

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES:  
QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES MAY 2008**

**DISTRICT #3: PAM SLATER-PRICE vs. JOHN VAN DOORN**

**1. Do you believe it would be beneficial to the community you represent to hold regular town hall meetings where your constituents could communicate with you on community concerns? Please elaborate as to why or why not.**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**

**Ms. Slater-Price did not respond to the questionnaire.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

I believe that county supervisors should hold a variety of 'town hall' meetings, with each group meeting with their supervisor on at least a quarterly basis, at hours convenient to the community (mid-afternoon through the evening), and at a public location in the community hosting the meeting.

I also believe such types of meetings should not be limited to citizens of distinct geographic localities; meetings should also be held with certain interest groups (e.g., civic, environmental, business, and political interest groups) as well as with the various entities that interact with county government on a frequent basis (i.e., the Employees Union). These meetings should also be held at a time and place amenable to the group invited.

I believe that the public is best served when their county supervisor is in touch and accessible, on a regular basis, and that such access is not limited to a two minute sound bite at a regularly scheduled public hearing. I promise, if elected, to be regularly accessible for sufficient periods of time, to all the people of my district!

**2. As the elected representative of citizens in your District, how do you, or how will you, provide oversight of the County's Chief Administration Officer and the wide spread County programs?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**

**Ms. Slater-Price did not respond to the questionnaire.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

First, unlike the situation at present, I recognize that my duties are not only to set a budget, set policy, and select a CAO, my primary responsibility to the people of this county will be to ensure that the CAO is performing his job to the satisfaction of the people of this county and, more importantly, that ALL rights of the people of this county are upheld and that all county employees obey all of the laws of our state and Federal government. The CAO should not be used by the

Supervisors for political cover when citizen's rights or the laws of this state are violated!

The people of this county should know that I will take their word at face value first, not the CAO's, and that where differences of opinion occur between the two, I will personally see to it that my staff reviews all evidence and claims presented. Wherever/whenever possible, I will share the findings of that investigation to the involved citizen and if not inappropriate, make such findings open and available to the public.

As supervisor, I am relying on the public to be my 'eyes' and 'ears' as to how well our CAO is performing his responsibilities, and when and where appropriate, I will take the CAO to task for the public's good, publicly if necessary!

**3. What oversight responsibilities do you believe the Board of Supervisors should take regarding the conduct of elections in San Diego County?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**  
Again, no response from Ms. Slater-Price

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**  
Primary oversight should rely with the Registrar's Office, however, once again, the Supervisors are looking to the public to be their 'eyes' and 'ears' regarding problems with elections.

Where the public has concern, public hearings should be conducted and all viewpoints as to possible solutions to the impasse, from all sources, should be debated. And in the event these hearings do not lead to a satisfactory conclusion for the involved parties, the final decision should be determined by a public vote of the Supervisors.

**4. Do you support the County Board of Supervisors recent decision to sue California's Secretary of State due to her mandating a 10% hand count of votes when the difference between the candidates or initiatives is 1/2 of one percent or less. If yes, why? If not, why not?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**  
Once again, no response provided.

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**  
No. County government is essentially the administrative extension of state government and if direction is given by the state to the county, the county should comply. Likewise, whenever the state mandates that the county perform a function, the state should reimburse the county for the cost incurred in conducting the services demanded.

**5. In a close election a candidate may request a hand counted recount of the race. Who do you think should cover the costs of such a recount and why?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**

**No response.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

The government should cover the cost of the initial recount. The public has a right to know that, in a close election, any error associated with the voting process is small compared to the difference in votes cast.

But any additional requests for a recount, except in the instance where the initial recount differs noticeably from the election night tally, should be borne by the party requesting the recount, be it one of the candidates, or another interested party.

**6. What aspects of our election process do you consider to be the strongest and which aspects do you consider to be the weakest?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**

**No response.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

**STRONG to WEAK**

Oversight of the security of the ballots (secure in ballot box, detection of tampering of ballot box, delivery to Registrar's headquarters, check that # of ballots cast equates to number of signatures at precinct sign-in book, etc.)

- 1) Reliability of ballot scanning equipment
- 2) Reliability of electronic voter machines used at polling places.
- 3) Lack of strong ID check prior to a voter taking and casting a ballot at the polling place
- 4) Lack of paper receipts in certain voting equipment
- 5) Previous lack of security taken with electronic voting equipment

**7. What would you recommend to further strengthen the elections process?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**

**No response given.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

All voters be required to submit a valid photo ID (or in the absence of such, some other form of pre-certified ID) prior to receiving a ballot.

All forms of voting apparatus be required to print and maintain a paper record left

with the polling place (in the form of optically marked or paper punched ballots, or in the event of mechanical or electronic voting machines, a printed record of the votes cast must be created and kept).

**8. There are a number of people in San Diego County who believe that hand counting paper ballots at the precinct level is the best way to verify the accuracy of an election.**

**This hand count would then be compared with the numbers produced by the Central Tabulator at the Registrar of Voters Office. This checks and balance system would raise the confidence of voters in the validity of our elections**

**What do you think of such a system of checks and balances and would you be willing to listen to the supporters of this system regarding the practicalities of this approach?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**  
**Again, no response given.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

Such a suggestion sounds laborious and logistically intensive. I would suggest instead that the ballots of each precinct be kept segregated from one another throughout the counting process and that a certain percentage of these (1-5% of the precincts) be randomly selected and assigned for manual count.

**9. There is a strong movement in San Diego County for publicly funded elections. The opinion of supporters is that such elections will prevent "Big Money" from ruling our elections and will allow all candidates and office holders to spend more time meeting their constituents and less time raising money.**

**What do you think of such a publicly funded elections system?**

**ANSWER: INCUMBENT PAM SLATER-PRICE**  
**Once again, no response given.**

**ANSWER: CHALLENGER JOHN VAN DOORN**

I do not believe that publicly funded elections would stop "Big Money" from influencing our elections. Such entities could form political action committees and influence an election anyway.

A better way to limit outside influence would be to place a cap of campaign expenditures and I would favor this way of limiting outside influence (such that PAC's would need to be formed that would be more obvious to the public).