

John W. Gibbs, Jr.

Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm John Gibbs, a candidate for your City Council. I'm a retired physician and an electrical engineer. For 26 years I practiced anesthesia at Cottage Hospital. I've served 14 months on a Federal Grand Jury and another year on a Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury.

What will I bring to the city of Santa Barbara? Most important is my ability to say, "NO". No, when special interest groups seek favors of the council that aren't in the best interests of our community! I can do this because I have no self-serving agenda and will not be accepting donations or endorsements from these groups.

Raising taxes and fees in this depressed economy makes little sense. Everybody is hurting, more business will be lost. It's time for the City Council to make deeper cuts. In that regard I propose the Council show leadership by taking the biggest hit. Also important are retirement benefits. A defined benefits program in today's economy just won't fly. It's too expensive and it's too risky. The current problem of reducing expenses through uncompensated time off is not a good answer. We deserve a full time government.

Capitol expenditures merit our attention. Millions for "bulbouts" need to go the way of the little blue line. I'm sure we can put our heads together and come up with any number of ideas that are superior to street realignment.

Measure B needs to be passed. Period.

Regarding gangs and graffiti. Is there anything wrong with a little, "tough love"? Let's get the parents involved. It may take a community to raise a child but the community can't enter the home and teach social responsibility. We must continue pursuing the graffiti element. Major felonies in the furtherance of gang activity needs to be treated as an adult crime with adult penalties. No more wrist slapping! These kids are past masters at gaming the system!

We can't put an end to homelessness but we can curtail aggressive panhandling. I don't have much faith in donation boxes, mostly because any money collected will likely just end up in the general fund.

Yes, we have community problems. Yes, the solutions are uncomfortable. Yes we can do it! Politicians must remember they work for the citizens not just the special interest groups.

Thank you for allowing me to express my views.

Your city council candidate, John Gibbs.