

MCAR "BORPAC" Candidate Endorsements

The MCAR "BORPAC" Trustees (Political Action Committee) have come to a decision on candidates they wish to endorse or support for various offices in Monterey County.

Over 40 invitations were sent out to candidates (not running un-opposed) for Mayor and City Council in Monterey County communities. About half of the invitees responded with a desire to participate in the BORPAC interview process which included a detailed questionnaire on relevant industry-related issues.

The Trustees met over the course of three days to interview candidates and deliberate on whom they felt would be best suited to represent home buyers and sellers in our communities.

As a reminder, the views expressed by either the BORPAC Committee or its Trustees are not necessarily that of the MCAR Board of Directors. BORPAC is a separately governed organization comprised of appointed MCAR members.

BORPAC Endorsements for the 2008 General Election

Gary Wilmot
Running for Mayor (Incumbent)
City of Marina, CA

Ralph Rubio
Running for Mayor (Incumbent)
City of Seaside, CA

Steve Bloomer
Running for City Council (Incumbent)
City of Seaside, CA

Felix Bachofner
Running for City Council
City of Seaside, CA

Jim Ford
Running for City Council (Incumbent)
City of Marina, CA

Nancy Amadeo
Running for City Council (Incumbent)
City of Marina, CA

Ralph Widmar
Running for City Council
City of Monterey, CA

Libby Downey
Running for City Council (Incumbent)

City of Monterey, CA

Chuck Della Sala
Running for Mayor (Incumbent)
City of Monterey, CA

Carmelita Garcia
Running for City Council
City of Pacific Grove, CA

Richard Ahart
Running for City Council
City of Pacific Grove, CA

Vince Ferrante
Running for City Council
City of Salinas, CA

Christopher Bourke
Running for Mayor
City of Soledad, CA

Get Out the Vote

I don't just speak for myself when I say that I'm excited for November 4th to get here. Everyone has their reasons as to whether or not they choose to capitalize on their right to vote; one's right (or some say, obligation) to not only express an opinion but to implement that opinion into action. Regardless of party affiliation or political standing, we have a responsibility to show up and cast a vote on Election Day. Yet with every year, it seems the event becomes sterilized due to a sense of voter indifference which often stems from an overload of political banter and media repartee. Continual saturation from every source conceivable, an ongoing stream of fermenting negativity and a flow of exaggerated promises and claims of one's candidacy, can drive a voter far away from the polls. So, the question is - how does one see through the mess and focus on the issues? More over - how do we as constituents, respond accordingly to those issues at the polls?

Confusion and apathy seem to be the primary forces keeping the citizens from casting their votes come Election Day. A flurry of campaign commercials, full page ads in the local paper and endless mailers have no doubt made their way to your doorstep in recent weeks. Deciphering all of this information and opinions takes time, a commodity held in high regard amongst most individuals. The end result to the onslaught of information is tangible; an apathetic turnout with valuable votes opting to stay home.

So how do we as dedicated citizens go about maximizing our vote, all the while ensuring that we don't spend the entire last quarter of the year pouring over political data and commentary? First of all, voters need to know what they are voting for and this takes research. Research takes time - researching the issues, analyzing the

candidates and familiarizing yourself with all of the propositions can be done expeditiously through a few trusted sources. Two good sources are www.smartvoter.org and the Legislative Analyst's website at www.lao.ca.gov. Both of these websites offer non-partisan views of the issues in one consolidated place.

Finally, voters must take into consideration the advice and commentary of professionals who deal with campaigns and political issues on a regular basis while still balancing that input with their own thoughts and values. November 4, 2008 will be a momentous occasion for the American public; a lot is on the line. The question is will you be a part of it?

Kevin

Until next time,

Kevin Stone
Government & Community Affairs Director
Monterey County Association of REALTORS®