances and budgets. The Mayor is supposed to check the books and ask the right questions. The Mayor, together with the Council, annually shall conduct a written performance evaluation of each Charter. Not during an election cycle, or because one charter officer is mad at the other or because one charter officer is concerned that the other has shed light on something. The Mayor gets to prepare and deliver the "Mayor's Proposed Budget Priorities," The mayor gets to make all kinds of suggestions and recommendations regarding our finances at city hall. That is about as far as it goes; because inevitably it all goes to a vote.

When it comes to a mayor, we need a cool head, a collaborator, and someone that will do this: *The Mayor shall have authority to preserve order at all Council meetings and to remove or cause the removal of any person from any meeting of the Council for disorderly conduct, to enforce the rules of the Council, and to determine the order of business under the rules of the Council;*

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

- Managing Finances
- Preserving & Protecting both Jobs & Business, the two go hand in hand
- Managing the (our) homeless population (all of this affects our economy.)

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

We as a city had to close a gap of \$9.8 Million dollars this year alone. We are looking at a \$20-25,000,000 deficit per year over the next five years. To make the best decisions possible while protecting the community from further detriment.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I would continue to work with Community Housing & CDC This is an example of resources that have been allocated for our homeless population, I have participated directly in the decision making process through committee involvement.

Here are some Stats: On efforts to improve homeless populations through grants & collaboration with City & County

- 2015 Approximately 350k
- 2016 APPROXIMATELY \$3.85 MILLION IN HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS LEVERAGED to assist our city's homeless population
- 2017 \$2.4 MILLION IN HOMELESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS to assist our city's homeless population
- 2018 APPROXIMATELY \$2.4 MILLION IN HOMELESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS LEVERAGED to assist our city's homeless population
- 2019: Affordable Housing Projects: 615 5th Street, 201 E. Coolidge, Vine Street 35 affordable units, 250K awarded to 9 local non-profits to assist low-income families, Emergency Solutions Grant awarded 150k to 4 local shelter service providers, 416 E. Coolidge & Kestrel 522 East Granger and Edwards Estates. *Source: 2018-1019 CAPER City of Modesto.

Continue to support grant opportunities such as: ESG, HUD, HOME investment partnerships program, Community Development Block Grant funding Continue working with Veterans Services, BHRS, STANCO, MHSA, Housing Authority, and other programs within the county to continue to be a good partner providing much-needed resources within the county. in addition, more work needs to be done on ADU's the process is not streamlined and needs to be something that homeowners & property owners can easily navigate to secure permits in order to successfully build an Accessory Dwelling Unit on their existing properties. Work with other communities within California that have been successful in building affordable housing within their communities. Continue to build cooperative relationships with other units of local government. In every aspect that presents itself.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

Do and say what needs to be said. Do the work of the people in front of the people with full participation & engagement. Limit the amount of closed sessions.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

Business is what keeps our economy going, every dollar at city hall is there because someone, somewhere paid their taxes. This concept should be key in all decisions.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

By promoting an ease of doing business and advocating strategies to assist our business partners in getting their needs met quickly.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

I cannot tell you that we are in any way prepared to manage this, we cannot manage the issues that we have now. What I can say is that if & when there are hard decisions to make I will make them with courage and a sense of urgency. What we need is re-entry facilities, that provide housing and direction to newly released inmates. Re-entry facilities: address addiction issues, mental health, case management, job development and other resources needed to successfully transition back into society. I think that for every inmate that is released to a community, resources should be directed to rehab the inmate.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

As your Council Member, I have 5 years of experience; I am ready to hit the ground running as your Mayor. Due to the Pandemic, critical decisions, regarding our city's financial health, must be made with a sense of urgency. It is imperative that action occurs immediately, regarding our local business community, preserving jobs, and resources. My experience includes BA in Business Management, successful financial management in both public and private sectors. Values that I hold dear are integrity, authenticity, honesty, equality, respect, human dignity and justice. I will be accessible, willing to listen and learn. Humility is necessary when leading others, it is possible to be humble yet courageous and I will always do the next right thing. As your Mayor, I would have the authority to work within our City Charter and the law to require a civil, professional decorum that is both courteous to each other, city staff and the community we serve. I would require decorum, grace and civility from your elected officials. Imagine your best interest, our cities best interest, and mutual respect being the cornerstone of your leadership at City Hall. For more information: Kristiahyouformayor2020.com or Kristiahyouformayor2020@gmail.com

