

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSES

ROSA ESCUTIA-BRAATON – MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I have served for six years on the City of Modesto Planning Commission, giving me a good sense of the challenges that impede Modesto's future, but also giving me hope for the future of growth and economic development in the City. In my time as a public spokesperson for major California agencies I learned the importance of being transparent with the public and with stakeholders. That is a skill I will bring to the Modesto City Council. I have also worked in my family's medical insurance office giving me a realistic perspective on the problem small business face when dealing with government.

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

As the District 1 City Councilmember, I would be one of seven elected members to the Modesto City Council. Councilmembers have to make decisions in conjunction with their colleagues on the city budget, select major city employees like the city manager, and city wide policies. If elected, I intend to be a strong advocate on behalf of the communities within District 1. My overall responsibility is to move all of Modesto forward.

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

Modesto needs a coherent and united strategy to uphold the safety of our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces, to keep costs down, and to create an attitude of progress. Feuding and acrimony undermine public and staff confidence, and make economic development more difficult. I will bring no partisan or political agenda to the council. I will work with democrats, republicans, independents, business people, union members, and City, County, state and federal agencies to improve quality of life in Modesto. We need to move on updating the general plan. Another multi-year delay in this process is simply not acceptable.

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 needs good relationships with county, state and federal officials to make sure we get our share of those resources. We have tremendous challenges. Shortfalls in the budget due to COVID-19 coupled with economic development malaise mean our revenue stream is in jeopardy. We need to expedite economic development, which is the one area which we control, as we also work toward getting our fair share of state and federal resources.

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

Modesto has been paralyzed by factional government for most of the last five years. This results in bad public policy. I will encourage my colleague on the council to participate in as many dialogues with council colleagues, staff, and other stakeholders as possible. As a public agency, there is really very little that is not in the public domain. There is no reason why all relevant information should not be available at the onset. That also makes it easier to maintain public trust, which is essential when difficult decisions need to be made. So much of what impacts the city has components that require collaboration. Homelessness is one example. We need to work closely with Stanislaus County and the state on this difficult challenge. Land use and infrastructure issues also require communication with other jurisdictions. We will not always agree, but we can go a lot further if we are cooperative in the discussions.

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

Modesto needs to break the cycle of secrecy followed by accusations when councilmembers or stakeholders feel blindsided. I will be a strong and continual advocate for more disclosure and dialogue. Unless we reset this at a council level we will never regain the trust of the residents of Modesto.

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

Our primary source of revenue, outside state and federal allocations, is driven by taxes on the economy produced by business and small business. We would be remiss if we forget that fact. No one operates in a void, least of all a city of over 200,000 people. As councilmembers, it is essential that we work to create and maintain a vibrant economy. Evaluating impacts to business in all of our decision making is key.

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

Expeditious movement of the updated general plan is the single most important requirement for sustained economic development in our city. We cannot afford another 25-year delay in this. Without defined areas for development we lose all chance to create the kind of high wage jobs essential to our future. If we do not create a strategic growth plan for our future, we are never going to get Modesto moving forward.

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?

Everyone understands that COVID has created unique circumstances that required decisive state action. However, such actions should have been undertaken in a void without the advance cooperation of city and county officials. When the state acts, cities like Modesto often bear the brunt of the policy, without the state funding necessary to respond and implement the new policies. State funding to accommodate such releases needs to be forthcoming. This is really an important issue. California has had long standing plans to increase releases even before the pandemic. We all know that such releases, if resources do not accompany them, increase the enforcement burden on local jurisdictions. Additionally, there is no question that homelessness is impacting the quality of life in Modesto. We need more housing and we need more services that will help individuals to stay housed once they get there. Its both a moral issue and an economic one. We need to find solutions for the dignity of people who are experiencing homelessness, the businesses that are impacted by it, and the overall well being of our community.

