

Leslie D Martin

Candidate for: Marina City Council – District 4

Email: lesmartin91@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired Naval Officer

Years in the Area: 6

Education: MBA - Duke University; MS in National Resource Management from National Defense University, a DOD senior service college, BA - McDaniel college (economics and Pol Sci)

HOUSING POLICY

What is your position on affordable housing? Please be specific with regards to policies you support or oppose

We need affordable housing. I expect we will need to build more multi-unit homes in the future. I am talking about townhouses/condo's and perhaps more, higher high-rise apartments. I do not support any kind of rent control. History has shown that rent controls reduce the availability of decent housing, as landlords can take their property off the market.

Do you support modifying city policies or regulations to make it easier and cheaper to build housing? If so, what specific policy changes do you support?

I believe Marina is taking a balanced approach. I support their current approach.

Do you support requiring that “inclusionary housing” units be made permanently affordable, even upon resale? If not, please explain.

Sounds like a good idea but how do you execute that?

Do you support requiring developers of hospitality, commercial and industrial projects that significantly increase demand for already scarce housing resources to pay housing impact fees to finance workforce housing or to build such housing themselves?

I believe they are already paying impact fees in Marina. I do not support government building the housing projects. They should be developed commercially.

How should local governments finance affordable housing?

Government will not be able to build enough affordable housing to meet demand. I believe Marina effectively uses county, state, federal grants, when available to help support housing needs. I do not see it as the governments responsibility to build housing.

Throughout Monterey County, local governments have approved ~21,000 single family homes that haven't been built, and another ~13,000 are proposed. The median home price in Monterey County is ~\$850,000. Do you support adding more single family homes to the unbuilt pipeline or zoning for more affordable apartments, condominiums, and townhouses?

We need both. The prices are high because the demand is high. We do need to build more apartments, condo's and townhouses. They do not all need to be build in Marina. Marina has a master plan and we should stick to our master plan.

What other housing policies do you support or oppose?

We need to minimize the unnecessary direction from government which just makes the housing more and more unaffordable. I have no specific housing agenda, other than to continue to support Marina's smart growth efforts.

WATER POLICY

What specific proposals do you support to ensure your community can meet its water demands without increasing the overdraft of the County's groundwater aquifers or violating the SWRCB's Cease and Desist Order regarding taking water from the Carmel River?

MCWD advised me that they feel we have enough water for the current demand. I support the governors new policy of four components - more storage, more recycled water, reduced consumption, and desal. That said, I do not support the Cal-Am desal project. It is not in support of Marina and is being built in the wrong location. I agree with the Mayor that we should support a regional desal project. The Cal-Am project is not that. Also, MCWD advised me that if they needed desal, they have the capability of doing that.

For Peninsula Candidates:

Do you support expansion of Pure Water Monterey as an alternative to building the desalination plant approved by the CPUC in 2018 but now stalled before the Coastal Commission? Why or why not? On what estimate of water demand is your position based, the estimate made by MPWMD or by Cal-Am? If you support the Cal-Am desalination project, how large should it be? Who should pay for the excess capacity from the desalination project until demand materializes for its water, Cal-Am shareholders, business ratepayers, or residential ratepayers?

MCWD board members advised me that they have presented Cal-Am with suggestions needed to gain their support. I will only support a desal project that has the support of MCWD.

GROWTH POLICIES

Do you support the creation of “urban growth boundaries” or expansion of the existing boundary as a way to prevent urban sprawl, and to insure that future growth is compact, efficient, and protective of the environment? If not, what measures would you support to prevent urban sprawl? If yes, will you sponsor an urban growth boundary in the upcoming year, and make it one of your top three priorities?

Marina passed an urban growth boundry in the last election. I supported it based upon a good explanation of the need from our Mayor. I believe it will last for 20 years. There is no other need for such a proposal in the Marina area.

Poorly planned, non-infill commercial developments and hotels create more trips and additional vehicle miles traveled on already overcrowded roads and highways. Both residents and visitors pay the price of delay and increased pollution. What specific traffic congestion relief solutions do you support?

I believe Marina has a master plan that considers our needs. I do agree that we need to improve 156 between Castroville and the 101. That road is unsafe and overcrowded. I also think we need to fix highway 1, going through Seaside/Monterey but that is not an issue that would be under the office that I seek.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

Do you support roundabouts on Highway 68 and other roads? What other transportation policies or practices have you seen that local governments should incorporate?

Where traffic analysis shows that roundabouts are needed, I believe they can save lives and improve traffic flow. I like the round abouts that I have seen put in place around the area.

CANDIDATE PRIORITIES

If you are elected, what will be your top three priorities?

1. completing the removal of blight left over from Ft Ord; 2. Modernizing the city infrastructure; 3. ensuring efficient city government.

What land use policies would you champion for the community?

Continuing the development of Marina per the city master plan and the completion of our planned communities.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

What accomplishments in your career or public service are you most proud of?

Completing 30 years as a US Navy Officer, retiring at the rank of Captain (06); serving on the staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; serving as the Deputy to the Director of Logistics at US Pacific Command in Hawaii.

Experience

I have 30 years of experience as a Supply Corps Officer in the United States Navy, retiring at the rank of CAPTAIN (06). I have an additional five years in the civil service for a combined 35 years with the US Navy. My experience is in the areas of logistics, finance, accounting, contracting, and operational planning. My tours of duty included two Pentagon tours (Navy HQ staff and the Joint Staff) and key staffs in the Pacific (Pacific Fleet HQ and Pacific Command HQ). I have never held elective office before.