TED BRANDVOLD – CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I am currently in my 5th year as Mayor of the great City of Modesto and have a proven record of standing for, and doing, the right thing for All of Modesto. Along with that, is my nearly eight year involvement with the City of Modesto Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment. This on top of being a customer of City of Modesto services for 25 years showed me what needed to be fixed. I am a licensed Architect and small business owner of a thirty-five year old Architecture firm in Modesto. Some of my accomplishments as Mayor include: Formation of the 100 Day Budget Review Committee. A citizen based group of CEO's, CFO's and CPA's who over a 100 day period provided the City with 36 cost saving and revenue increasing recommendations. Increased our General Fund Emergency Reserves from a dangerously low \$3 million to \$18.6 million in 2 ½ years. Hired an in-house, boots on the ground, City Auditor responsible for oversight of City efficiencies and procedures. Uncovered \$16 million in contract overspending and corrected our procurement policies and procedures. Increased our police force by 22 Police Officers to help change the city image and attract businesses to Modesto. Helped bring up to 600 jobs to Modesto with businesses including Valley Children's Hospital, Entekra, and Canopy Growth. Brought forward the proposal to pursue the possible development of a new Multi-use/Hotel facility in the vacant parking lot adjacent to the downtown Modesto Center Plaza.

Assisted developers with a number of proposed developments including redevelopment of the South Modesto tallow site on Crows Landing Road and Credit Union/Community Center development across from the tallow site. These projects will lead to much more redevelopment and revitalization of this underserved area of our City. Redirected the advancement of a proposed General Plan Update which would have included a reduction of developable land for Modesto. We reverted to the 1995 General Plan and completed a full General Plan amendment of that plan, and now have begun a full Comprehensive General Plan Update.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

First and foremost, the responsibility of the Mayor of Modesto is to represent citizens, and businesses, of Modesto and their interests. The Mayor is responsible for the City Budget direction and proposing allocation of funds. They are the City's representative to, businesses and other governments, and recommends City policy.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

When reelected, my highest priority will be unchanged. We must take the steps necessary to develop a financially sustainable budget. With the new Council in place I will immediately work to fill the vacant Charter Officer position of City Auditor. This role will be vital in assuring all City processes and procedures are as efficient as possible.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

While our current budget is technically balanced, it is not sustainable, and was achieved by a reduction of 30 police officer positions, which I was against. We are projecting larger gaps to close with each new annual budget. We are expecting \$30 million in retirement liability over the coming years. Similar to what we have done before, with the 100 Day Budget Review Committee, we must come together as a group including the City, members from our labor groups, and citizen groups like the Chamber of Commerce, to look at our budget and develop a "Road Map" to guide us through our upcoming difficulties

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The best way I have found, is to find start on the common ground issues to help gain understanding, making it easier to tackle the issues we are further apart on. We have to break down the typical siloed structures between and within governments. We will accomplish much more, when we combine or efforts and work together between departments as well as other governments. We must be looking at the efficiencies of regionalizing services such like water, transit, and fire.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

Continued Citizen involvement, as exhibited with one of my first acts as Mayor, with the creation of the 100 Day Budget Review Committee. We had Citizen involvement in renegotiation of contracts with the Centre Plaza and Modesto Nuts. As part of the Measure L road improvement initiative I recommended that Council include a citizen based Commission to oversee projects and spending and make recommendations to Council.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

California is very over regulated and unfriendly toward business. As a City, we simply cannot be responsible for making it any more difficult for existing businesses wishing to expand their services, or new businesses wanting to locate in Modesto.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

Our best immediate chance at creating jobs and economic development in Modesto is to capitalize on the Ace Train connection coming to our City and connecting us directly to the Silicon Valley.

We need to proactive to avoid becoming a bedroom community to the Silicon Valley. We need to identify and attract their businesses that are wishing to expand or even relocate, to do it in Modesto.

With the use of technology increasing daily in agriculture, we must merge the Silicon Valley technology with Modesto's agriculture heritage and make Modesto known around the world as "The Agriculture Technology Center."

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

The City of Modesto's utmost responsibility, to their citizens, is their protection. I will continue to push for strong Police and Fire Departments. A strong police force and safe communities are essential to our citizens, and businesses, and is necessary in order to have our existing businesses grow along with having the ability to attract new businesses and employees for those businesses. As we continue to address homelessness, we cannot continue the enabling practices of the past. We must take a position of helping those that will benefit from a hand up, and stop the practice of enabling those that just want a handout. We cannot allow Stanislaus County to continue to address the problem of homelessness by providing more homeless housing in the City of Modesto. It is true, as the Field of Dreams phrase goes, "if you build it, they will come." We must refocus Stanislaus County on fixing the root causes of homelessness. They need to focus on fixing the problem of most people on our streets – drug addiction and mental illness.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

I'm honored to have served as your Mayor and respectfully request your vote for re-election. It's no secret the current Council had challenges agreeing upon priorities. My priority always is transparent, open, and honest government you can trust. Unfortunately, we aren't there yet. Three City councilmembers aren't seeking re-election, we have opportunity to improve City government in 2021 and beyond. Council agreed, increasing City budget reserves from dangerously low \$3 Million to \$18.6 million, helping weather the Covid-19 crisis. We added 22 police officers to our budget. In June, the Council majority voted cutting 30 officers patrolling our city. I voted to keep them. Council majority chased out our independent City Auditor, refusing to help fill the position. By Improving City government, we can address remaining challenges. Housing homeless won't work until root causes are addressed. Stanislaus County must be refocused on addiction and mental health treatment. Voters asked their City to address unfunded Pension liabilities. Councils kicked the can down the road. With approximately \$30 million in unfunded liabilities, there is no more road!

