

## VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

### LOCAL NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The following pages may not contain a complete list of candidates. For a complete list of candidates, please refer to the Sample Ballot pages located at the beginning of this booklet. Candidate statements are voluntarily written by the candidate and printed exactly as filed. Statements are printed at the expense of the candidate, unless the governing body has agreed to pay the cost.

Statement of **BONNIE MAHLER**, Candidate for  
Governing Board Member  
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

**Occupation:** Owner of Ducky Deli

My husband and I live in Aromas and are lifelong residents of San Benito County. I attended local school as did my children. My grandchildren and great grandchildren are currently attending Aromas-San Juan Schools.

My Community Experience includes:

- Aromas Water Board
- Past President of Aromas Service Club
- Chairman of Aromas Day Celebration
- Membership in the Aromas Community Foundation
- Little League Sponsor

I have always participated in the school's activities involving myself in Little League, the Parent-Teacher Association, and Pop Warner.

Once elected, I will work towards improving the educational needs of all children. I have a good perspective of what is needed in a classroom based upon my experiences along with those of my daughter-in-law, a teacher at Aromas School, and my daughter, a director of a Pre-School. A school board member must be able to lead and have a positive approach to develop educational success for all of our children.

If elected my top goals are:

- Increase growth and graduation rates at Anzar High
- Improve the ranking of our schools
- Focus on academic achievement

Ask questions and be an actively participating member of the school board

I would appreciate your vote.

Statement of **SYLVIA RIOS-METCALF**, Candidate for  
Governing Board Member  
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

**Occupation:** College Instructor

Education and Qualifications: As a parent, community member, community college instructor, and ASJUSD School Board Trustee for 3 terms, I have made a deep commitment to quality education for all students. Serving on the board has given me a great deal of experience with school funding, construction and educational issues. I've worked with integrity to make sure our district plans and invests in long term solutions; quality teachers and administrators, challenging curriculum and meaningful parent and community involvement.

During my tenure the district has been fiscally solvent, student achievement has been climbing, with students meeting and exceeding state standards. Anzar High School was built, athletic programs are expanding, modernization of Aromas and San Juan Schools is in process, new facilities are under construction at all 3 schools, and Adult Education ESL, citizenship classes and Mi Escuelita Pre-School were established.

I participate in school activities and committees and am committed to doing the hard work it takes to continue to improve our schools. I'm always interested and available to hear individual concerns and aid you in finding positive resolutions to problems.

I would like to continue working on the school board to maintain the positive direction of our district and would appreciate your vote.

Statement of **RACHEL PONCE**, Candidate for  
Governing Board Member  
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

**Occupation:** Home maker

Education and Qualifications: My involvement with ASJUSD dates back to my own school attendance nearly 53 years ago. My five children, five grandchildren and I represent three generations of local school supporters. I have a long term interest in community and in quality education for all the children in Aromas and San Juan.

As a member of the ASJUSD board of trustees, I take my duties and responsibilities very seriously. I work hard to be objective, fair, and respectful, with a personal ethic of integrity, in order to make conscientious decisions.

I feel very strongly that the school district should have meaningful and valued parent involvement and I support school and family partnerships.

With the commitment and dedication of the school district staff we are closing the achievement gap, test scores are going up and Anzar students are continuing their education after they graduate.

In order to stay in touch with Aromas and San Juan School communities I am involved in Anzar Boosters, I chaperone field trips and participate in district committees.

I would like to continue to serve on the school board to help in building the education success of our students. I would appreciate your vote.

Statement of **LESLIE AUSTIN**, Candidate for  
Governing Board Member  
Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

**Occupation:** Editor / Parent

**Age:** 43

An active San Benito County resident (17+ years) and freelance textbook editor, I can bring a varied background of experience and perspective to our board, while valuing the often competing concerns of students, parents, teachers, and administrators. I am moderate in approach, and believe that educational decisions are best influenced by reputable data, the democratic process, and compassion.

My background spans a childhood in the military to recent years serving in diverse volunteer organizations. Presently, I am involved in the Community-School Alliance—an outreach program formed in partnership with parents, community members, and local school and district officials, whose primary goal is improved communication. I also have two children—ages 20 and 14—both of whom were/are schooled in our district.

Public schools require accomplished administrators, teachers, and parents...and trustees who: ensure the district serves students today, and in generations to come; work in partnership with teachers, administrators, and families in our culturally-diverse community whose voices must be heard and valued; are team players and resist the urge to micromanage; are willing to work beyond monthly meetings to build consensus; foster innovation with documented results; and are fiscally disciplined.

With your support, I will work hard for our children.