

# 2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

## MID Board of Directors Division 3

### **Nick Dokoozlian**

#### **1. What are your qualifications?**

Having been born in Fresno and moving to Modesto when I was five years old, I have always lived in the Central Valley of California. I come from a family of farmers and those that work in agriculture. I understand how important water and electricity is to our area and the challenges that we face as a region. I have extensive experience working in government offices and for the past few years worked in local government, serving as Field Representative for the County Board of Supervisors. It is in this occupation that I serve the residents and assist them with help that they may need from their local government. As your MID Director, I would bring the same service mentality to the MID Board to make sure that our services are efficient and responsive. In addition to my qualifications, I hold the endorsements of the MID Directors Paul Campbell, John Mensigner, and Stu Gilman, as well as the entire Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, and other leaders in our community. (For a full list visit [nickformid.com](http://nickformid.com))

#### **2. What would be your top priorities?**

Our ratepayers will always be my top priority. To do this we must:

1. Keep our rates low— both electric and water rates need to be kept as low as possible, especially during this inflationary period. We cannot and should not raise rates during this period and I will fight to ensure our rates stay where they're at.
2. Protect our water— We must protect our water from the State's "Water Grab." Our citizens, businesses, and growers need an abundance of clean, affordable, and reliable water to prosper as a region. I will work with our community and work on enhancing our relationships with local partners and coalitions so that we keep every last drop of water.
3. Put our ratepayers first— Whatever the board does must be done in the best interests of our ratepayers. I will always be loyal to you and the district if elected to the board. I will be transparent, open, and always available to talk to our residents about decisions that the board makes. At the end of the day, we answer to you, the people— not special interests that seek to utilize this public utility for personal gain.

#### **3. How can MID help businesses in their service area?**

I believe that best way MID can assist our businesses in the service area is to be responsive and proactive in our actions. We must take action to fix issues before they become bigger problems. That includes updating infrastructure to ensure that our electricity and water are being serviced as efficiently as

possible. I would also look at potentially developing a smart phone application to pay bills and to report issues. Both Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto have utilized these applications and have had great responses. At the end of the day, I will always be an advocate for our local businesses because when they are successful, our entire community benefits.

#### **4. What are the greatest challenges MID faces and how would you address them?**

Working together on addressing the State's "Water Grab," complying with state groundwater regulations, and our transition to renewable energy mandated by the state can only be done successfully with a strong MID Board. To do this we must:

1. More Communication— The MID Board needs to communicate better, not just with their fellow board members, but with the community. If our board is unable to work together, we all fail. As your next MID Director, I will work with every board member to ensure that we are coming to equitable solutions to these problems and can find common ground to move forward together as a community. In addition, I will also hold regular office hours, where constituents can come to talk to me about issues facing our community and how MID can best address them.
2. Stop Staff Turnover— We have had too much staff turnover over the past years. Due to the amount of staff turnover, we have been unable to develop our longterm vision for the future. What will our community look like if we are unable to plan? I believe by empowering our staff to work collaboratively together with the entire MID Board we can make comprehensive plans on how to ensure our district has an affordable and reliable source of electricity and water.
3. Enhance Collaboration— We must work with neighboring districts and our other partners to make a sustainable plan for our future. Our region must have a united front to face the issues that face us, such as reliability of energy and water for our area.

#### **5. Do you believe the electric side of MID subsidizes the water side of MID? If so, what changes if any should be made?**

I understand that this matter has been litigated and is currently being appealed. This is a very complex policy issue, but when coming to a conclusion we must always put our ratepayers first, both our irrigators and electric users. I believe that we can come to an equitable solution that is fair for everyone in the community— as long as we prioritize our ratepayers.

Thank you again for this opportunity to answer these questions. If you have any questions about my responses please feel free to reach out to my personal cell at 209-661-9908.

## **Robert Frobose**

### **1. What are your qualifications?**

I am a business man, operated a large trucking business for over 30 years and currently operating a beautiful equine facility. I am a 4th generation farmer in the Modesto area, I grow rice and almonds. I have been actively participating in MID and other local water meetings to keep our water local, protect our ground water resources, and provide reliable affordable electricity for our homes.

### **2. What would be your top priorities?**

Keeping our water here for the Modesto residents and local farmers. MID is the supplier of 50 percent of the water used by the residents of Modesto and protecting MID's water rights to ensure residents, businesses, and local farmers have adequate water supply. Providing a good working environment for the employees and making sure the wages our competitive. Ensuring that electric service be reliable and rates competitive.

### **3. How can MID help businesses in their service area?**

Keeping electricity rates and water rates competitive helps not only businesses but all of us in the community.

### **4. What are the greatest challenges MID faces and how would you address them?**

The State water grab. The water rights of MID are to be used for beneficial use in our community. As a Director, I will provide policy that will make certain our water is used for the benefit of our community.

### **5. Do you believe the electric side of MID subsidizes the water side of MID? If so, what changes if any should be made?**

Transparency is always important. Improved Infrastructure can give MID the ability to use all its resources more efficiently and to make certain water and electric rates are equitable.