



2022 Mayoral & City Council Elections

Candidate Questionnaire

Topic: Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds Lease Extension

Issued by the Friends of the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds

The candidates elected in the 2022 Petaluma Mayoral and City Council elections will make decisions that have the potential to dramatically impact the future of the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds. The Friends of the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds do not endorse candidates, but we believe Petaluma residents deserve to know where candidates stand on the key issues surrounding the future of their Fairgrounds.

Please respond thoroughly to each of these questions. When you finish, please send your responses to friendsofsmfairgrounds@gmail.com by September 5, 2022. Your responses will be shared on our website and with the greater community.

Candidate Name: Bobb Kosoff

District/Seat: District 2

1. What does the fairgrounds mean to you and your community?

Very much but needs further development

2. What are your favorite and least favorite aspects of the fairgrounds?

Car shows plus fairs

3. Describe your understanding of the history of the fairgrounds and how important it is to protect the history, heritage and traditions the fairgrounds has contributed to the community over the past 112 years?

We need to have a fairground in our community

4. What is your vision for the future of the fairgrounds over the next 50 to 100 years?

We need a fire and police training center and also an indoor gun range

5. What are the positives and negatives associated with the 4th District Agricultural Association (a state agency comprised of local state appointees) managing the fairgrounds property?

We need local input. Outside input should be scrutinized/evaluated.

6. The city has hired *Healthy Democracy* to engage the community in shaping the future of the fairgrounds. How should the city use the information gained from this expensive and lengthy process?

All costs should be evaluated for the good.

- 7. At what point should the future of the fairgrounds be determined by an official vote of the residents of Petaluma?**
Soonest election
- 8. The 4th DAA represents all of Marin & Sonoma Counties. How much input should the extended community from outside of Petaluma have on the fairground's future?**
We are a diverse community. We need to listen to our constituents
- 9. How do you see the 4th DAA and the City of Petaluma working together to shape and protect the fairgrounds for future generations?**
Depends on the cost and direction they take us
- 10. Currently there are 9 permanent tenants and dozens of interim renters leasing fairgrounds property 52 weeks a year. These include schools, public services, non-profits, private businesses, raceway, farmers market, etc. Where do they fit into your vision for the fairgrounds and what obligation does the city have to mitigate negative impacts caused by an uncertain future and this lengthy outreach process?**
I think the tenants should stay and add more
- 11. Should the footprint or orientation of the fairground's property change and why?**
Community first
- 12. Since 1961 the Petaluma Speedway has operated in the fairground's grandstands on roughly 25-30 nights a year. What is your vision for the Petaluma Speedway over the next 50 to 100 years?**
Very enjoyable venue. Let them continue
- 13. At times of natural disasters and public health emergencies, the fairgrounds serves as the cities largest and most flexible public safety resource. Should the city decide to end the lease with the 4th DAA and change the properties use, how should the city account for these lost public safety services for people and animals?**
No, keep access for any and the events
- 14. Knowing a secure future is essential for long-term financial investment into any property, if you are in favor of a lease extension for the 4th DAA on the existing fairgrounds property, what length of lease would you advocate for and why?**
5 years and evaluate the costs
- 15. Is there anything else you would like the community to know about your views on the fairgrounds?**
I would like to have a fire and police training building area. I would also like an indoor shooting range for police and public access put in.