We can Create jobs and economic opportunities for our children through supporting our agricultural heritage, combining Agriculture with technology from our new Silicon Valley Ace Train connection, making Modesto a world known Agriculture Technology Center. Thank you for your consideration.

RICK COUNTRYMAN – CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

As a lifelong resident of Modesto, Rick Countryman attended Modesto Schools from elementary thru college. He attended Fremont elementary school, Roosevelt Jr. high, Grace Davis high, and Modesto Junior College. Rick has a great love for the city of Modesto, and it's people, one of the motivating factors leading him to run for Mayor.

Rick has been a Pastor at Big Valley Grace Community Church here in Modesto for over 35 years. For the past 13 years, he has had the privilege of serving as the Senior Pastor at the church. Big Valley Grace is a large non-denominational church that has been in our community for over 50 years, which has over 3,000 people that call it their home church. It's also the home of Big Valley Christian School, which has over 850 students currently enrolled (K-12 grades).

Rick's responsibilities include: providing leadership in all areas of church business and ministry, casting vision, caring for people in the congregation and community, providing marriage and individual counseling, overseeing over one hundred church and school employees, and overseeing a multimillion-dollar church and school budget.

Rick's two greatest strengths are his leadership abilities and his love for people and ability to bring people with disparate views together on issues.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

Our Mayor needs to be a leader, for the Council, City hall, and the citizens of Modesto. They need to be a consensus builder, able to bridge divides and have the ability to talk to those they agree with and not agree with. Most of all, they need to be able to take responsibility for the actions of the council and the city.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

To bring leadership to the council, improve morale within city hall and be responsive and transparent to the people of Modesto and our business community.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

With the current covid pandemic, one can expect that next year's budget won't be so balanced. As we battle through, and emerge from, the current pandemic and the recession it induces, we need to work with our business community, to ensure we make life easier for them, allow them to get back to and grow from pre COVID levels, to employ our citizens and increase our tax base without increasing taxes.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Open and honest communication. Frequent meetings between County, water district, schools, etc. to know what each is upto and see where there can be areas for collaboration and work out areas of differences.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

First off is to be more open and frequent with communication to the general public. Hold more town hall type meetings where the Mayor, the council member for that district, and city department heads, can answer questions from, and provide information to, the general public.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

By discussing issues/decisions with the Business community, be it individually or via the chamber. The hallmark of any good legislation is to know the true impacts of those it will affect the most.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

Working with the business community on the bests way to attract new jobs, be it from streamlining approval processes, to improving infrastructure, to greater and more affordable housing on the open market, and working with our school districts to ensure a job ready work force for any potential new employers.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

To work with the county in lobbying and effecting change at the state level to have the state pay for increased costs associated with the unfunded mandate they have placed upon us.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

Modesto, like so many communities today, faces unprecedented challenges. And yet, our City Council is dysfunctional and its relationship with City Staff is at an all-time low. We need new leadership that is proven and positive. I was born and raised in Modesto. My wife and three children were as well. I have led a faith-based community with a multimillion-dollar budget, 150 employees and a school of 850 students. I have coached hundreds of student athletes and served as a leader in numerous community initiatives.

In each case, I have worked to build success by bringing people together in a positive, constructive and collaborative manner. As I enter a new chapter in my life of service, I would love nothing more than to work for everyone in the community I love so much.

I promise to offer my skills as a proven leader to address the challenges of public safety, homelessness, transportation, downtown renewal, neighborhoods, City finances and the impacts of Covid-19.

Please visit my website www.rickcountrymanformayor.com. If you would like to talk with me, please call me at (209) 568-7144. I would be honored to serve you. Please pick Rick for Mayor.

