

Santa Rosa Town Hall Notes

Affordable Housing

Challenges:

- *Low-cost housing.*
- *Cost of housing does not follow family income.*
- *Unreasonably high rents.*
- *“Reasonable” rent should be a major concern.*
- *Not sure that this should be a priority for the county; maybe cities should take the lead.*
- *More areas for low-income apartments because those rental rates are lower.*
- *Where are we going to build the new housing?*

Solutions:

- *By right process.*
- *Expand supply for land.*
- *More rent control.*
- *Streamline permitting for small (or even “tiny”) homes.*
- *Control rather than increase costs.*
- *Increase supply of housing, including apartments.*
- *Simplify/expedite permit process for housing development.*

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Homelessness

Challenges:

- *Homes for everyone.*
- *There are a lot of homeless in downtown Santa Rosa.*
- *Training to make them more productive citizens.*
- *More mental health services needed.*
- *The homeless population around Roseland has increased.*
- *Housing issues.*
- *Where can the homeless who have animals sleep? Some sleep at "A Place to Play" park by the pond and restrooms.*
- *Homelessness is definitely a growing problem.*

Solutions:

- *Help them find work.*
- *Give them support in finding a home that is safe.*
- *Spread out facilities for the homeless.*
- *Fire Jenilynn Holmes, send meth dealers to prison, no free accommodations for young people who have family they could live with.*
- *Provide them with an open space to camp in. Let them manage it under supervision. Teach gardening there. Create a labor pickup location there for those needing assistance. Run a background check to ensure civil participation. Those who have background issues should be directed to suitable support systems.*

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River Access/Coast Protection, Access

Challenges:

- *What is your position on completing pedestrian and bike trails around Bodega Bay?*
- *Algae blooms in rivers, high water temperatures, pollution from septic tanks. We need to clean up the sources of pollution and save the salmon runs.*
- *Runoff from dairies and manure making its way to river via Laguna.*
- *Trash pollution.*
- *Leave the coast as it is if there is no money to protect it.*

Solutions:

- *Publically report river health and monthly testing on county web site.*
- *Organic agriculture, riparian protection, and sewage treatment plants.*
- *Sediment control through proper setbacks, appropriate riparian visitation and recharge of groundwater basin (groundwater is directly connected to surface flow).*
- *Discourage littering.*
- *Oppose low flow in our river.*
- *Ban GMOs in Sonoma County.*

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Roads

Challenges:

- *Roads need maintenance but the Bodean asphalt plants need to be moved to a remote location with heavy industrial zoning so that it does not cause detrimental impacts to densely populated neighborhoods.*
- *Roads are appalling; potholes cause vehicle damage and accidents.*
- *Uneven pavement and roads/streets hostile for pedestrians.*
- *Money to fix roads.*
- *In addition to cars and potholes, we also need to think about pedestrians and cyclists.*

Solutions:

- *Improve bus transit routes between West County and Santa Rosa.*
- *Try to fix the pavement.*
- *Use prisoners to help restore roads.*
- *Continue to fund roads, bridges, and utility upgrades with priority.*
- *Rebuild roads, add extra paved 8-foot shoulder. Add bicycle events. Add a hotel tax to pay for roads. All cities and restaurants benefit. People want to live in Sonoma County, even if it is a weekend trip. We all drive on the roads and should maintain them with gasoline tax.*
- *More chip-seal—it is most cost effective and prevents cracks, water infiltration, and potholes.*

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Roseland Annexation

Challenges:

- *Will the money tax base increase?*
- *With Hearn, is it a conflict of interest between the city and county? Heritage designation vs. 32 new homeless apartments for a Veterans Affairs facility.*
- *Better stores on Sebastopol Road.*
- *Fair and equitable tax sharing scheme between city and county since city has been so reluctant to pursue annexation and properly informing citizens of advantages.*
- *The costs to pay for services like water, light, and gas are increasing.*

Solutions:

- *Add more events that attract hotel guests; add a tax.*
- *There is no reason Roseland cannot be a productive contribution to Santa Rosa.*

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Tourism, Wineries/VRBOs

Challenges:

- *Vineyards are a pesticide and water shortage issue.*
- *Event centers are not agriculture.*
- *Tourism is a valuable source of jobs and income. How can we balance this to make a positive impact that is sustainable and keeps money in our county?*

Solutions:

- *Encourage the resurgence of the apple industry, which uses less water and fewer pesticides.*
- *Viticulture is not water or pesticide intensive when done properly. Incentivize best practice IPM and water use.*

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Other

Challenges:

- *Help people with disabilities.*
- *Clean communities with security.*
- *Funding for universal childcare in Sonoma County is needed.*
- *Jobs need to provide better wages. Field workers are under-paid.*
- *We import most of our food, but Sonoma County can produce much more locally. Support agricultural development and preservation.*
- *More funding for treatment centers in Sonoma County.*
- *Sustainable groundwater plan.*
- *Drought mitigation/water conservation.*
- *Speech up the quiet zones for the SMART train crossings.*
- *Water shortage.*
- *Compost and recycling locally—stop shipping waste out of the county. We need a new compost site.*

Solutions:

- *Terminate contract with Republic to Run landfill. Bring solid waste back to county control and ownership.*
- *Workers are paid time overtime after working for 8 hours.*
- *How to determine legitimate even activity at wineries, especially those with active use permits with conditions—proper compliance assurance.*
- *Use proven techniques to create a resilient agricultural economy that sequesters carbon, reverse climate change, and feeds our citizens without poisoning the land.*
- *Vision zero as a goal to reduce fatalities on transportation.*
- *Parcel tax or sales tax to fund child care.*
- *All new construction should require rainwater capturing systems for irrigating, etc. No new building permits until water issues are well under control.*