

**SOLANO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT  
QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES**

**ELIZABETH PATTERSON, FOR MAYOR OF BENICIA**

September 5, 2007

1. Why are you running in this election?

I will bring a different kind of politics and be a different kind of mayor for Benicia by opening government up for the public's interest and not the private self interest of an elected official and their friends. I have confidence in my community and its residents and welcome and invite them to work with me to foster appreciation of our history, environment and our cultural assets; to ensure a fair and safe city for all its residents; and to make sure businesses get a fair and square deal but not the whole deal.

2. What do you hope to accomplish in this office? What are your top goals for this term?

To provide an opportunity for all the residents to participate in government and to have a say about decisions that affect them.

To ensure clean government.

To adhere to a code of conduct that sets the highest standards for ethics by city officials and respect toward the public that minimizes the barriers for public participation.

To foster locally owned businesses, match job growth with housing and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation especially in solving energy, greenhouse gases and climate change.

To further safe streets through traffic calming, community development based on walkability, and implement the Safe Routes 2 School programs.

To insist on healthy communities by collaborating with the school district on community, edible gardens, healthy food and drinks, outdoor activities and safe routes to school.

To demand air and water quality monitoring and enforcement of standards.

To establish Mayor Committees for: 1) cultural commission, 2) waterfront park planning (that becomes the anchor for a downtown destination), and 3) Boards, committees, commission appointment review process and candidate selection..

3. What is the nature and extent of your involvement in community, civic, and/or political activities: I am serving as a council member, have been on the planning commission, chair of the Benicia General Plan Oversight Committee, served on numerous committees, board member of several non governmental organizations, and campaigned for several democratic candidates.
4. What background or experience make you the best candidate for this position? How is it applicable.

My most important qualification for Mayor is my longtime commitment to Benicia, my home for 24 years, and the place where I raised my children. My concern for its quality of life has led me to serve on the city's planning commission, to chair the citizen-led general plan committee, and for the past four years to serve as a member of the Benicia City Council.

I have twenty years of local and state governmental experience. I have a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning, and served as planning director for two Bay Area cities. I am a water resources and land use environmental scientist for the state.

On council, I've promoted open, accessible and clean government, sustainable economic development, clean water and air, and adherence to the general plan's vision for a small, historic town with safe streets. As mayor I will continue to champion these goals.

5. Do you seek the endorsement of the Solano County Democratic Central Committee? Yes.