NARAMSEN GORIEL – CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I have a (i) connection to the hardworking people of Modesto because of my experience with immigrant community groups, local entrepreneurs, young professionals, public officials, BZA, and LPC. I have established the (ii) credibility to solve the affordable housing problem in our city and I have the (iii) character to be resilient and absorb obstacles that are common in the public process. I have a connection to economic development because I have worked with and listened to small business owners, employees, non-profit executives on best practices, industry norms. I will promote integrating economic advocacy in downtown Modesto with community organizers to build city wide coalitions and collaborating around the city that promote economic activity for all Modestans and enhance opportunity with comprehensive job training and hiring programs.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

The mayor of Modesto is the ceremonial and symbolic leader of the city. Ceremonial meaning the mayor should always try their best to attend an event that commemorates our communities hardwork and livelihood. Symbolic meaning the mayor has civic pride and always praises the town regardless of the circumstances. Also, the mayor is responsible for balancing and voting on the budget. Further, the mayor must administer and chair council meetings so the mayor can alter agenda items under certain circumstances to help promote public health or safety.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

The highest priority would be to alleviate homelessness and provide small businesses with the relief they need from the catastrophic pandemic we are all experiencing. First, I would implement my homelessness plan based on industry best practices that uses a multilevel and multi agency approach which is enhancing Continuum of Care of Stanislaus County capabilities to resolve homelessness issues. Then I would establish a small business Saturday every week for local businesses to survive the pandemic and make sure every small business that is local and within Stanislaus County receives money from the federal grants being appropriated. From local grocery stores to small independent seamstresses and tailors. Everyone who is engaging in intrastate commerce within our town should be able to spend grant money for their local businesses.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

The city of Modesto will face financial hardship due to the economic impacts from COVID-19. We have to be reasonable and plan strategically to meet our needs knowing we will not have enough revenue to fund everything, I'm a big believer of stability and planning key to budgeting, We have to look at every major department budget and identify where we can be more cost efficient. I would plan and budget based on what's more cost efficient, such as reducing park watering, cutting police overtime. We also have to work with labor groups to ensure they are being provided competitive wages and benefits. I would do my best to prioritize union workers job security because of their unique ability to provide quality work while under pressure. I would be more cost efficient by reducing park watering, cutting police overtime, I would not outsource any public jobs. Further, I would prioritize union workers job security as much as possible.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Collaborative and cooperative relationships are essential with other entities of local government if Modesto is going to be economically prosperous. I would work with Parks and Recs to facilitate more public relations to disseminate all their hard work to the residents of Modesto. I would also support and facilitate a cooperative effort to the \$8 million remodeling of Cesar Chavez park. I would also work with the local branch of the Small Business Administration. I am very familiar with the SBA because of my pre-existing connections. I would walk into every small business and ask if they have received applications to apply for federal grants to keep their businesses afloat during the pandemic.

I would encourage a collaborative effort with the county to help bring affordable housing and a grand central market to the former location of our county jail and County court house. Both properties are owned by the State or the County. As of now, there is a \$625,000 grant looking into re-purposing the old court house. Grand central market open air market w/Vinegar, Olive Oil, Chopped salad store, Wine shop, Cheese shop, Bread/Bakery, Cupcake, Coffee, Kitchen, Beer Store/microbrewers, Almonds, nuts, raisins Innovative daily central markets, and enhance the current farmers markets, these markets can band together cuisines and cultures of Modesto at once. Consortium of cultural delicacies hosting food vendors, florists, jewelry, small stores, game and trivia nights, movie night. These markets can band together cuisines and cultures of Modesto at once.

I would increase the capabilities of aforementioned CSOC and Housing Authority by applying for emergency grants from the state. The governor stated that his budget cuts did not include money for housing or fire. Therefore, we can still receive grant money for homeless programs. I would also work with the homeless court, the District Attorney, the county, and nonprofits to quantify the number of chronically homeless and their recidivism of using public services such as jail, psychiatric hospitals, emergency rooms, shelters, and convictions to quantify how much chronically homeless costs. According to the national average, managing homelessness by providing treatment first costs a city on average \$200,000 per homeless person. In contrast, housing first would cost \$20,000 a year per homeless person. In a local perspective, the Modesto Gospel Mission costs \$250,000 a month, while the Kansas House was \$3 million in total. Clearly, housing first is the industry's best practice.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

Public town halls, meetings, and hearings usually focus on critical information of future plans and projects that #Modesto intends to proceed with after public input. However, public engagement is not a priority for the current council because the public is not properly informed of future projects which is unacceptable and irresponsible. The area that governments have been slowest to modernize and seem most reluctant to change is the public hearing. I would propose a platform with our local government that facilitates interactive public hearings online over a course of days rather than a single evening. Presentations and other materials can be reviewed, questions asked, and public comment given. City Council members still hold a live hearing but have already received and read the vast majority of public input prior to the meeting. Fortunately, over the last three years, innovative cities have tried a new approach toward public engagement. A website that started a few years ago in Lakewood, Colorado and has since been adopted by other cities is showing over 800% increase in active participation.

