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Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Announces November 2014 Endorsements

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The Salinas Valley Chamber has announced its endorsements for the November 2014 election.

Following its process, the Salinas Valley Chamber's Candidate Review Committee solicited information from candidates and held a series of panel interviews with candidates to discuss their ideas. The committee and Board found these individuals to be most supportive of the Salinas Valley Chamber's public policy positions and friendly to the interests of the business community and the community at large.

Salinas City Mayor: Joe Gunter

Mayor Gunter has shown strong leadership of our City. The City has been working hard to resolve many concerns and we see significant progress with the City's economic outlook. The mayor has articulated a clear plan for the future by leading major initiatives including long-term solutions to our water needs, downtown revitalization and overall economic development. He has also demonstrated he has the ability to lead the team to realize this vision. He deserves re-election to a second term.

Salinas City Council, District 2: Tony Barrera

Barrera understands the inner workings of the City through his active participation on the City Council. He works tirelessly to represent his district and to build relationships with his constituents as well as with other elected officials and decision makers. Councilmember Barrera is a straight-talker with the conviction and courage to stand up for what he thinks is right.

Salinas City Council, District 3: Steve McShane

McShane has proven his love for the City of Salinas by putting his ample energy and creativity to work on behalf of the city. He was a founder of the Salinas Taxpayers Association, as well as a leading voice in dealing with graffiti and promoting neighborhood councils. He is an advocate for responsive government and for using technology to help solve problems. His top three priorities for the City are Safety, Economic Development, and Supporting Arts and Culture. We support McShane's re-election as an important business-friendly voice on the Council.

We appreciate his opponent Melissa Godwin's enthusiasm for helping the City and believe that her motivations are selfless. She will be a strong future candidate if she chooses, as we hope, to get involved in other community positions that will strengthen her knowledge of the issues.

Salinas City Council, District 5: Kimbley Craig

Councilmember Craig eloquently demonstrates a powerful command of the issues facing the City. She offers a thoughtful analysis of possible solutions and has built a strong personal and political network to realize these solutions.

District 5 is responsible for half of the sales tax revenue for the City. Craig has proven she is a powerful advocate for growth, which is necessary to pay for services for the entire city. She shared ten pages of her

voting record to highlight that advocacy. As the City works to realize its vision, Craig is an important advocate for business and the community at large. We unreservedly and emphatically argue that she should be re-elected to continue supporting these efforts.

Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, Zone #5: Norm Nelson

We think that both candidates are formidable. In the end, we agree with Dr. Norm Nelson's assertion that the value of his experience and the fact that he is a doctor would be a tremendously valuable asset to the SVMH Board. He brings 34 years of experience and strong existing relationships with the departments and staff.

Notwithstanding this endorsement, we were thoroughly impressed with Carmen Gil. We commend her and encourage her to continue her work in the community. She is someone to watch.

Monterey County Sheriff: Scott Miller

Miller has proven himself to be a capable administrator of the Sheriff's office. His responses to our questions displayed his detailed knowledge and proficiency with understanding the issues and solutions. The Sheriff oversees a large department with over 400 employees and a budget of \$85M. Sheriff Miller has proven he has the education and skills to manage this important agency and we believe he is deserving of re-election to a second four-year term.

Monterey County Supervisor District 2: John Phillips

Phillips demonstrates a thorough understanding of the issues and complexities confronting Monterey County as well as a balanced approach toward solutions. His background includes experience in the public sector as a respected judge and non-profit experience as the driving voice behind Rancho Cielo. His efforts at violence prevention through Rancho Cielo enabled him to build strong partnerships with the business community and an understanding of their importance in developing solutions to our community's challenges. We believe John Phillips will offer thoughtful and fair leadership as a Supervisor.

For more information, call (831) 751-7725 or visit www.SalinasChamber.com.

The Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce is an association of about 600 businesses and organizations, representing thousands of local employees and stakeholders. The Chamber is dedicated to Creating a Strong Local Economy, Promoting the Community, Providing Networking Opportunities, Representing the Interests of Business with Government, and Taking Political Action. To learn more, visit www.SalinasChamber.com or call (831) 751-7725.

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