

## Candidate Questions as Seen in the Pacifica Tribune



### **Matt Dougherty:**

#### **Why are you running for office?**

I am a native Pacifican, born and raised. I love my city and think that Pacifica can do better in a number of areas. I am looking to be a leader in conservation by preserving the land and coastline of Pacifica, encouraging energy and water saving techniques for all new projects and city buildings. I want to attract new innovative businesses to Pacifica, while growing the success of our existing ones. I want to locate the funds to repave Pacifica streets and improve our community's infrastructure. The streets in our neighborhoods are looking shabby, potholes and eroding asphalt need to be fixed. I want to beautify our community, check out the running log on my website [VoteDougherty.com](http://VoteDougherty.com) and record the streets in your neighborhood that need to be fixed first.

Another priority of mine includes managing the city budget in a fiscally sustainable manner with respect to our community values. I look forward to authoring legislation that will enhance our quality of life, city, and property. I will voice the concerns and observations of myself and other Pacificans during our city council meetings.

I think Pacifica can do better and you can see I have some ideas to start, but I welcome you to share your ideas with me too. Let me know what's important to you at [VoteDougherty.com](http://VoteDougherty.com)

Have you held political office before? Yes, I have held numerous elected positions since seventh grade, but most notably two recent positions in government at my university. I was elected from a 9,000 student constituency as Board of Director and Chief Financial Officer for the \$2 million student government non-profit corporation. I sat on about 10 University boards and committees with various responsibilities including Board of Director on Sonoma State University's Academic Foundation with the principle mission to receive and administer gifts, endowments and planned giving to the University (a portfolio of about \$40 million). I was accountable to 9,000 constituents serving as their voice in the shared governance process. I held open forums, consulted with groups, and authored legislation to make necessary changes.

As a new member of the Pacifica City Council and being born and raised in the community, I will offer a different perspective to the community. My experience in maintaining a large budget and authoring legislation and policy revisions with input from all sides will help me get started quickly in City Council.

#### **What's your profession?**

A Human Resources Intern at a publicly traded company (NYSE) that is a member of the S&P 500 index.

#### **What community organizations do you belong to?**

I do not belong to any organizations currently, but I earned the rank of Eagle Scout from local Boy Scout Troop 74. I am impressed with the many organizations we have in Pacifica and if you're part of one, I would enjoy meeting all of you and finding out what's important to your group. If you would like to invite me to your next meeting, you can email me at [matt@votedougherty.com](mailto:matt@votedougherty.com).



**John Keener:**

**Why are you running for office?**

I'm running for City Council because I'm opposed to the widening of Highway 1. Additionally, because \$4 million has gone missing from the city budget, I want to help restore fiscal responsibility and do so in an open and transparent way with public involvement.

**Is this your first political office?**

Yes. Though I have participated in a number of organizations throughout the community over the years and have attended council meeting regularly, I have never held an elected office.

**What's your profession?**

Prior to my retirement, I was a research biochemist, medical writer, and small businessman.

Are you involved with any local organizations?

I am an active member of Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives and participate in other regularly-scheduled meetings about a variety of local environmental issues.



## **Therese Dyer:**

### **Why are you running for office?**

I am running for Pacifica City Council because I am a long-time resident that witnessed the defeat of Measure L, the fire assessment tax, the all women City Council, and the recall of our former City Council members. I addressed my opinions regarding the one half sales tax, the outsourcing of our police department, and the UTT tax and my advice was correct on all of them. The other reason is that I'm the only candidate that attends on a regular basis, city and county meetings which include the charter review meetings, Being on the 2011-12 Grand Jury enabled me to interview heads of education, finances, transportation and the sheriff's departments. I have also taken the Citizens Academy Class (which I recommend to all candidates). Besides serving as a San Mateo County Senior Peer Counselor and Prison Minister, I also took both the Battered Women and Nami Courses. I believe we have talented people in this community that would like to engage themselves to making Pacifica a more hospitable place to live and should be part of the budget making process. In fact the state encourages it under the Government Performance Accountability Act. I also have some creative ways of moving Pacifica forward. As far as recognition goes I think my letters to the editor over the years and my presence at our City Council meeting and the Democrats meetings asking questions have given me some recognition.

### **Is this your first political office?**

I have run for Pacifica City Council before. Abraham Lincoln ran seven times, according to Congresswoman Jackie Speier.

### **What's your profession?**

I am a retired businesswoman.

### **Are you involved with any local organizations?**

I am currently a lifetime member of Beta Sigma Phi, a women's international organization, and served on both local and regional boards and chaired major events. Also, I am a member of the Grand Juror's Association and the Moose Lodge and I am second vice-president of the Democrats Club.



## **Eric Ruchames:**

### **Why are you running for office?**

There are many complicated problems facing Pacifica. I won't make any simplistic campaign promises. Instead, I offer my decades of experience and knowledge gained while serving this community as a police officer, school board member and volunteer. I spent almost 30 years as a police officer protecting and serving our city, and have a deep level of understanding, appreciation and familiarity with our community. During 10 years on the Pacifica School District Board I've demonstrated leadership by working in a collaborative way with members of the community on the issues that face us. We've modernized the schools, provided an outstanding educational program for our children and managed taxpayer funds effectively. As a volunteer member of the Pacifica Library Foundation I've worked hard to move the process forward to bring a new modern library to our community.

