

SACRAMENTO RAINBOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RAINBOWPAC QUESTIONNAIRE

Name

Mark P. E. West

Campaign Committee Name:

West for City Council 2018

Address:

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Phone Cell:

Email

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Campaign Website:

www.markwestfordavis.com

FPPC ID:

1398892

Employer:

None

Occupation:

Retired, Father of four teenagers.

Office You Are Seeking:

Member, Davis City Council

Specify District/Seat/Ward Number or Indicate At Large:

At Large

Estimated Campaign Budget:

\$25000

As of this Questionnaire, Amount Raised:

\$1000

**1. How have you and/or will you support the mission and purposes of the RainbowPAC as outlined above? Please be specific.**

I strongly support the LGBT community and the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, and support member businesses whenever possible. I am honored to have been a member of the Rainbow Chamber through my company, Rominger West Winery, which we operated as an inclusive business, with owners, employees and customers who were openly LGBT. In my private life, I support and work towards an open and inclusive society with equal rights for all.

**2. Are you a current member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce? If yes, since when? And, are you or any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT?**

I am not a current member of the SRCC. My former company, Rominger West Winery in Davis, was a member and supporter for a number of years until we closed in 2012.

I am an ally of the LGBT community. My Campaign Manager, Lanz Nalagan, and key volunteer, Paul Weubbe, are both openly LGBT.

**3. Describe how you would support/oppose the use of programs to ensure equal opportunities, policies, laws, and/or ordinances that protect LGBT individuals in the workplace.**

I support equal opportunity for all, and will work to ensure that City policies and ordinances reflect that. I am working to make Davis city governance inclusive and transparent including the work of the City Council, City Staff and all of the City's Commissions and Committees.

**4. What are the most pressing issues facing our region, and how do you propose we resolve them?**

The two critical issues in Davis are the City's fiscal shortfall and a severe housing shortage, particularly for student, young workers and their families. I propose addressing the \$10+ million annual deficit through a comprehensive approach including an aggressive campaign for economic development and serious City cost-containment, to be followed up with short-term tax increases to meet immediate critical needs. Addressing the housing shortage while also respecting the community's ethos of protecting farmland, requires an emphasis on high-density multi-family construction including apartments, townhouses, and stacked flat condominiums. Most of that new construction will need to come through infill development because of the prohibitive cost of annexing new land into the City due to the City's Measure R. I see both the housing and fiscal issues reflected in the broader region.

**5. What is your vision to attract major business/Fortune 500 companies into our region?**

The ethos in Davis is to grow business internally from start-up to expansion rather than recruiting from outside. I see advantages to both approaches, and see both benefiting good community infrastructure, a responsive and efficient planning departments, and the availability of a well-educated workforce. Davis, at present, is only able to provide the well-educated workforce and has considerable work to do on the other items. On a broader scale, the existence of a vibrant and expanding

economic environment and rational, responsive regulation should help attract major businesses to the region.

**6. Share your vision to make our region a better place for small businesses.**

Having owned a small business, I know that the critical needs for small businesses are a vibrant local economy, responsive and efficient planning staff, flexible zoning regulations, and an expanding customer base. For Davis that means reducing the costs of starting and operating businesses in town, and providing better service from the planning department to speed up the approvals for new construction, redevelopment and tenant improvements. It also means bringing more customers downtown and to the neighborhood centers by encouraging and incentivizing mixed-use redevelopment so that more people are living near to walkable, vibrant commercial centers.

**7. Describe your position on Community Benefit Resolutions, Living Wage Ordinances, and Project Labor Agreements.**

I do not have a strong position on any, but believe that all three are valid options to be considered with development projects. I do not favor an absolute requirement for any of them however, as I am concerned that the cumulative financial impact of already existing requirements for development in Davis are depressing or inhibiting economic development. We need to prioritize the various requirement and exactions in order to maximize the benefits to the community and also provide sufficient return on investment for developers such that projects are proposed and completed.

**8. What is your position on requiring employers to provide health care insurance to workers and families?**

I support the creation of a single-payer health care system. Until that is a reality, I support requiring employers to provide an opportunity for health care insurance for all workers and their families and a system which allows workers to retain their coverage when moving to a new place of employment.

**9. Describe your vision for improving economic conditions and job security of people within the office you are seeking.**

The City of Davis has a recognized annual General Fund deficit of at least \$10 million on a total of roughly \$50 million. It also has accumulated unfunded obligations estimated in the \$100's of millions with no obvious source of new sustainable revenues beyond increasing taxes. In order to address the poor fiscal health of the City and community, we need to have an aggressive campaign for economic development, focusing on expanding the commercial sector in town to create new private sector jobs and provide opportunities for residents to improve their quality of life. We also need to restrict the expansion of City costs by finding more efficient ways of providing critical services through a combination of private contracts, public/private partnerships, and joint-powers agreements.

**10. Identify three (3) key endorsements that you have received for your candidacy.**

I am actively pursuing the endorsement of various local organizations, but to date, they have not made a decision on their endorsements. I have not pursued the endorsement of local politicians, past or present, as I view them to be largely responsible for creating the serious challenges that Davis currently faces, and I do not wish to be viewed as supporting the *status quo*.  
I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the RainbowPAC.

**Virtual Signature**

Mark P. E. West

**Date**

28 February 2018