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

Modesto can do better. Our city is at risk from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Our quality of life will suffer if recovery is delayed due to inaction or city council dysfunction. I want to use my skills and experience as a planner, problem solver, and community advocate to make sure Modesto makes the right choices as we begin our recovery. I have over 25 years of experience in public policy including serving in the Schwarzenegger and Davis administrations, where I maintained public transparency in major state agencies and initiatives. I have also worked in the private sector and understand the financial and regulatory pressures placed on businesses. As a Planning Commissioner, I am familiar with and seek to improve issues that impact our neighborhoods and the future of economic development, including supporting our public safety officers. I am proud to be raising two sons in Modesto with my husband, who is a local physician. I am running to make Modesto a safe and thriving place for all families. I am honored that our current District 1 Councilmember, Mani Grewal, has endorsed me and hope to earn your support as well. Please contact me at rosaforcycouncil@gmail.com

JOHN GUNDERSON – MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

Have served twice in public office, Stanislaus Union's Board of Governors (2009-2011) and Modesto's City Council (2011-2015). Having the trust of residents as I did changes perspective. Fully realize that there are expectations. Was able to move about freely and develop some worthwhile projects. Leading the vegetation management effort on TRRP was the most intensive, there were other successes. Have post bachelors training in teachers' education and have worked in education for close to 16 years. The trust granted to me there sets my compass.

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

A Council member is part of a group of seven that are tasked with trying to form a consensus on many issues. This isn't always possible so explanations are needed. It's helpful to be able to articulate one's position. Sometimes minds can change if effort is made. We saw that over CBD. We're not there to stifle and differing opinions must be listened to. This is part of the responsibility. Being on Council is what one makes of it. There is room to maneuver and project development is very possible.

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

I would like very much to separate the homeless from the vagrants. Micro (~100 sq ft) and tiny housing (+120 sq) should be added to the mix of low income housing. We should consider the community models developed in the North West. Volunteerism could do much to get many people in a shelter that can be comfortable. There's a moral imperative for this. A housing emergency has been declared and we should move accordingly.

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?

To the best of my knowledge, Modesto has normally had balanced budgets and is current. There's at least \$7 million in reserve and the credit rating has remained good. For years, City has gained accolades on their accounting practices. Fiscal responsibility is the goal. There are pension requirements coming up that will present challenges. It will come to increasing revenue and/or cuts that the next Council will have to deal with. Negative Bailout is said to be gone but I suspect the percentages are still skewed when comparing adjacent counties' allotments. I do believe increased revenues are more desirable than cuts. Would like to see City go back to the 1983 property tax sharing agreement with County. It's a hindrance to any annexations within the Sphere of Influence. Making Modesto attractive would be helpful for revenue and getting serious with the homeless would lead to that. Setting the example is how perceptions change.

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

Will consult with the City manager, legal counsel, auditors, department heads and managers regularly on a wide assortment of matters. From there interactions with County come in the form of cooperative committees, discussion of issues and cooperation as needed. Working on the homeless issue will take cooperation with County and some of their departments. Fortunately there are many NGOs that wish to help as well. I will work to convince that the usage of new ideas could have long term benefit. There's a lot of talent here and it isn't being utilized well enough.

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

I would like City to have an easily understandable set of web pages that explain in some detail revenues and expenditures. Something that the layman can understand. Should be updated quarterly. I am weary of arm chair auditors making accusatory statements. Also would be wise to detail Modesto's (and County's) standing on tax distribution formulas and make comparisons with neighboring counties. This would go a long ways in trust development and well worth the expense of setting it up. Residents should be able to see where we stand and have the opportunity to gauge fairness. My Facebook will document matters of import and interest as I did before. It's my contribution towards transparency and has worked well. City should be able to tell its version of things and should do it well.

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

Carefully and with consideration for all involved. Whatever the factors involved are... numbers, dollars, easements, right of ways, mitigation, social impacts and so on... businesses and people are affected. Have been in the position to decide numerous times with six other Council members. Feel that I did it right.

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

Work on Modesto's image, the perception that outsiders have of us. Need County to help with that. The homeless issue is our chance to shine. Would take some effort and new ideas. It's still an emergency and there is a mandate that demands fair treatment. Modesto needs to be more attractive and it will take a community to get there. Business will locate here if we improve our image and increase the reasons for being here. We do have a great location. How about making some hay about the renaming of Hwy 132 to the John Muir Yosemite Historic Highway? County and the cities all adopted it. Low hanging fruit if developed. John Muir has an international following that likes red carpet and we are set up for John Muir and Yosemite. Need some highway signage. Modesto is the county seat, it's on us largely.

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?

Shelter for the homeless at churches (1-5) units, enclaves of ~20 units located where NIMBY is not an issue along with sewer and water hookups being available. Have oversight for these enclaves along with control on who is allowed to live in a specific enclave. Some enclaves could specialize just as a church could have a situational focus. Some folks need to be redirected from wandering and be allowed to develop purpose in a stable setting. The non-enforcement issue is vexing, people don't modify behavior with such policies. Next best thing is getting serious with the homeless, allow them some dignity and perhaps malingerers will take notice and begin to believe betterment is possible. Understand that the methods used in Maricopa County aren't allowed here, leaves out that option. Really difficult situation that perhaps some folks working together can figure something out. Start with inexpensive shelter.

