

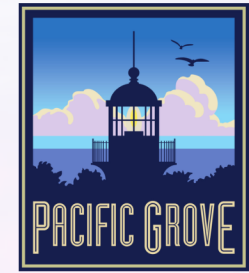
November 8, 2022 Candidates for Mayor



Bill Peake
Mayor (incumbent)



Mike Wachs
Nonprofit Design Manager



PacificGrove.org

What is your position on California Prop 28?	Other I'm not taking a position on this education initiative and defer to the Pacific Grove Unified School District for expert guidance.	Support The Arts contribute more than \$185 billion to CA's economy, more than 7% of the State's GDP. Requiring 1% of the Mandatory Education Spending Initiative be dedicated to the Arts would pay dividends in a variety of ways.
What is your position on allowing one cannabis retail dispensary in PG?	Other To preserve our family-oriented city character I don't support retail cannabis. However, I will implement retail cannabis if the majority votes in favor.	Support Nearly 1/5th of all Californians use cannabis. I see no logic in making PG residents drive to another town and continue to deny our City much-needed revenues.
What is your position on decreasing the number of City Council members from 6 to 4 plus a Mayor?	Support I support a 5-person Council to have more responsive, accountable, & efficient local government. 90% of CA cities have 5-person Councils. Diversity occurs with the election of diverse and thoughtful councilmembers, not simply with additional councilmembers.	Oppose I do not support decreasing City Council. I tend to think the more representative voices, the better. Additionally, members of Council sit on Commissions and Boards; decreasing the size will spread Council even more thin and add undue stress.
Do you support complimentary City services to PG's 4 traditional events: Good Old Days, Independence Day, Holiday Light Parade & Stilwell's Fun in the Park?	Support Yes, of course, as well as for several other traditional events.	Support I support complimentary City services for traditional events. We live in a small enough, tight-enough community that the City should band together to keep our traditions going.
What is your position on the American Tin Cannery hotel development by Comstock Company?	Support City Council approved the project early this year. The project is now going before the CA Coastal Commission on appeal.	Other I can think of many worse things than a LEED-certified development that rehabilitates an iconic building. Are there better uses for the land? Perhaps. But in this instance, to me, "perhaps" is not an effective argument to not move forward.
What is the role of desal for Monterey County in your opinion?	Support The expansion of Pure Water Monterey to provide additional potable water for the Monterey Peninsula makes sense. Beyond that, to create a larger water supply desalination is our only option.	Support I am in favor of expanded potable water recycling and desal—as long as all facilities are powered by renewable energy and brine is either evaporated and/or made into another byproduct.

