

Measures N, O and P Analysis & Positions

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The new districting plan has changed the way that Santa Cruz City Council members must view and judge policy decisions and staying connected to the voices of their constituencies. An important consideration is the approach used balancing the interests of the district with the interests of the city. The politically-correct response is that you balance both interests harmoniously. But, this is not always possible, If our district will be taking the brunt of the negative consequences of a decision for the good of the city as a whole, would I ever sacrifice the district needs for the betterment of the whole? As an individualist, my answer would be “no.” I serve my district constituents first and foremost. It would be my role to ensure that I never have to make that decision and that I negotiate a more balanced cost-sharing of the negative byproducts of a final policy decision. Districts must share equally in the sacrifices necessary to make the “whole” a better place to live. That will be the difference between a successful council member and an unsuccessful one.

I use a litmus test of five criteria for policy-making decisions once I have gathered resident input, In the future, this will be done through a direct democracy software platform. The five criteria are:

- #1 - Individualism over collectivism
- #2 - Empowering the individual
- #3 - Rebuilding the middle class
- #4 - Rebuilding family units
- #5 - Preserving the rich history of Santa Cruz

Here is a quick way for me to assess policy decisions. Behind this system I use are the underlying explanations for each of my choices. In light of time, I won't include these details. The P / F / N are assigned as follows: P = pass the criteria, F = fail the criteria, N = not applicable or has limited influence on the criteria.

Criteria	Measures								
	N			O			P		
	P	F	N	P	F	N	P	F	N
#1		x		x				x	
#2		x		x				x	
#3			x			x		x	
#4	x					x			x
#5			x	x					x
Vote	NO			YES			NO		