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

Did not make a statement but I do have this:

It is my goal to bring tiny and micro housing into the mix for housing the homeless. It would be helpful to have new options in trying to assist the homeless with stability. I believe the construction of such shelters could be a part of high school curriculum. It's possible and needed, and I will convince as necessary. Seems there's enough outcry to get it done. Will require community involvement, can't expect the government to do everything. I am well suited to this task.

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I chose to stay in my community after graduating. I worked for non-profits whose mission was bettering the lives of our residents. I joined organizations who had the same goals. I worked on projects that served the betterment of our community, one the largest of which, was education and advocacy for the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE Train). I chose not only to work in my community, but to dedicate my career to making even a small impact in it. Even now, as a representative for one of our local State Senators, one of the most important aspects of my job is being in the community and listening to constituents to see what the issues that most impact them are. I then get to be their voice and communicate that to someone who works very hard at helping our Valley succeed.

I think one of my biggest assets is listening and being able to work collaboratively with others. I am a strong leader who is not afraid to speak up, but I also recognize when there are different opinions and I am able to compromise so we can still get things done. I've found in my career that not one person has all the answers, it's important to seek those who can help educate you on issues you might not be well versed on, so you can make educated decisions. I will never claim to have all the answers, but I will always make sure I sit down and have conversations to make the best decision possible.

I know my community and I'm able to bring a different perspective into our city differing from what we've had in the past. I'm young, energetic, I love where I live, and I want my children and others to be proud to reside here.

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

City councilmembers are city legislators. It's important for our elected leaders to be the voice of the community they represent and pass laws that reflect those voices. City officials must collaborate and compromise as colleagues, and not let personal conflicts interfere. The roles and responsibilities are found on the City of Modesto webpage: setting policies, approving budgets, determining tax rates and passing ordinances and resolutions to govern the city. However, it is also important that our city leaders work closely with our county, state, and federal elected leaders in order to form partnerships and maximize resources.

City leaders should ensure they are making fiscally responsible decisions to maximize city resources without putting the city in debt. This includes finding additional resources such as grants and applying for specific state and federal funding earmarked for projects such as green space and public transit.

Most importantly, city leaders should ensure community outreach is being done and constituent input is gathered when new policies are being considered or when a city project is proposed. For example, the general plan is at its beginning stages, and it will be vital that workshops are held throughout Modesto to be able to gather sufficient community input. Our city needs to make it easier for constituents to be able to participate in the decision-making process, this includes holding workshops and education forums within different neighborhoods during times when constituents are better able to participate.

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

The first priority will be to help get Modesto through this pandemic. It has been devastating to our local economy and has upended all of our lives. I do believe we will recover, although it might be slower than we hope. I believe we can work effectively to reduce the spread of the disease and reduce the death rate so we can fully re-open the economy. There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment, and I believe the most important thing we can do is listen. Listen to our community, our small and large businesses, and our community-based organizations to get a sense of where we are and what the biggest concerns are. From there we can take inventory of existing resources, forthcoming resources as well as existing partnerships and opportunities within our community. Being part of the non-profit sector for many years taught me the importance of utilizing all resources effectively in order to accomplish our goals and serve our community. Most importantly, I want to work collaboratively with my fellow councilmembers, our county, state and federal colleagues to help bring our community back to a new sense of normal.

We must be proactive and set policies that will prevent small businesses and families from feeling the pending economic shortfall we have already begun to see due to the current pandemic. Small businesses will need a boost to keep their doors open and families will need extra support, so they're not foreclosed on or evicted. I believe that we can work together on making sure Modesto has safeguards through local, regional, state and federal support. We can only do this if we make sure funds available go to what they are earmarked for and that there is a transparent process that holds leaders accountable.

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 pandemic has brought uncertainty into the city's annual budget. While concessions have been made by different city departments in order to minimize the impact of the financial strain the pandemic has caused, it is not yet fully known how much tax revenue we expect to lose. It will be important to find additional sources of revenue and reduce waste while protecting the people that help run our city. We will also need to work with our state and federal partners in order to find additional funding sources and grants available for specific short-term projects.

