

## Bonnie Raisin

Hello, I'm Bonnie Raisin and I am a candidate for the Santa Barbara City Council.

It's time for men and women serving on the City Council to become more responsive to the voices of the people through neighborhood participation. Without council representation by district the neighborhoods' real needs are neglected. Neighborhood Watch groups and Commissions are good as far as they go but I would propose monthly Town Hall meetings, neighborhood by neighborhood, with two or more members of the City Council alternating once a month to meet with each neighborhood throughout the city offering people the opportunity to express their concerns directly to their elected officials.

In 1996 the voters in Santa Barbara passed an initiative requiring the city to hold evening council meetings at 6:00 PM. It is only fair to reinstate the will of the voters in this matter.

All departments of the city under the leadership of the City Manager with direction from the City Council must be transparent to the public through regular reporting at council meetings. The public must have knowledge of the priorities of each department and how they intend to be cost efficient while protecting the health, safety and welfare of the community.

As a council member I will provide oversight on how the departments are spending your tax dollars. I will monitor the Budget and the General Fund while making sure that the General Reserve is maintained at a prudent level through out the fiscal year.

I was born and raised and educated in Santa Barbara. I have served the community as a business person and as a volunteer in many organizations and know my traditional values and background enable me to hold in high regard the importance of a fiscally responsible city council while preserving Santa Barbara's inherent beauty and grace.

Thank you.