



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are you running for Mayor?

I have served in the San Bernardino Council through the turmoil of bankruptcy, terrorism and financial recovery. While ensuring representation with improved services for my 3rd Ward constituents, it is clear that there have been many missed opportunities to elevate our city, improve our economy, and enhance the services that all residents and communities receive. Under my leadership I will fight to create jobs; make our neighborhoods safe and bring new resources and investments that our community desperately needs and deserves.

What is the current Mayor doing wrong?

I have been supportive of some of the incumbent's initiatives and along with my associate councilmembers have worked diligently to ensure a speedy fiscal recovery for our city. When I met with the Mayor to inquire on his plan and vision for the next chapter of our recovery, I was disappointed that he could not articulate one. I have a vision and a passion for moving our city beyond the failed policies of the past and towards a new direction of prosperity.

What makes you think that you can win?

There is no question that it takes an incredible effort to win this election. I am confident that with the overwhelming support I've received from my constituents, fellow councilmembers, community and regional leaders that together we will unite to turn the page from the past and forge a new San Bernardino. My campaign will work diligently to ensure our vision is shared with residents from all corners of the city. That is how we are going to win!

When are we going to see specifics on your platform?

We have started our campaign early to ensure we address all the important issues our city needs. As we move forward in the following months we will be engaged in a listening tour with our city residents to share ideas and concerns about rebuilding San Bernardino. Actively engaging the community is absolutely critical to our future success. We will be updating our positions as appropriate.

What do you see as your biggest obstacle?

Apathy. Many of our residents have given up on our municipality as a source of help or solutions. My entire campaign is built around the concept that every resident deserves to be heard; treated with respect; and provided with real opportunities for success. In the end, it is a community effort, and I intend to lead it.

You claim that Crime is high in San Bernardino?

The primary responsibility of a municipality is to ensure that residents and visitors feel safe within our city limits. Yet murder rates are skyrocketing, homelessness and drug consumption is prevalent and business are failing for lack of commerce opportunities. I will work with our Councilmembers, first responder's leadership and community leaders to ensure that we build a coordinated effort to tackle short, medium and long-term strategies.

How do you keep us out of bankruptcy?

I will start by stopping the bleeding. Many business owners are considering moving their operations to neighboring cities, and some closing operations all-together. As a councilman who successfully facilitated coordination in being new enterprises with hundreds of direct and indirect jobs to my ward, I know how to work with multiple governmental agencies, private businesses and associations and financial institutions to take a new or revitalized business from concept to ribbon cutting.

Senior Citizens need specialized help, what are you doing for them?

Senior Citizens usually live in on a fixed income, have mobility challenges and fear for their safety when engaging on daily transactions. I will work to identify and open additional affordable government supported housing to prepare for the eminent increase as Baby Boomers leave the workforce. I will work to enhance our current senior programs to keep them engaged with successful health and recreation programs. And lastly I will ensure our city services are constructed in ways that make it accessible to senior Citizens.

Biography:

Elected November 2011 with nearly 70% of the total vote, Councilman John Valdivia is committed to neighborhood values. Faced with a recall in November 2013, Valdivia overwhelmingly defeated—with constituent support--the recall efforts by special interests and was the sole elected official to do so in the recall of 2013 in the city of San Bernardino. Valdivia ran unopposed in November 2015 and residents of his district sent him back for a second term. At the selection of his peers, the city council elected him to be the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of San Bernardino in 2016.

As native of San Bernardino, John attended schools from K-12 in San Bernardino, and, with the exception of his college days in the mid-west has been a proud resident of San Bernardino his entire life. John is committed to his local community and serves his community at large by volunteering in civic organizations. Prior to becoming an elected official, Valdivia had been appointed to various commissions by the San Bernardino City Council.

In the summer of 2011, John resurrected Victoria Neighborhood Group, and just recently spearheaded the formation of Amtrak Neighborhood Group. Councilman Valdivia has encouraged these groups to report crime, foster "good neighbor" values, and civic pride in San Bernardino. John is a strong supporter of grassroots efforts and is committed to providing opportunities for residents to take back their streets and get involved.

John can best be described as passionate, energetic, and conscientious of the issues plaguing San Bernardino city hall and its local public policy. Councilman Valdivia often reminds himself of the credo,

"If not ME, then WHO? And if not NOW, then WHEN?"

He abides by that conviction as he prepares for meetings, town hall presentations, and community advocacy on issues that will improve the quality of life for citizens in San Bernardino.

Councilman Valdivia carefully monitors policy in surrounding municipalities, along with county, state & federal programs, and, corresponding transportation initiatives that will impact the wallet of the local taxpayer & impact businesses. Furthermore, John often calls into question the priority list of the elected and compares it with the huge gap expressed from the constituents he serves.

Valdivia pursued undergraduate studies from Evangel University (Springfield, Missouri), and graduate studies from Fuller Seminary (Pasadena, CA), and Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, CA). In December 2011, John, and his wife, Bethany, proudly welcomed their son, Andrew and daughter Abigail.

To learn more about Councilman John Valdivia and his candidacy, we invite you to visit the campaign website: ValdiviaforMayor.com