2022

ELECTION PREVIEW

Questions *and*
Responses *from*
Pacific Grove
Candidates

November 8, 2022

Candidates for City Council

	 <p>Joe Amelio Councilmember (incumbent)</p>	 <p>Debby Beck Business Owner</p>	 <p>Mark Chakwin Retired Military Officer</p>	 <p>Lori McDonnell Clinical Research Coordinator</p>	 <p>Tina Rau Retired Business Manager</p>	 <p>Darla Vining Data Governance Analyst</p>
What is your position on California Prop 28?	Support I'm in support of Prop 28 because it will provide guaranteed funding to be used for arts education programs such as media arts, music, theater and graphic design.	Support I'm in support of Prop 28. As a volunteer in the classroom I see the need for both Music & Art to allow the creativity for all students and we need to provide the tools & teachers.	Support I support prop 28. Art & Music are essential elements of culture & humanity. Young students shouldn't be randomly exposed to the arts, but should learn the rich nuances & value of this important part of our souls.	Support I support Prop 28. Research demonstrates that music education has developmental & social benefits, including enhanced language development, reading comprehension, memory, test scores, & much more.	Support I believe it is important to teach children art and music to broaden their experiences and make them more well-rounded students. These subjects always seem to be the first to be cut. They should be funded.	Support As a parent of a young child & someone who has personally benefited from having dedicated Art & Music teachers at each PG school I attended, I am in favor of this proposition.
What is your position on allowing one cannabis retail dispensary in PG?	Other Since I've have been on PG Council, cannabis retail has been discussed with no solution. A sub-committee was formed, which I was on, & our decision was to have PG voters recommend, or not, one retail dispensary & a tax.	Oppose As the resident that opposed the original process of the Cannabis dispensary back in 2020 without the voice of the people, we now have proper process to allow the voters to decide. I don't believe our community needs a dispensary.	Oppose NO. We limit fast food & other stores, we don't have to approve a cannabis parlor. Pot stores might raise money, but for whom? Money is not as important as a safe environment for raising our children /grandchildren.	Support I support a dispensary. Residents with medical needs are being denied easy access, & forbidding legal sales risks people getting potentially deadly product on the streets. We can enhance safety & increase revenue by providing safe access in our city.	Support We should approve a dispensary in PG. We need to increase tax revenue & we have people in PG spending their money at cannabis stores in Carmel & Seaside. We shouldn't send our tax revenues to another city.	Oppose Existing cannabis cultivators are already impacted by the current water crisis. Our city needs to consider other businesses that actually have "Growth" potential without additional hindrance impacting our precious water supply. We can do better.
What is your position on decreasing the number of City Council members from 6 to 4 plus a Mayor?	Oppose I'm in support of 6 because it adds diversity & opportunities for PG citizens to get involved in local government. 4 would concentrate power to a few. 6 members have served PG well for 95 years & have evenly distributed 15 commissions, 10 regional boards & council subcommittees.	Support I'm in favor of 4 council members as all communities will be moving to district voting within the next 2 years. District voting allows for more candidate opportunities. PG School district has moved to district voting.	Oppose Against! Contrary to unscholarly/half-baked arguments provided in "pro reduction" justification, research shows *more* people on a team accomplish *more.* We want more, not less accomplished by council! A smaller team also may adopt an "elite," ruler-attitude and listen less.	Support I plan to vote to reduce the number of Council members to four to reduce city costs and facilitate by-district elections if required. I see benefits for both & am happy to abide by what the majority of voters decide.	Oppose I am against this change as it will result in less diversity, more work for an already stretched volunteer council, and fewer citizens being able to get involved in public service. I am voting NO.	Support Our City Council would be proportional to our population; similar to other small cities. Downsizing allows for greater responsiveness to the voter's that have elected them. Let's rebuild community confidence in the city's goals for insightful decision-making practices. Yes.
Do you support complimentary City services to PG's 4 traditional events: Good Old Days, Independence Day, Holiday Light Parade & Stilwell's Fun in the Park?	Support Yes.	Support I do support complimentary city services as we are the residents that support our community through property taxes, sales taxes etc. and would love to enjoy these services at no cost.	Support Yes! This is our tradition & the city government should not try to bleed the community & community groups for every-last dollars when they volunteer to make our town so wonderful & lovable!	Support Yes, these activities are a great opportunity to bring our community together & have fun. They generate a lot of good will and indirectly bring revenue to the city through the taxes from patrons visiting our restaurants, shops & hotels.	Support Yes. For more detailed answers to all these questions, please refer to tinaforpg.com.	Support I support City Services for these celebrations. PG has its own culture & history which deserve to be celebrated. These events compliment the City; celebrating its past & strengthening our community. Yes, I'm in favor.
What is your position on the American Tin Cannery hotel development by Comstock Company?	Support While on the city council, we voted 6-1 for the America Tin Cannery hotel development by the Comstock Company. I was part of the 6 for the ATC hotel development.	Other I support new development in our Community if the project is economically & environmentally sound for our City. Especially if private property is developed & all required zoning, planning & building requirements meet current City codes.	Oppose As an 8-year Planning Commissioner, I can say no big project ever was approved "as designed." Changes are always required. If Comstock LISTENED to ARB & Planning, they could be building now -like the other mixed-use hotels I supported.	Other I am concerned about the current design for several reasons, including the significant environmental impact from excavation & tree removal, size being out of scale for our city, traffic impact & reduction of public parking in that area.	Other As long as it is respectful of the environment & meets the requirements of the Coastal Commission & the City of PG, I will respect the will of the voters that approved the rezoning of the property in 2016.	Support As an advocate of Sustainable Hospitality Management, I offer my knowledge of LEED standards for developments that are approved by the City. The ATC project meets the highest levels of commercial water recycling, which few buildings in the county reach.
What is the role of desal for Monterey County in your opinion?	Support The lack of water inhibits economic growth and developing of housing and commercial opportunities. Role of desal is a much needed boost of water supply. The desal plant is at the Coastal Commission at this time.	Support I believe Monterey County needs to get on board with the deal plant ASAP and if support is needed at the County level then we need to contact our County representatives to them urge to move a desal project forward.	Support We will need a Desal plant. The community, governments, and utilities have been talking about it since I got here in 1977! Initiatives like our PG water project, the MPWSP, etc. are good. Long term we will need a desal.	Other Some form of desalination is likely part of our future. We need to address who pays, where it's built, & ensure protection of our marine sanctuary. We need to look closely at costs, which may be prohibitive with current technology.	Other Water availability is at a crisis level. Desalination could be a solution if it does not impact the environment. We shouldn't solve a problem by creating another one. If the technology proves that we can do it safely, I would support it.	Other The current efforts to handle our water crisis involve reduced demand. Desal provides increased supply. Whether or not Desal has a future in Monterey County depends on the outcome of the struggle over CalAm. Then Desal should be seriously debated.