I will promise to be a collaborative leader, communicate with the community and work with you to create the best solutions possible. I can guarantee to listen, even when we don't agree on every issue. But we can talk to each other, treat one another with respect, and promote our mutual goal of enhancing our beautiful coastal community.

### **What's your profession?**

I am a school board member and retired police sergeant.

### **Are you involved with any local organizations?**

More information at [www.ericruchames4council.com](http://www.ericruchames4council.com)



## **Victor Spano:**

### **Why are you running for office?**

I live in Fairmont with my wife Carmen and my son, John, a fourth grader at Cabrillo. I first thought of running for office long ago when working at Daly City City Hall during the 1990s. I was first inspired by Mike Guingona. Here was a young guy, young as me, running for office, winning and making a difference. I recently wrapped up a long career as a municipal employee. I know what municipal employees are going through, and now I want to make a difference on the Council side of things. As I lived in Broadmoor until 2007, I could not run for any council. But soon after I bought my house here in Pacifica, I noticed all the vacant storefronts and wanted to apply my expertise in economic development, so I volunteered to help out and was appointed to the Economic Development Committee, which I served on between 2011-2013, including as chair. I floated some trial balloons discussing the possibility of running with some EDC members. Len Stone and Mary Ann Nihart encouraged me to run, Sue Digre signed my nominating petition, and in November 2012, I did not do too badly for an unknown, coming in second, or actually statistically tying with Rich Campbell. I was encouraged by some business people to try again in 2014, and here I am.

I made an offer on the Beach Boulevard site earlier this year on behalf of an overseas investment group to do the program -- hotel, townhouses, retail, restaurant, vetted by the neighborhood, but the city was not ready. I want the city to jump start the Beach Boulevard project, with or without a library. Like many in town, I want to preserve library services in the south part of town. While many are gung-ho about a new \$35 million library, I'm more concerned about the condition of our two fire stations (said to be seismically questionable,) as well as issues brought to my attention regarding the North County Fire Authority by some former employees. A second dog park for north part of town and a new bike/skateboard park near Park Mall or Frontierland would work for me too. I wrote the letter to the editor regarding Council Member Mike O'Neill's slide show about capital improvement projects and how the northeast parts of town were "left out." I am hoping those living in the northeast part of town will come out and support representation or better representation for their neighborhoods by voting for me. While the folks down the hill argue about Highway One, I want to shift some attention to Skyline Boulevard and get the Council to request Caltrans do a feasibility study for improving that road. As for Highway One, I believe the road should be improved; however, if there are attributes that can be changed beforehand, let's look at them. I am open-minded.

### **Is this your first political office?**

Yes.

### **What's your profession?**

I am a retired Economic Development Coordinator.

### **Are you involved with any local organizations?**

President Elect of the Pacifica Rotary Club and Contest Chair for the Fog Fest Organizing Group and a member of the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce. I want to get more involved with Fairmont Subdivisions Improvement Association in the future.



## **Sue Digre:**

### **Why are you running for office?**

The world recession affected Pacifica. Developments we approved over four years ago to bring in revenue lost their investors. Substantial, consistent increase in revenue will keep our budgets balanced, consistently diminish the deficits and provide better Community services, filling potholes, fixing sewer laterals...

I would like to stay to complete the work on bringing in more revenue. We had to make grueling decisions and cutbacks to achieve a balanced budget.

### **What's your profession?**

I am an experienced and successful General Education Teacher who turned to Advocacy and Family Support Services at Parca in 1999

### **Is this your first political office?**

No.

### **Are you involved with any local organizations?**

#### **Pacifica:**

Historical Society

Sanchez Art Center

Pacifica Performances

AAUW

American Legion

Pacifica Beach Co-alition

Open Space and GGRC Parkland Committee

Economic Development Committee and Sub Committee on "In Pacifica"

#### **County:**

Airport Noise Commission and sub committees

County Emergency Services and subcommittees

Congestion Management Alliance and subcommittees

Housing Heart IAC



**Mike O'Neill:**

**Why are you running for office?**

This term was for only two years filling the time left after e councilman resigned. I think that we have made some progress towards our goals as a City but more needs to be done. I want to be a part of the Renaissance of Pacifica.

**What's your profession?**

Real Estate Agent

**Is this your first political office?**

No

**Are you involved with any local organizations?**

Pacifica School District Board of Trustees 14 years, Parent Teacher Organizations at Terra Nova, IBL, and Cabrillo. Coach for Soccer and Pacifica American League, Pacifica Library Foundation Board, President Chamber of Commerce, Good Shepherd Men's Club, Pacifica Spindrift Players Advisory Board, Board of Directors Boys and Girls Club and probably some others as well.