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

I am currently a District representative for one of our local Senate districts. Part of my duties are to foster and maintain a collaborative relationship with all levels of local government in order to accomplish mutual goals. I've found the majority of our elected officials want to bring additional resources and improve our community; therefore, it is important to have conversations about areas of potential collaboration on a regular basis. I have found my style of leadership includes listening and collaborating. I know I don't have all the answers and I understand the importance of speaking with and coming to agreements/compromises with my colleagues. At the local level, partisan issues usually take a back seat to getting things done. You're working with your neighbors, people you run into at the grocery store, friends you grew up with. I will attempt to meet with my colleagues at every level of government over a period of time to create rapport and foster collaboration.

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

It's important for constituents to have input in the decisions that impact their daily lives. Currently I don't think there is enough intentional culturally competent outreach to the constituents in our community. We should look at our boards and commissions within the city of Modesto, and get those positions filled. The only way we can hold the government accountable is to have diverse voices at the table. Commissions play a vital role in the decision making process, but are often left vacant due to the lack of intentional outreach and appointment. I propose we foster relationships with organizations that encourage community members to be more involved and engaged with local government. There are organizations like Catholic Charities and the Tuolumne River Trust, who host "Stanislaus Sustainable Community Coalition" monthly meetings. One of their aims is to get our community more involved in local government decisions. They have the connections and ability to help in reaching out to our communities and involve them in the input process. Especially with the general plan update process at its beginning stages, it will be important for our community to be able to provide input for their vision of Modesto.

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

We must protect our businesses that provide jobs and our small businesses that foster our local economy. Our local businesses allow us to keep money in our community while supporting our neighborhoods. I will evaluate decisions by how they will affect the workers, the small business owners and the ability for employers to successfully exist in our community. I will always consider how my decisions affect our business community's ability to thrive. A thriving business community is important for our local economy and for our ability to attract new industries to our city.

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

Collaboration is vital. Being able to support organizations such as Opportunity Stanislaus, the Volt Institute, and Central Valley Opportunity Center is important. These organizations assist our entrepreneurs and help train our community to fill in-demand jobs. It's important to have a trained workforce in order to be able to attract additional jobs into our community. I am also a proponent of transit-oriented development. Developing our downtown and creating a vibrant, walkable community would help attract talent, and ultimately attract additional industries. Furthermore, a vibrant downtown means additional small businesses and local spending.

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?

Working with our local law enforcement and organizations such as "Friends Outside" to further establish job-training programs and life skill classes as well as offering post-prison services such as substance abuse prevention programs and opportunities for employment will help tremendously in combating recidivism. Homelessness is not a unique problem to Modesto. An increase in housing prices and a shortage of housing stock is a major contributing factor. We need to continue working with the Stanislaus Housing Authority and adding projects such as the Kansas House as well as the upcoming Clarion Hotel conversion into workforce housing. There are creative solutions and organizations working to add affordable housing to our stock, we need to continue to foster these partnerships and remove administrative barriers when possible. A "housing first" model which provides wrap-around services has been proven to be more cost effective for the community and provides more stability for the individuals participating in the program. The city needs to partner with the county, as well as state and federal leaders to continue bringing resources to advance the goals of the "Focus on Prevention" program. Especially with the pandemic, our homelessness situation is going to escalate if we don't focus on creative solutions to house our population. Other options to increase housing units, while reducing sprawl include removing barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), tiny homes and re-zoning to be able to have mixed commercial/residential areas where housing can be built on top of existing businesses. This is a complex problem that requires complex solutions, but it is not impossible to solve.

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

When I moved to Modesto as a ten-year-old, I had to overcome the challenges and adversities associated with moving to a new country and learning a new language. Through this experience, I developed a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunities it afforded me and developed a desire to give back. I entered the nonprofit sector after college and soon learned we can accomplish more by collaborating. Every job I've held and project I've worked on has been based on that philosophy. I'm a proactive leader who knows we can reach our full potential as a community by working together. As a representative for one of our state legislators, I have learned to further work with all branches of government and local community groups to achieve the collaborative end goal of improving our community. I know what it takes and I'm passionate about Modesto. As your councilwoman, I hope to tap into existing resources and affirm to continue listening to our community, just like I've done my entire career. I'm raising my family here and I want my sons to be as proud of Modesto as I am. Casting your vote for me, will add your voice to our city.

AMIN VOHRA - MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I have served as a commissioner on the Planning Commission and as a chairman of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) since 2016 to present. I have also served on the Human Relations Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission for the city of Modesto. As per my education, I hold a Master's degree in business (MBA).