The site, developed in partnership between the City and a private software development company, People Speak , provides interactive public hearings online over a course of days rather than a single evening. Presentations and other materials can be reviewed, questions asked, and public comment given. City Council members still hold a live hearing but have already received and read the vast majority of public input prior to the meeting. The results of the site, which has been active in Lakewood for three years, are staggering. Beyond increasing overall participation more than eightfold, participation by 35-54 year olds is more than ten times higher and the number of participants under 35 is more than 100 times higher online than in-person! I would use Lakewood's model to increase transparency and community involvement. Especially with COVID-19 impact because of social distancing.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

All things impact businesses. A virus that was contracted in China is now surging in the Central Valley. A computer hacker in Russia can impact the California economy. There are unfortunate events that occur so it's imperative that the city council does not overlook the impact any decision makes on commerce. Localizing the economy would be ideal. No more relying on large supply chains that can be disrupted and cause a low supply at grocery stores as this past year because of COVID-19. Businesses need to thrive in order for the city to generate revenue for vital services. Further, my downtown plan focuses on businesses more than my opponents because it's focused on localizing commodities and enhances our residents ability to display their talent or craft. Businesses need to feel accommodated and not isolated. So, it's important to ease access for customer and client convenience with walkable neighborhoods, a vibrant downtown, and urban trails.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

Employment opportunity is abundant in our town: Small specialized retail to revitalize downtown Modesto to help meet the demands anticipated from the new courthouse, and the ACE train stop in a few years. This is an opportunity to generate more sales tax. As a city, we cannot depend on a budget that relies on more revenue from property tax than sales tax. Seek cooperatives for farm to fork produce, cafes, smoothie shacks for a healthier livelihood. Utilizing local food sources such as almonds, wine, dairy for cafes Assist Veterans establish small businesses that treat PTSD, Promote hemp companies seeking to expand in CA due to the recreational sale of cannabis. Collaborate with veteran/cannabis advocates to bring a research center to Modesto. Embrace and improve pre-existing industries with more rail and air supply chain distributions to promote better supply chain opportunities to decrease costs for local businesses without substantial interference with use and enjoyment of residential property.

We can reuse soon to be abandoned Stanislaus County court house for new businesses and co-operatives to provide innovative daily central markets, and enhance the current farmers markets These markets can band together cuisines and cultures of Modesto at once. Emporium hosting food vendors, florists, jewelry, small stores, game and trivia nights, movie night. Promote a children's museum for younger residents that focus on science, environment, agriculture, technology, math, art, and civic education. Bring UC Merced to downtown for Ag-Tech research classes Ag-Tech, which presents more energy efficient cost saving methods for our local farmers such as farm management systems for data collection to improve equipment efficiency. Alternative energy such as biomass and solar panel installations. Have CSU Stanislaus have downtown classes for art and social science. Art and History district downtown with more café and restaurant activity. Art studios displaying works from all types of artists, cultures, heritage, history. A city wide contest to design a new city flag. Murals in downtown Modesto to improve property values downtown.

Commitment to green sustainable energy without obstructing agriculture. Green infrastructure to harness nature to benefit the city. Curb Extensions and sidewalk amenity zones, landscaped buffers and medians, additional buffers for street narrowing and intersection tightening, permeable pavement. Community Gardens in West Modesto and utilize infrastructure better. Embrace our proximity to Tuolumne river w more civic projects and community activities. Minimizing blight through a zero tolerance policy against dumping by strict enforcement of dumping fines to help fund for more security cameras to monitor dumpers. Commemorate cultures: Native American, Black Lives Matter, Assyrian, Sikh, Jewish, Vietnamese, Cambodian, with a peace and harmony landmark to attract tourists and family members from local diverse communities.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

I believe Modesto could collaborate with the United Way, Stanislaus Community Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, and Center for Human Resources to provide counseling, mentoring, and job training for individuals released for non-violent offenses. I believe incarceration is way too high in this country and does not help businesses when mass incarceration is high because of the waste of human talent/capital. I would work with nonprofits that commit to helping people after their release from prison to guide them in the right direction. Any nonprofit group, whether faith based or secular can help. We will need all hands on deck.

Alleviating homelessness requires a multi-level and multi-agency collaborative approach that will require communication between all stakeholders. Decent, affordable housing is an important aspect of any community because it meets an essential social need for shelter, it also provides security and wellbeing to our residents and is an important economic aspect to our community. Global real estate is now worth trillions. 75 percent of that wealth is in housing. In the United States, homes are changing at a rapid pace, but home ownership is at a fifty-year low.

In 2016 37 percent of home sales were made to absentee investors. Renting is rising in America which means the cost of renting rises as well. No one in Modesto working a full-time minimum wage job can afford the average two-bedroom apartment. Rent burdens – the percentage of income tenants put toward housing – are becoming oppressive, particularly for people of color in segregated neighborhoods. The lack of affordable housing increases homelessness which is a pressing issue our city faces.

