

SUMMARY

The following is a report on the Candidates' Night held in Santa Clara, California. Two candidates for mayor, two candidates for City Council Seat 2, and three candidates for City Council Seat 5 attended. A DVD of the event has been created, and a list of promises made by the winning candidates that evening is included in this report. The time following the promises in parenthesis is the point on the DVD when the candidate can be heard making the promise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To take further action to increase the accountability of local politicians and effectively demonstrate the political power of the Portuguese American community, it is important to follow up with the newly elected officials, following a three step process.

1. After reviewing the list of promises, members of the parish should contact the office of the Mayor or City Councilman and ask for the current status of projects and policies the candidates had promised. A letter will be provided by the project to send to the politicians.
2. After a reply, the list of promises and their current status should then be compiled into a brief report to be shared with the church or the community.
3. Before publishing this, volunteers should once again contact the office of their politicians and show them the report. This will give them a chance to clarify further and increase their cooperation with the community.

These activities remind candidates of their promises and hopefully increase the likelihood that they will be fulfilled. By showing how civically active the Portuguese American community is, the community can then have more political influence.

**CAMPAIGN AGENDA ITEMS
FROM NOVEMBER 2006 SANTA CLARA CANDIDATES NIGHT**

Patricia Mahan-Mayor

- She believes that the biggest challenge of the next 4 years is to restore the reserve funds (Title 13, 1:23)

-The city must keep budget surpluses to do this and resist the temptation to spend them on new things (Title 13, 1:42)
- The city needs to increase economic growth (Title 13, 1:52)
- The second biggest challenge is on land-use decisions: growth must be compatible with existing development (Title 13, 2:20)
- The city needs to include Portuguese translations of materials. She will start on this immediately (Title 14, 1:36)
- The city's only role in development near Santa Clara University should be land, not money or infrastructure

Sample Report from Candidates' Night: Santa Clara California

Dominic Caserta-City Council Seat 2

- He has a 25 point plan for the next 4 years, including (Title 8, 3:10)
 - open and restore Parade of Champions (3:15)
 - break ground on a new downtown (3:17)
 - explore a 3rd sister city (3:19)
 - explore government to government interaction with their current sister city in Portugal (3:31)
- The first big issue of the next 4 years for him is to revitalize the downtown (Title 13, 2:37)
- The second big issue is the city's need to continue to attract small businesses (Title 13, 2:41)
- He believes the city needs to recruit leaders in the Portuguese community to work with the council (Title 14, 2:43)
- He wants to empower the Senior Advisory Commission and use their recommendations (Title 14, 2:50)
- He supports translation of city materials into a variety of languages, including Portuguese (Title 14, 2:59)
- The city needs to continue to hire police who speak Portuguese (Title 14, 3:10)
- He will not use city money or raise taxes for the development near Santa Clara University (Title 14, 11:45)
- He wants to use city money to buy a local building to prevent the county from turning it into a traffic court (Title 14, 11:54)
- He has not endorsed a "Korea town" yet (Title 14, 16:45)
- In time of a budget crisis, he promises the he will not cut direct services to the people (Title 21, 0:17)

Sample Report from Candidates' Night: Santa Clara California

Joe Kornder-City Council Seat 5

- He believes the city needs to increase its reserves (Title 10, 2:50)
 - The city needs to increase affordable housing (Title 10, 3:24)
 - The city needs to supply a variety of places, especially the Senior Center, with translation assistance. He promises to begin working on this his first day in office (Title 14, 6:43)
 - The city general fund should not be used in developing the region around Santa Clara University (Title 14, 10:00)
 - He will not create a “Korea town” at the expense of other cultures because a commercial presence should not make them a town (Title 14, 18:00)
 - He is opposed to Measure B (Title 19, 2:26)
 - In a budget crisis, he will not cut services directly impacting people but instead cut things such as street sweeping and tree trimming (Title 23, 1:30)
- He believes capital improvement would be the best place to cut in this type of situation (Title 23, 1:50)