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

To provide safety and security for all residents and to always make informed decisions which will benefit our city and its residents for generations to come. To listen and assist residents of my district and our city with issues or challenges they may face.

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

My highest priority would be to address and work on the safety of our residents in our current COVID-19 crisis. In addition, bring great paying jobs into our community, as well as improve our roads and infrastructure.

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-19 pandemic, tax revenue has slowed down since the early part of 2020. Moving forward, re-balancing is needed and hard choices need to be made in our upcoming budget. Public safety and social services would be the highest priority.

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

The City of Modesto is the largest city in our County and if elected, I would work with the County Board of Supervisors and all other agencies to ensure our common goals are met for the betterment of our great city.

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

The truest form of democracy is only seen at the local government level by solving local issues and challenges faced by our residents. The only way elected officials can be effective is by responding quickly to issues faced by residents and coming up with solutions to their issues. I will always be available to all residents of our city with any challenges they might face and I will work tirelessly to help our community to overcome them.

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

Small businesses are key and play such a vital role in our economy through creating thousands of jobs for our residents. These businesses are the backbone of our economy and their challenges and concerns will be a top priority.

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

The development of high paying jobs is one of my most important goals, and to achieve this, I will personally reach out to big tech and manufacturing giants to establish their footprint in our city.

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?

These are many interconnected, major problems our city faces, and the bridge from prisoner to homelessness has been a big problem for the last 15 to 20 years and is becoming increasingly worse as our City/County laws become more lenient. On day one, I will sit down with all associated agencies and work together to come up with solutions to these significant problems. I will laboriously work to devise plans/programs to permanently fix these issues. Only together, can we resolve this.

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

I grew up in the city of Modesto and it's the city that defines me. I have lived in our beautiful city since the age of 10. I've been married to my loving wife for last 20 years and have three wonderful children; ages fifteen, thirteen and three years of age. I have dedicated many years to learning about the city and giving back through participation in the Equal Opportunity Commission and Human Relations Commission while serving on the Planning Commission from 2016 to present. I have also served on the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) from 2016 to currently serving as chairman for the BZA. I will make sure to dedicate my time to making improvements that will impact everyone; our children, our adults and our seniors. Electing me means seeing improvements in public safety, improvements on road infrastructure and creating job opportunities by working with bigger corporations to open satellite offices in our city. My goal is to take what we have as a city and work effortlessly to not only sustain our community, but bring growth and improvement. My years of experience in the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning can be translated into effectively carrying out the role of "Councilman for District 1" and taking the next steps towards change. A vote for me is the change we need!

**JIM APPLGATE - MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3
NO RESPONSE**

JANICE KEATING - MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I served in the same position 12 years ago from 2002-2009 in a citywide election and beat an incumbent. I understand how to navigate bureaucracy and effectively solve problems. I have remained engaged with local politics and issues and clearly understand what issues people in District 3 and citywide are most concerned about. I have experience with ever shrinking revenues. I served in the middle of the "great recession". These upcoming budget shortfalls are going to pale in comparison and its no time for a beginner with no experience to learn on the job.

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

Oversight of city services, budgets and policy guidance.

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

My highest priority would be balancing the need for more public safety not less with the other services expected from the public. The last budget cut deeply into the sworn positions of both police and fire. I would implement the reasonable review of the various depts, their expenditures and priorities compared to what the public needs, the city can afford and the workforce expected to accomplish the basics. All other expenditures/positions should result in the redirection of funds from other departments to our public safety functions.

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's budget is "technically" balanced but was only done by taking almost ALL the City's budget reserves to do so. That trick can only be accomplished once. Partially cut from answer #4: I would implement the reasonable review of the various depts, their expenditures and priorities compared to what the public needs, the city can afford and the workforce expected to accomplish the basics. All other expenditures/positions should result in the redirection of funds from other departments to our public safety functions.

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

Some of the basic problems in our community are homelessness, transportation infrastructure and attracting employment. Hard to deal with any of these regional issues without communication with our neighbors, the county or business owners. It's all a matter of how willing the collective group is to engage, listen, understand and adjust as the clock ticks on these ever-changing issues.

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

1) Schedule Council Committee meetings to a time for the working public to attend and participate fully – in the evening as they always used to be.

2) Spend enough time on vetting items (let's stop rushing this, it's incredibly important) and issues prior to exhibition at the full council to flesh out just what is or isn't an issue or problem. What can be adjusted, changed or revisited.

