

November 6th 2018

Candidates for Mayor



Rudy Fischer
Councilmember



Bill Peake
Councilmember



Dionne Ybarra
Executive Director



P.O. Box 167
Pacific Grove
California 93950

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Do you support or oppose Measure M (to limit STRs)?

Oppose

As Mayor, I will accept whatever the voters decide, though I think that Measure M is as flawed as Measure C was in 1986. That measure kept our motels and B&B's from upgrading their properties for years. The right way to guide city policy changes is through the city council.

Support

We should limit STRs.

Other

More importantly I believe is to have a plan if the measure doesn't pass that will move us forward in a way that will respect the rights of those that support Measure M because there was not a solid sustainable plan when STR's were first allowed and became a way for the City to collect TOT's.

Do you support or oppose Measure U (TOT tax increase?)

Support

For the last eight years I have resisted all calls for a TOT increase. making this one of the most difficult votes I have ever had to make.

Support

This is a reasonable measure to increase City revenues.

Support

Do you support or oppose Measure J? (Public Water Now buyout)

Other

I am neutral on this, and as Chairman of Monterey One Water my focus has been to make sure that project remains on time and with a low cost of water. I am OK with a study, but acquisition may be beyond our ability to fund.

Other

I will vote yes on Measure J in support of a feasibility study.

Support

Do you support or oppose an increase in the business license tax?

Oppose

While any council has to consider all possible revenue measures, I am opposed to this one.

Oppose

Oppose

Do you support or oppose the continued waiving of city fees for special traditional events such as Good Old Days or Feast of Lanterns?

Support

I support continuation of the waivers of fees for these kinds of events. They bring the community together and attracts people from other cities to Pacific Grove. These events make for fun times, help businesses, and highlight the charms of Pacific Grove and I feel the waivers of fees should be continued.

Support

These events are important to our community.

Support

Do you support or oppose parking meters in Pacific Grove's commercial districts?

Oppose

I have always opposed parking meters in Pacific Grove's commercial districts, and always will. Even though, as one of my economist friends says this may not be an "economically rational decision", not having parking meters downtown is part of the culture and charm of Pacific Grove.

Other

I have not seen any evaluation of the impact or effectiveness of such an action.

Oppose

Do you support or oppose cost reduction measures at City Hall to reign in CalPERS expenditures?

Support

I believe the city should always try to hold down costs whenever possible. We have negotiated with our employees to have them actually pay a portion of the city's costs for PERS – along with all or their own costs.

Support

I support appropriate cost savings.

Support

2018 Election Preview



Questions and Responses from Pacific Grove Candidates



PacificGrove.org (831) 373-3304

*Some responses have been edited for brevity

November 6th 2018

Candidates for City Council



Andrew Kubica
Retired Aerospace Engineer



Tama Olver
Community Volunteer



Dan Miller
Businessman



Steve Lilley
Retired Health Administrator



Jenny McAdams
Resident Advocate



Joe Amelio
Retired Educator/Police



Amy Tomlinson
Naval Aviator

Do you support or oppose Measure M (to limit STRs)?

Oppose

I do not support Measure M STR's are on the ballot for the citizens to decide in November. After that, there should be good city management of the STR's. I understand and have great empathy for the concerns of many residents. I want to retain our good neighbor small town values.

Oppose

Measure M is a clear indication that STRs are affecting the quality of life for many people and it would increase our inventory of long-term rentals. At the same time, we are far from a consensus regarding the impact of the measure on city revenues and we cannot meet our needs over the next several years with TOT increases and cost savings alone.

Support

Residential neighborhoods are called residential neighborhoods for a reason. They are for residents not micro hotels.

Oppose

This initiative is ballot box planning which often causes more problems than it solves. The best way to get long lasting, effective results is through representative government. I have faith and trust in the voters to select the best representatives to do this job.

Support

We need an STR program that is easy to understand, simple to enforce, and protects our neighborhoods. Measure M does just that.

Oppose

I will support what the voters decide on this measure. Though, I feel if I am elected for the Pacific Grove City Council, I plan to enforce any STRS problems in the neighborhoods. I believe that this number of 250 need to be below that number per City Ordinance 7.24.

Oppose

I believe there should be limits to our STR program but due to the impending fiscal challenges our city faces it would be irresponsible to lose this source of income for our city until revenue can be raised from a different source.

Do you support or oppose Measure U (TOT tax increase)?

Support

I support Measure U (TOT tax increase) for infrastructure repairs, our city parks, and coastal trail improvements.

Support

Transients don't pay local taxes and would pay for their use of services in this way. The council should also focus on what more the city can do to keep Pacific Grove competitive as a destination.

