

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: Ventura County Board of Supervisors District 2

SCANPH shared the following questions with the campaigns of all candidates running for Ventura County Board of Supervisors District 2 in the June 7, 2022 primary election. We received the following responses from the campaign of Jeff Gorell. We did not receive responses from the campaigns of Claudia Bill-de la Peña or Tim McCarthy. More information about voting in California is available at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>.

Question #1: Resistance to development in cities across California has provoked greater scrutiny of local land use planning. What future changes – if any – should be considered to improve affordable housing opportunities and change the status quo by evolving local control and state authority?

Jeff Gorell: I support local control over land use decisions that affect the quality of life of Ventura County communities. I oppose state laws – like SB 9 and SB 10 – that usurp local decision-making on zoning and community planning. I believe that local governments should be able to determine the best course of action for improving housing affordability in their communities. As a Supervisor, I will work to restore local control over land use and zoning decisions. Ventura County residents, not Sacramento politicians, should be responsible for our local community planning.

Question #2: Demand has long exceeded supply of affordable homes in California. That has never been more true than now. What is the #1 policy intervention you would advance to change this reality?

JG: I support reforming California's CEQA law which imposes excessive financial burdens and obstacles to home building. Originally adopted with good intentions, CEQA has become a major contributor to the high cost of housing that is pricing so many Ventura County families out of the home buying market.

Question #3: Policy solutions require division of finite financial resources. How would you prioritize division of limited resources among prevention, shelter and permanent housing to address homelessness? What are the tradeoffs of short-term vs. long-term solutions and your preferred approach?

JG: We need to take a comprehensive approach to reducing homelessness. Allowing the homeless to suffer on the streets is not humane. I believe we should explore the use of mental health courts to provide needed treatment to the addicted and mentally ill homeless. In addition, I want Ventura County to work with non-profit partners to provide longer term housing for homeless individuals that includes employment training and placement. There are so many employers looking for workers. Those who are not homeless by choice have the opportunity to fill a true employment need.

The mission of the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH) is to facilitate affordable housing development across Southern California by advancing effective public policies, sustainable financial resources, strong member organizations, and beneficial partnerships.

For more information, contact Frank Martinez, Policy Director, at fmartinez@scanph.org.