3) Continue to allow email communication regarding specific issues before the council – such as adopted during the pandemic – and have a full reading of those concerns OUT LOUD. It allows people to communicate without sitting in the Chambers (sometimes for hours) to speak at the podium and watch from home but still be heard.

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

The same way I view issues not impacting the business community. Does the staff recommendation make sense? Is it well thought out? Who is it harming? Who is it helping? How is the tilt in the presentation? I have a business. My husband has a business. We are only too familiar with the regulations of government that sometimes have no understanding of the real-world impacts to the object of the policy being presented.

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

That's a good question that is perhaps beyond the reach of local elected officials as every time a "measure" or "solution" is presented the competing factions immediately stop listening to one another and go on attack placing politicians in the middle. I'm open to ideas and I'll evaluate them as they are presented in the future. For now, I'll do everything in my power to help those providing jobs and employment now succeed and overcome any obstacles they may encounter with the bureaucracy.

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?

A loaded question that will depend on how creative, as a community, we can be in determining that OUR sanctuary is our city and what pressure we as a local Charter City can impose with "ordinances" specific to protect the REST of us who want nothing more than quality of life, peace in our neighborhoods and freedom of movement without fear ourselves.

A lot has changed in the last twelve years that I need to understand – legally, realistically, practically - before I can ever lay out a path to the consideration of everyone in Modesto not just the criminals and homeless.

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

It has been twelve years since my service on the City Council. Modesto again faces serious challenges: fewer police officers patrolling your neighborhood, increasing homelessness, and a lack of budget priorities. By 5–2 at their June 30th meeting, the Council voted to cut the number of sworn police officers. A Council majority refused to make the tough decisions that would redirect funds to keep our officers. We can do better. Even before homelessness was front-page news, I spearheaded efforts to open the Berberian Homeless Shelter by cutting red tape and mobilizing local businesses and benefactors. Current efforts to address homelessness are bogged down in government bureaucracy and ineffectiveness. We can do better. City government lacks clear focus and budget discipline. We can do better. Experience has taught me that collaboration and shared purpose solves problems. We don't always have to agree, but we should always respectfully work for solutions benefitting our residents, taxpayers, local businesses, and non-profit groups. I love our City and want to make it even better. With my energy, time, and focus, I will tackle our challenges and always put your interests ahead of the special interests. Thank you for your consideration. Email me at janice@janicekeating.com or call me at 209-765-5851.

CHRIS RICCI - MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 3

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I run Chris Ricci Presents, Inc., a production and marketing company that has had a positive impact on our local community. I am a current member of the Modesto Rotary Club. Previously I was an original member of the Stanislaus County Boys and Girls Club Board, served on the board of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, and on the Stanislaus Education Foundation.

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

That's why I set the tone my campaign with a clear list of what we should do to improve our city with my #100ideasforModesto - <https://chrisricciforcouncil.com/100-ideas>

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

Increasing the inventory of affordable housing. The fastest and more efficient way to do this is through adjusting zoning to allow quick development especially in newly vacant commercial properties and ensuring that fees are favorable. I also believe that Mother in law residences (aka tiny houses or ADUs) are a fantastic way to increase supply, provide investment income for homeowners, and increase property values.

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?

Although the City of Modesto started with a balanced budget with the hard-economic hit that we are taking from covid massive budget adjustments will have to be made. Although the task to balance the budget will be a difficult one, it also will be an opportunity. We are going to be forced to look at city departments and that might allow us to find ways for them to achieve the same jobs but for a lower cost. Once we've exhausted all the possibilities for cost savings, my plan will be to listen to my colleagues, city departments, city staff, and the citizens to try to make the best decisions for everyone in the city.

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

It is painfully obvious that our country is divided along some strong partisan lines. However, there are numerous things that we all agree on and those are the areas that we should focus first. I have #100ideasforModesto as part of my campaign. I will be taking these ideas to city staff and seeing which of them could be easily implemented or perhaps which ones have already been put in place and could use a boost. From there I will work it through with my colleagues. In fact some of our ideas are the same. For example when I was speaking with Rick Countryman the other day, tiny houses are an idea that he is also interested in. Conversations like this are encouraging to the future of our local government.

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

In my #100ideasforModesto I have a host of initiatives to make government more transparent and responsive. We need to increase the communication budgets, increase email communications with citizens, and do a more effective job on digital platforms. We also need to create more space for community input rather than jockeying council schedules to limit public comment.