Here are some opportunities to solve the homelessness crisis:

- Re-construction of county jail, court house, hall of records
- Micro Homes on land with utilities already attached
- Shared housing programs for seniors in precarious housing
- Rent control
- Re-using defunct hotels, motels, and run down commercial buildings with high police call volume.
- Public Housing in the form of community land trusts - Donnybrook
- Temporarily waive home occupation restrictions. With shelter-in-place orders, suddenly all neighborhoods are mixed-use, with accessory dwelling or commercial residential units and commercial activity happening even in places zoned exclusively residential. Allow this obvious fact to be a catalyst for legalizing the recovery.

The plan to keep Modesto from being gentrified by big corporations so Modestans who helped build this town are able to stay in their local communities

- End Homelessness in Modesto. Through housing first programs, enhancing CSOC, Housing Authority, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Seizures of vacant “warehoused” properties. Citywide moratorium on evictions.
- Rent control for seniors, veterans, and disabled. Apply rental properties in Modesto. Immediate rent freeze, and phased rollbacks of rents to 20 percent of tenant income.
- Transfer distressed buildings to tenant ownership. Transfer properties in the form of cooperatives, community land trusts, or mutual housing associations
- Repair and expand high-quality housing programs. Full funding to the Stanislaus County Housing authority and full repair and enhancements for all Stanislaus HA. Begin construction of high quality, housing with community centers and art spaces.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

I am a first-generation Assyrian American, that's dedicated to improving the lives of everyone who calls Modesto home. I currently serve as a commissioner on the City of Modesto's Board of Zoning Adjustment and Landmark Preservation Commission, which tackles city-wide needs regarding the health, safety, and aesthetics of property use within city limits. As a community organizer and city commissioner, I have worked with members of our community to improve our quality of life to promote public safety, civic engagement and innovative ideas to tackle Modesto's most serious problems. As our next Mayor, I'll work with members of our community to cut red tape for small businesses, create more good-paying jobs, address our affordable housing shortage, combat rising homelessness and improve our public safety. Unlike our current leadership at City Hall that only listens to special interests, I will be accountable and accessible to all. I have a proven track record of delivering results. The residents of Modesto deserve more than the empty rhetoric and false promises our current leadership is providing. By working together and putting people first, we can make Modesto a safer and more desirable place to call home

DOUG RIDENOUR – CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

As a former small business owner, EMT, 41-year veteran of the Modesto Police Department, and City Councilmember for the last five years - I believe my lifetime of negotiating skills, ability to see the bottom line, and determination to see projects through to completion have prepared me to tackle the complex issues facing our community.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

The position of Mayor requires consensus building, serving as a strong voice for all Modestans, and proven leadership abilities. Stagnated projects and proposals due to egos and lack of desire to simply get the job done is inexcusable.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

The next Mayor needs to be someone who understands the importance of not only delicately navigating our local economy through the current pandemic - but preparing us for a post-COVID world. The city has a responsibility to businesses - and the employees relying on those businesses to ensure streamlined government services that will jumpstart, not further hinder private industry's ability to rebuild.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

While Modesto's budget may be balanced in theory...it lacks long term stability. In addition to mounting long term liabilities, COVID has cut revenues significantly for short term operations. City departments have done yeoman's work in accepting the recent realities - but the next step is to work collaboratively with bargaining groups to find a fair balance for the long haul.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

I have spent a lifetime learning how to build coalitions that matter - and am supported by a majority of the County Board of Supervisors, virtually every law enforcement organization in the County, and an incredibly diverse cross section of Modestans. I have always worked to foster trust and build shared consensus on communitywide projects. The days of ignoring neighboring local governments are gone. To achieve success, we must work together.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

I believe we need to expand our universe when it comes to committees, boards, and participation in local government. Organizations like the Chamber serve as a model for working to engage members with elected leaders - and allowing daylight to exist at the decision-making table.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

I take my votes very seriously and always strive to prioritize local business needs. I always like to say yes, but have no problem mustering the courage to say no - especially when it affects the taxpayer's bottom line.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

Jobs are always top of the list in most normal years. This year, however, is not a normal year. Right now, Modesto needs to ensure the survivability of its employers. That requires a shift in thinking from how to create jobs to how to retain jobs. If we can help current businesses hang on - the ability to attract employers who recognize the importance of a local government who plays the long game will serve to build a meaningful job base.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

This issue was thoughtfully considered several years ago when the Sheriff's Department invested in a mental health wing for the County Justice Center - and strengthened partnerships between law enforcement, County Mental Health, and countless non-profits. The issue of homelessness has been a top priority for the City Council since I have been serving - and while, we are far from achieving a perfect solution, we are light years ahead of just a few years ago. We must continue to build on everything we have achieved - and devote resources to proven techniques and achievable goals.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

Modesto is facing a perfect storm. A global pandemic has paused our local economy, while rising social tensions are requiring thoughtful understanding, and delayed resolution for numerous fiscal and infrastructure needs continue to sit idle. Many of these items are not a result of the last few months but are instead a consequence of a leader that failed to lead, compromise, or produce expected outcomes.

