

Age: 51

Occupation: Vice Mayor

Education: Some College, Leadership North County through Extended Learning Program at CSUSM

Previous Government experience: San Marcos City Council since 2007, Vice Mayor since 2012.

**1. Why are you running for your respective office?**

I love San Marcos and want to continue some of the great things we are currently having success with: Steady fiscal leadership, being the safest city in North San Diego County and a place where our quality of life is excellent. We have had some challenges, mainly with traffic and I'd like to deploy Dynamic Sequencing (artificial intelligence) to improve this as well as work with the community with my SMARTS concept that I'm working on with City Council Candidate for District 2 Mike Sannella to bring buses back to provide a safer way for our kids to travel to and from school as well as other opportunities to move people within our city.

**2. What do you feel are the three biggest priorities for the next city council, and how as a council member would you help the council achieve those objectives?**

I have a proven track record of working well with my fellow councilmembers, this collaboration will be key to keep our city on track as we will be experiencing a change in our election process with districting. Residents used to have 4 Councilmembers plus the Mayor that represent them, now it will be a Mayor and one councilmember. The Mayor's job will be more critical in providing leadership in collaboration, every decision affects all parts of the city. We have a 40% reserve of our annual operating budget, it is vital that we remain fiscally responsible and make sure we make prudent financial decisions. When city staff brought forward, at council direction, an infrastructure savings plan I suggested that we start an escalating contribution from the general fund each year. The council agreed and we are currently setting aside and using this each year to invest in our infrastructure, this is imperative for not only today, but our future. We have been deemed as the safest city in North San Diego County based on crime statistics, the San Diego Deputy Sheriffs' Association is supporting me know first-hand how important our safety is and that I've made it a priority. We also need to continue to invest in equipment and train our San Marcos Fire Department employees so that they are ready for any emergency situation and can tackle it with full force. Our quality of life is something we all appreciate and with my traffic relief solutions and proven leadership, I believe it will continue to improve. With our ability to attract new opportunities for San Marcos residents to stay in our city and places for them to dine and meet with family and friends we are creating a San Marcos that we are all proud to call home.

**3. This year marks the first year that San Marcos will elect representatives by districts. If elected as mayor, what do you see your role is in terms of keeping the council focused on not only the interests of the residents in their specific district, but of the community at large?**

I believe that my experience in collaborative efforts demonstrates how I can accomplish a team culture in this new district atmosphere. I have two of my current colleagues supporting my candidacy because they know I can bring people together for the good of our city.

**4. A number of residents have complained about the pace and type of development coming into San Marcos, namely that residential development is outstripping infrastructural improvements and**

**workforce and low-income housing is not being approved at the pace of high-end housing. What are your thoughts on the concerns and how would you address them?**

Homebuilders build houses, not the City. That being said, housing is needed statewide and we have state mandates imposed on us that we are legally obligated to meet. I voted to approve workforce housing because I feel it brings housing that is part of the property ladder (various price ranges that offers opportunities for homeowners to move up and to start by purchasing their first home). This was a decision that some residents supported and some opposed. With the decrease in traffic that this general plan amendment brought and with the price range of housing starting under \$400k, I felt that this was a decision that accomplished some of what is described – approving housing that makes sense. From January of 2007 until November of 2016 I believe that all housing approvals have been unanimous. In 2012 we approved our general plan and all but the changes for the workforce housing at Rancho Tesoro and the condos by the Fairfield Inn were part of that approval at the same density or a higher. The condos next to the Fairfield Inn was a unanimous vote to change commercial zoning to residential in the general plan and the Brookfield change from commercial to residential was a 4-1 vote.

**5. A number of large projects in the unincorporated areas surrounding the city (Lilac Hills Ranch, Newland Sierra) could have a major impact on local thoroughfares if approved by the county. Understanding that while the city does not have any discretionary authority over the projects but it does have the ability to make necessary improvements to its infrastructure, as mayor, how would you address the impacts of these projects on local roads?**

Lilac Hills is a bit further from San Marcos, it isn't in our sphere of influence. Projects like the Newland Sierra project is within our sphere and as stated, we have no authority, however our staff does weigh in on the environmental impact report. City staff did advise and indicated that their suggestions were incorporated into the plan. I will continue to make sure we always comment on environmental impacts and make sure our needs are addressed.

**6. How would you describe San Marcos' reputation with the business community and what would you do, if anything, to change it?**

I would say that our businesses are often frustrated with processing times but also, I believe that many of them know that I personally have a track record of working with staff to address their concerns and championing our local businesses. When our businesses thrive it is very positive for the city and our residents.

**7. San Marcos has a reputation for being the educational hub on North County, yet many locally believe the city must do more to allocate land for new schools for its own local K-12 district. How would you assure that the city and school district continue to work collaboratively to look for solutions for school overcrowding?**

The city has no authority over SMUSD, their job is to educate our kids and to plan for the future of the growth of their district, their district spans San Marcos city as well as portions of Carlsbad, Vista and the County of San Diego. When the city updated our general plan in 2012 the district attended most of our over 30 public meetings, the planning efforts fell short in securing land for the district by the district. After our joint meeting in March of 2017 (after hearing that the district thought they'd need 12 new schools), I jumped into action to talk to folks in the real estate industry to reach out to the district with sites and ideas how to secure new sites. We also set up a task force with councilmember Sharon Jenkins

and SMUSD Victor Graham to work on these efforts with the common goal of collaboration. It became apparent and was confirmed in March of this year that the district now changed their goal of 12 schools to 3 schools, at the March meeting SMUSD had not taken any steps to secure any land to plan for their future. My desire is to create a closer relationship and am encouraged by the district hiring a new superintendent, Dr. Garcia. I'm also encouraged by the recent sale of land that they city council approved to sell land to the district in Twin Oaks Valley and the willingness of the owners of North City to sell additional land the SMUSD to assemble land with the Fenton property that has been offered to the district for another school site, I will continue discussions with property owners and other partners to work with the district for the good of the students and the community and collaboration with SMUSD.

**8. What do you believe is the future of the San Marcos Creek District plan, and how as mayor would you help the city achieve that direction?**

We are in the process of working on this plan. I would like to see less density, state laws now mandate that if you decrease density in one area that you cannot eliminate this housing, it must be added elsewhere. I have to admit, I am extremely frustrated by the frequency and speed that the state is working to eliminate our local land use authority. This year several bills have increased penalties for not building housing, the state will continue these efforts. Unfortunately the balancing act is real and it takes leadership to figure out how to move traffic, work with state mandates along with property rights as well as continuing to enhance our quality of life.