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

As a business person myself I have a strong understanding on how government can influence you in a positive and negative way. I will be able to look at new city legislation and have a good eye on what it will be like for businesses on the ground based on 20 years of working nearly every day with the City to produce events that they have to permit on half a dozen levels.

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

Covid is rapidly deconstructing our local economy. We are losing dozens of our most successful businesses to the epidemic. Many of them will likely never return. Although local government will not have money to rebuild local businesses, we can help them recover by permitting them to use city spaces to generate rent / utility free income and creating public/private partnerships as a vehicle to relaunch local businesses. The more we work together as a community the more local businesses we can bring back and the more new ones we can make. In addition my first priority, increasing the supply of affordable housing, will also be a job creator that will not only create consistent and sustainable construction work, but also stimulate sales in the real estate and retail sectors.

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?

Our homeless problem has been compounding year after year after year based on bad decisions by government especially in zoning / development and mental health. Homelessness isn't a problem that can be fixed in broad strokes. There are 30 different kinds of homeless people and they all need a different solution to get them off the streets. Some of the things that we can do locally is create solutions that solve the big 3 issues that make people homeless, mental illness, drug / alcohol addiction, and economic collapse. We already have some talented and incredible local people working on these solutions through programs like Heart, Focus on Prevention, and Cares. My initiatives of working on affordable housing and economic development will also have a positive impact on homelessness. In terms of the State of California early release regulations there isn't a lot we can do locally to change that. From a Modesto perspective, we are going to be forced by funding losses to reorganize our city departments to be more budget efficient. It is my hope that we can organize departments in such a way to better address all the issues that the city is facing including crime.

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

Harnessing the energy of the community has been my profession for the past 25 years. I moved to Modesto in 1999 after promoting here for several years. I produced hundreds of events with the help of countless local partners and saw Modesto really grow into a vibrant city. When the 2008 recession hit, many families and businesses never recovered. Covid-19 has hit even harder. All of this is happening as we weigh what Modesto was and what Modesto will be. These challenges have solutions in collaboration and innovation. I found success in my business by adapting to market changes and listening to the community. Government can and should work the exact same way. Modesto has this bright future. We just need to listen to the community, find fresh ideas, and seize opportunities. Our leaders have not allowed Modesto to evolve but working together we will create the brighter and more hopeful future that we deserve. I developed a living list of 100 ideas to improve Modesto. We need to start thinking outside the box. I believe in the limitless potential of Modesto, and I will help get us there if you vote for me, Chris Ricci, for Modesto City Council.

HUNTER SAULS – MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

I was born and raised in Modesto and I spent 3 and a half years in the US Army. Combined with the life experience, the hardworking mentality and drive that was given to me by the military and my dedication to helping my home town, this is what I believe are my qualifications to run for the Modesto City Council.

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

The role of the City Councilmember of Modesto is to work to approve budgets, pass ordinances and policy, and among other things work towards making Modesto a better place for its constituents. The overall responsibility of a councilmember should be to do right be their constituents and to serve their community with humility and honesty.

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

If I am elected, my highest priority in office would be to help Modestans get their jobs back, to bring business back, and to revitalize our economy after COVID has ravaged it. I aim to start doing that by pushing to raise businesses incentives to attract more people to want to start a new business here in Modesto and give new opportunities for people to find jobs again.

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's budget is stable as of now, however COVID has brought some concerns as to how it will affect the city's budget in the coming years. If elected, I will strive to do my best to make sure that any impacts that COVID may have on the future budgets of Modesto are taken care of and that we do whatever we can to make sure the City has an adequate budget to perform its duties for its citizens.

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

As an elected official, I would encourage collaboration and cooperation with other units of local government by being open and available to them. To talk with them about everything and anything that needs addressing. The first thing we need to do to have effective government is just being able to communicate with one another effectively and I will strive to always be open to talk to with anyone about anything.

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

My plans to make government more transparent and responsive is just to be open and readily available to my constituents. Just like I would be for other government workers, I want to be open for anyone that wants to talk with me about anything. I also would like to hold a bi-weekly town hall or sorts, where I could speak face to face with Modestans and be able to hear their concerns about what's going on in Modesto, know what City Hall is doing to resolve those issues, and to be open and honest to them about the things they are most concerned about.

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

I evaluate impact to business when voting based on how the person or the proposition is going to both immediately and in the future impact business. It is essential that we always take in the short term and long-term effects of what is on the ballot will do for business before we make that decision to vote on it.