Doug Ridenour, Candidate
City of Modesto Mayor

ERIN SOMMER TENORIO - CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I am a Modesto citizen who loves this City, and only wants to see the Best for it. I am on the Pepperdine University Strategic Planning Committee, and am consistently mindful of the inequities faced in our City.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

A Mayor is a public servant, not a self-servant. As an elected official, I would focus on best serving the People, so that they can help us help them.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

Public safety, economic sustainability, and environmental change. We need people to SEE our Peace Officers as just that. Our Safety Departments empower wonderful people who only want the best for our City. The citizens need to be reacquainted with their presence, so as to reassure their own safety and to reinforce the safety of others. It would also deter crime. With that said, environmental change needs to happen, so that we can become more economically sustainable. A revitalization of areas with lower perceptions of safety (i.e. Downtown, Yosemite, Airport, West Modesto, etc.) will allow commerce to thrive. We need a thriving economy that will garner a different view for, not only, the people of Modesto, but also the neighbouring areas.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

Yes, the City of Modesto's budget for the current, and upcoming, fiscal years is balanced.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Some people may need to realize how important it is that we all work together, to make this City better than it has ever been before. EVERY part of this City is integral for our community to thrive, and work. Whether it be a social change or a stance change, sometimes we all need to grow up, in order for our City to "Glow-Up".

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

Social Media has made a HUGE difference in relations. I am extremely aware of it's social implications and would highly implement it's use. People enjoy knowing that their voices and opinions are seen and heard, and have a "deciding-factor" in the running of our City, and it's councils. It is an amazing way to garner responses and feedback. I, also, interact with the "general public" daily. People should feel, as though, the City they make their lives in is protected by "one of their own".

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

I realize, in order, for Modesto to thrive, we need thriving businesses. Thriving people contribute to those businesses, and businesses contribute to our economy. It's a cyclical exchange, and the attentive detail we pay to each factor always ensures a better return.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

In a City where the People always enjoy living, and others genuinely enjoy visiting, jobs will be no issue.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

Modesto needs better, and more readily available, mental health services. We need to provide access to these services, like never before, and make them more prevalent. Mental health needs to be seen as a higher priority, than it ever has, in Modesto. With that being said, Modesto also needs to protect it's livelihood. We cannot simply hope for changes to happen. We need to mandate them. An enforced street, and park, curfew would greatly improve that. As well as, a general consciousness of why these problems happen. ALL of the residents of Modesto need to be made aware of these issues. When we all are conscious of what is going on, we can all effectively move towards the future of our great City.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

No response

SUE ZWAHLEN - CITY OF MODESTO MAYOR

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I have spent my life working in Modesto and raising my family here. In addition to forty years as an emergency room nurse, I was twice elected to the Modesto City School Board, at a time when candidates ran city-wide prior to district based elections. I was the leading vote getter both times. Taking office on the school board after the great recession is not dissimilar to the challenges Modesto's next mayor will face. In 2009, we worked hard with parents, teachers, students, staff and the community. We made the difficult decisions on cuts and reduced services and still significantly improved our graduation rates. It required trust, communication, and mutual respect by all the parties. That is what Modesto will need to recover from the impact of the pandemic and a dysfunctional council. That trust starts with the Mayor.

2) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POSITION YOU SEEK.

Our mayor's duties are enumerated in the City charter. In fact, other than the power of persuasion, the Mayor's power is very limited. The Mayor is not the city administrator. The Mayor has no greater or lesser vote than the other six council representatives. City officials like the City manager, attorney and clerk, work not solely for the mayor, but for the council as a whole. If Modesto wants a strong mayor form of government, it would have to change the charter. Short of that, it is imperative that the mayor be capable of forging coalitions and working with all elected council members, staff, and community stakeholders. The year 2021 and beyond will be tough on the city. We need to meet significant challenges to be successful. I am the only candidate for mayor who has successfully met challenges of this size and who is unburdened by past feuds and acrimony.

3) IF ELECTED OR REELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY? DESCRIBE THE MEASURES YOU WILL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PRIORITY.

My highest priority will be restoring public confidence in our city governance. We will operate openly and honestly. We will discuss difficult issues, and then take action to resolve them. I will conduct meetings where the members, the staff, and the public are treated respectfully. Regarding specific city policies and challenges, we will maintain our public protection services; we will continue to take advantage of every state or federal program we can to combat homelessness; and we will update and approve a general plan so Modesto can finally secure appropriate economic development.

4) IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU SEEK OFFICE OPERATING WITH A BALANCED BUDGET? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE THE ORGANIZATION MORE SUSTAINABLE?

Modesto faces two big challenges economically. One is the impact of the downturn due to COVID-19. The other is the systemic issue that Modesto shares with most other California governments, pension sustainability. On the first, we need to be aggressive with state and federal representatives to make sure we get a fair share of aid from the COVID relief programs. We have not received a fair share to date. On the second, while state law makes some long-term changes in the system, we still will need a strong local economy to meet our obligations. Economic development is essential to this task.

5) DESCRIBE WAYS IN WHICH YOU AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WOULD ENCOURAGE A COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

If elected mayor, I will establish task forces that transcend city limits on issues like housing, economic development, homelessness, and public protection. These will not replace or compete with the city planning process, but provide opportunities for the public and other jurisdictions to share information, observations and ideas. As mayor, I would be responsible for making sure such discussions do not slow the process. We need more engagement, not delay.

6) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE TRANSPARENT AND RESPONSIVE (OR EFFECTIVE)?

Public trust must be restored in Modesto city government. That begins with how members treat each other and city staff. It is followed by how respectfully the council deals with stakeholders and residents. As mayor, I will set the tone on how we do this correctly, and I will work with my colleagues to correct any shortfalls we may have. I must emphasize the current acrimony at the highest levels of city government is unacceptable and will change if I am elected mayor.

7) HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE IMPACT TO BUSINESS WHEN MAKING VOTING DECISIONS?

An honest and objective assessment of business impact of city policies is essential to maintaining the quality of life for Modesto. Just as police protection is necessary in our homes, neighborhoods, schools and work places, we must be mindful that economic activity generated by businesses pays the bill for our public safety officers and city staff. Nothing can occur without resources.

8) MODESTO NEEDS JOBS. AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, HOW WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL JOBS?

Job creation is essential to Modesto's future. We need to move quickly on the long overdue update of the general plan. When we review this, we cannot be trapped into the disagreements of the past that have stymied all progress. This is the single most important economic development item on the agenda of our next mayor. The public is rightly skeptical that progress is unlikely because it is already 25 years overdue. We also need to be adaptable and diligent to position Modesto to be ready for the jobs we want to draw here. As individuals and companies move out of urban centers in the wake of the pandemic, Modesto needs to be well-positioned to receive some of those businesses looking to relocate. We need to work collaboratively to make Modesto an attractive place for businesses to thrive.

9) DUE TO CHANGES TO THE LAWS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, OUR CITY/COUNTY NOW FACES PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY, NON-ENFORCEMENT OF MOST NON-VIOLENT OFFENSES, AND RAMPANT HOMELESSNESS. WHAT ARE SOME SOLUTIONS YOU PROPOSE TO THESE PROBLEMS?

This release policy presents many challenges to local government. While much attention has been placed on release as a response to COVID, in fact the state has planned such prisoner releases long before the pandemic occurred. It presents enormous challenges to local communities if they do not have the requisite resources. Unfortunately, we have learned from the past that the state rarely makes good on its promises to pass the revenue along to the local communities.

Our local officials must speak to our state leaders and representatives on this issue consistently and with one message - where is the funding to support our local communities? Many individuals are released with zero support structure, which makes it unsurprising when they end up homeless or ultimately reoffend. We need to do a better job of acquiring and coordinating resources. I also agree with those who believe we need to restore drug courts that give local authorities some leverage over chronic offenders.

10) IF YOU FILED A CANDIDATE STATEMENT FOR THE SAMPLE BALLOT PAMPHLET, PLEASE INCLUDE IT HERE.

Modesto is at a crossroads. We cannot afford the continued dysfunction at City Hall. The failure to communicate among our elected officials costs time and money. It undermines confidence and morale. Our city is left rudderless, when clear, transparent direction is essential.

The pandemic threatens our health and finances. Having served as a nurse in emergency rooms and ICUs for over 40 years, I am uniquely qualified to handle this unprecedented crisis. In 2009 I was elected to the Modesto School Board and helped craft its response to the great recession. Through teamwork by teachers, parents and staff, we steered the district through the downturn, while improving graduation rates substantially.

I will bring that spirit of partnership to City Hall as we seek better jobs and safe, healthy neighborhoods for our residents.

My commitment to Modesto is deep and personal. I was born here. My husband is a long-time dentist in our area. Our children went to school here. Several of our children and grandchildren still live here. As a nurse, school trustee, mother, and lifelong community volunteer, I would be honored to have your trust and your vote.

Please contact me with questions and/or comments at: 209-404-0975

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