

Dale Francisco

Hi, I'm City Councilman Dale Francisco. I'm running for re-election and I'm asking for your vote. My four years on City Council in these tough economic times, and countless hours spent listening to and speaking with you, have given me the experience and the knowledge to represent you and to make your voice heard at City Hall.

In my first two years on Council, I was often the only voice calling for fiscal discipline. A previous Council made spending decisions that reduced our rainy day fund to less than a tenth of the required amount, putting vital services at risk. Because we didn't have the resources we should have had, the recession forced us to make painful cuts in library hours, park maintenance, and public safety.

Given these tough choices, city finances are now in better shape. Revenues are slowly coming back, and we're holding the line on spending to make sure that vital city services, including public safety, are provided to all Santa Barbarans despite an uncertain economic future.

Last year I stood up against plans for high-density housing throughout Santa Barbara's neighborhoods. This year I helped craft a compromise that will preserve Santa Barbara's small-town scale, because that's what Santa Barbarans have told me they want.

Working with my fellow Council members, I've also helped prevent the installation of bulbouts and other traffic obstructions that you opposed.

As your representative on the Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board, I've helped move forward a large project, under budget, that is critical to the South Coast water supply.

For the first time in a decade, we've added new positions to the police department. The goal is to make the downtown, waterfront, and Milpas areas, safe, clean and friendly once again.

During the next four years, I'll continue to protect Santa Barbara's unique neighborhoods from overdevelopment. I'll work with the police, the County, and with non-profit organizations to help more of the mentally ill homeless off the street. And I'll be careful to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.

It has been an honor to serve you for the past four years. I'm asking for your vote to keep Santa Barbara moving in the right direction.

Working together, we'll make our neighborhoods clean and safe, we'll restore economic vitality, and we'll preserve for ourselves and for future generations the beauty and friendliness of the city we love.

Thank you.