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

As I previously stated, I will do my best to bring jobs back to Modesto by pushing for higher business incentives to bring new businesses and new job opportunities to Modesto. At the same time, I would make an effort to make sure that the public is well informed of new job opportunities as new business come to Modesto so that they can get a chance to apply and get these new jobs as they become available.

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 solution to these new problems of non-enforcement of most non-violent offenses, and early prisoner release is the ability of our police department to effectively keep our streets safe. As a councilmember I will make sure that our police department has the proper funding to do their jobs effectively and properly. In terms of rampant homelessness, we must strive to give those who are searching for a new opportunity that chance. By putting more effort into supportive housing and services so homeless people can be given the chance to pull themselves out of their dire situation.

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

I was born and raised in Modesto and have always known it as my home. I will bring the same hardworking and dedicated spirit I had while in the United States Army to the Modesto City Council. I would like to bring more business back to Modesto by increasing incentives for people to want to start new businesses here in Modesto. I would also like to see our relationship and trust between the police and the citizenry rekindle by installing a stronger accountability system and a civilian oversight committee to make sure that people begin to trust the police and the police do their jobs properly. I humbly submit myself as a candidate for the Modesto City Council for District 6, and I respectfully ask for your support and your vote. Voting for me means voting for a new and fresh change to the City Council. A vote for me, is a vote for a better Modesto. - Hunter Sauls

DAVID WRIGHT – MODESTO CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6

1) WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN?

As a business owner here in Modesto since 1985, I have successfully been able to grow my small business during both the upturns and downturns in the economy. We need strong leadership in our city government with elected officials that can manage our finances and give unified direction to the city manager and their staff. I have served on different city committees over the years and have substantial knowledge on the inner workings of local government.

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

Serving as a city councilmember, it is important that our elected officials give clear direction and leadership to our city manager, while also supporting local businesses as well as our citizens here in Modesto. Keeping our city safe with a commitment to public safety while making our city a desirable place to live will be one of my priorities as councilmember. Managing our city budget during the next 4 years will be a task that requires the full attention of the councilmembers. Having to manage my own business and budget has given me a unique advantage over the other candidates in my district that are running.

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

Public safety, managing a coming budget deficit, homeless, housing and retirement funding for city employees are the main issues that we need to be concerned about. With respect to public safety, we need to make sure that public safety is one of our top priorities. It will take all of us working together with our public safety groups to put together a plan that keeps our citizens safe without cutting services. Homeless issues here in Modesto have been a concern for many years. The county, along with other groups like Focus on Prevention have made some strides over the past few years. We need to continue to support them along with supporting our non-profits groups that are working to help the homeless population. On housing, we need to open up areas for affordable housing so young families can afford to live here. We also need to work with developers that utilize innovative techniques like prefabricated homes. Our coming public retirement debt burden is one thing we need to prepare for. We can do this by continuing to work with our different union representatives to strategically keep our retirement funds financially sound.

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 has operated with a balanced budget for several years now and has grown their reserves from 3 million four years ago to close to 18 million as of the end of last year. We need to continue to work toward increasing the surplus for the next four years to help with the retirement obligations that we face in coming years.

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

Having regular meetings with department heads to understand their concerns is something I will be doing to build a good working relationship with our city management team.

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

Modesto has been improving. The City has been more responsive and transparent over the last few years and I will be encouraging more transparency in the coming years.

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

As a small business owner, I know the impact that decisions made by local government can have on your ability to succeed. My 35 years of experience and my business contacts here in Modesto will help me see what impact our decisions may have on businesses.

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

Modesto's job market is strong in many areas. Our biggest challenge is that we do not have enough of a skilled workforce to meet the demands. Opportunity Stanislaus is a prime example of how the government and the private sector have come together to fill the need for skilled labor in some areas. We need to continue to expand on that by supporting local college programs and as our skilled labor increases, that will help bring additional jobs to the area.

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?

Changing the makeup of our state elected officials in Sacramento. We need to elect people that want to see a safer community and hold our elected officials accountable for laws that hurt our committee.

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

For 35 years I have called Modesto home for my family and small business. During that time, we have seen great changes in our community. Moving forward, we face increasing challenges that will require a mature, focused and united city council to keep you and your homes safe and to improve the overall quality of life in our community. Being financially responsible, bringing good quality jobs to our community, improving roads, public safety and providing affordable housing for existing and new members of our great city will be my top priorities. Modesto is a great place to live, work and play. As your city councilmember, I will fight alongside you to make sure each and every member of this community has the opportunity to thrive.