Oppose

The city must learn to live within their means instead of raising taxes at every turn. We have half the employees we did 15 years ago but still need more money? We have raised the sales tax as a city and also to pay for roads. It has to stop somewhere.

Support

The city needs revenues to fund the present and future. This tax increase puts Pacific Grove in line with nearby cities.

Oppose

We need to be supporting our hospitality industry. It is not the responsibility of our TOT revenue generators to bear the burden of the City's bad financial decisions and lack of revenue creating ideas. This is a band aid on a long term issue.

Support

I believe this TOT will be a benefit for the budget for the City of Pacific Grove. Moreover, it will be helpful for our city services to our community of Pacific Grove.

Support

While I support this measure at this time, I would advocate for further development of our tourism business so that our occupancy rate increases, allowing the city to reduce TOT tax in the future.

Do you support or oppose Measure J? (Public Water Now buyout)

Support

This item is going to the ballot in November. If approved, a thorough analysis with an unbiased consultant should be performed to evaluate the next step forward.

Support

I believe that public ownership of water best serves the common good. The proposed feasibility study would thoroughly investigate the practicality of a buyout.

Support

Cal-Am has been a terrible purveyor of water and the taxpayers end up having to pay for their mistakes. The cost of water just keeps going up no matter how much we save. Its time we do something different.

Oppose

Our priority should be water supply. Voters have rejected a buyout before. High capital and legal costs will have to be borne by ratepayers and taxpayers (and renters). This also will take many years to legally resolve.

Support

Oppose

Support

Do you support or oppose an increase in the business license tax?

Other

I support a business tax increased if required. I am a supporter of the business community and their contribution to the city. Since the business license tax has not been increased for many years while city costs have gone up, I support a reasonable tax increase, if required to balance the city budget.

Other

I would need to understand the details of any specific proposal before supporting or opposing.

Oppose

Just as I said about TOT it is time we live within our means.

Oppose

Business bears enough burden with federal, state, and local mandates. We should leave this alone.

Oppose

Again, or City leadership needs to be more creative when it comes to generating revenues. We need to be fully supporting our local commerce.

Support

If there is a increase in business tax, the tax needs to be reasonable. I was in business for 5 years and know how difficult these issues are.

Oppose

Do you support or oppose the continued waiving of city fees for special traditional events such as Good Old Days or Feast of Lanterns?

Support

I support the continued waiving of city fees for special traditional events. These events bring the citizens together in community spirit and benefit both residents and businesses. In addition, out of town visitors come and contribute to our local economy.

Support

Support

I support it to a degree. The events must work on getting donations and cutting costs where possible. Volunteers should be used whenever possible.

Support

The City has had a policy of waiving fees for traditional events. Community groups and private donors already underwrite costs for these events.

Support

Support

We need to continue our traditions in Pacific Grove. The City must continue to focus on the mentioned traditions.

Support

I also support reviewing the city fee schedule and how it is implemented to include a review of the process to determine who is exempt.

Do you support or oppose parking meters in Pacific Grove's commercial districts?

Oppose

I do not support parking meters. The current zoning rules provide enough parking time for restaurant enjoyment and shopping while encouraging reasonable turn over.

Oppose

Residents and employees would bear too much of the burden from this approach to raising revenue.

Support

I believe there are areas where they make sense. Parking lots that are owned by the city should have meters to pay for their maintenance.

Oppose

Parking meters economically damage downtowns. We have downtown lots for patrons and visitors, plus short-term street parking. If this is an issue, then I would favor developing a downtown plan with the full participation of business people.

Support

Oppose

My initial reaction is that I have seen parking meters in other cities and they are an eyesore.

Oppose

Do you support or oppose cost reduction measures at City Hall to reign in CalPERS expenditures?

Support

I support cost reduction measures at City Hall. Yes. Every organization or successful project I have been involved with has had a periodic review for efficiencies and cost reduction. Based on my experience, periodic reviews are a good way to ensure monies are spent wisely.

Support

I would seriously consider feasible ways to reduce CalPERS expenses consistent with maintaining staff to provide services that support our quality of life and with meeting our legal obligations.

Support

We now owe over \$140 million to CalPers. At some time wages must be reigned in. We do not have an endless supply of money and for every raise there is a resultant cost in higher pension costs. A dozen years ago we could have left CalPers and got back five million dollars. Now it is a boondoggle is out of control.

Support

The City Council has fiduciary responsibility to manage city's finances, including stringent budget controls. CalPERS is beyond our control until current litigation is resolved. That may provide flexibility; until then, we are bound by existing contracts and state law.

Support

Other

I cannot respond to this because I am a retired police officer under the CALPERS system

Support

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