

# 2022 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

## MID Board of Directors Division 4

### John Boer

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

I'm a life-long farmer in Wood Colony and West Modesto and volunteer firefighter for the Woodland Avenue Fire Department, serving for 28 years. I'm currently Assistant Fire Chief. As a farmer, business owner and firefighter, I know first-hand the importance of low cost and reliable power and water.

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

Adopt low and fair electrical and water rates for all ratepayers.  
Stop wasteful spending on costly litigation and outside attorneys' fees.  
Stop political infighting and unite the board to fight the state water grab.  
Serve our entire community and not the special interests who export our water.

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

To stop wasteful spending and keep rates low. During the last four years MID operating expenses have increased \$52 million and the general manager pay has more than doubled, to the highest pay of any public official in our county, including the County CEO. That must stop in order to keep our rates low to attract business to our community.

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

The greatest challenge is the threat to our water supply. With a united board we could attract a top water expert (both of MID's top water experts resigned due to board dysfunction) and stop spending millions on consultants. We need dedicated internal resources to fight the state and obtain our FERC license.

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

We need a transparent cost of service study that shows exactly what costs and benefits are associated with the electrical and water side of the business and then charge all ratepayers a fair rate based on that study. We need to be careful that with the Groundwater Sustainability Act we cannot afford to incentivize irrigators to use groundwater because of high surface water costs and we need to account for the benefit to the city from continued irrigation with surface water (benefit to our acquirers). And because the city pays the same raw water charges that the farmer pays we need to consider that the city residential user also benefits from low water rates. But the bottom line is

that we should open the books and adjust rates as necessary to ensure that no sector subsidizes the other sector, again taking into account all of the benefits from low-cost irrigation water to all of our residents.

## **Stu Gilman**

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

I have been serving in the position of MID Director for almost the last five years, while simultaneously being a partner in Transworld Business Advisors of Tri-Valley, a local mergers and acquisitions firm.

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

- Continue fighting the State Water Resources Control Board in their efforts to steal 40-50% of the flow in the Tuolumne River.
- Work with the board to ensure that any out-of-district water transfers would not be borne by in-district ratepayers. I have submitted a proposal to the board that if passed, would ensure that the transfers would be paid for at the current ag water fair market rates. I want to protect our in-district growers and their land values, as well as our urban domestic water users.
- Work with the board to keep electric rates as low as possible.
- Continue cultivating the relationships that I've begun with UC Merced and Fresno State in order to collaborate with them on new technologies that can benefit the District.

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

Primarily keep electric rates as low as possible, as we have for the last 10 years.

Work with organizations like the Chamber and Opportunity Stanislaus to assist with messaging to not only current businesses, but also those we want to attract based on the benefits of public power.

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

Our biggest issues to date involve continuing to move forward on settling the state water grab either via a voluntary agreement or by litigation, as well as continuing to work towards getting our federal license for our dam renewed.

Attracting talented employees to MID is a struggle for us as it is for many businesses, so I'd like to see more public relations campaigns that promote the opportunities associated with working at our utility.

Eliminating the division on the board. Any government, regulatory agency can become paralyzed if people have personal agendas and are not driven by promoting sound public policy. MID has dealt with that and I want to see us move toward a more collaborative and productive board that works together for the good of the District, as I have been doing.

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

There is active pending litigation related to the Hobbs case and claims that ratepayers subsidize the water side of MID, which I can't comment on. However, my number one priority as an MID director is to ensure that ALL ratepayers, electric and water, are treated fairly and that we use all District resources for the benefit of all of those who live here in the District.

**Brad Johnson**

***Hay thank you, But NO. – Brad Johnson***