

County Supervisor, District 3: Joe “Hank” Akin

May 22, 2022



1. How should the homeless crisis be addressed? Should Del Norte County buy more motels to convert to homeless shelters?

Fix the problem, not the narrative. The Constitutional Right to pursue happiness must be protected. The question is not about mental health and drugs or economic hardship; those issues are separate and require different solutions. Del Norte County should not buy more motels to convert to homeless shelters without specific measured financial benefit to the county, as well as the guaranteed safety and security of its citizens.

2. What can be done to improve morale within the Sheriff's department? How can the Sheriff's department more effectively recruit, hire and retain experienced deputies?

Provide the tools and training to deal with the current and ever-changing issues and support the enforcement of their lawful duties. Without a thriving and safe and supportive community in which to live and serve, a successful effort to recruit, hire and retain experienced deputies is not likely to happen. Prison guards make

more money, yet they return to their families from whence they came also. There is not enough tax dollars to sustain competition with other agencies. We must compete with revenue to compete with salaries.

3. What can be done to avoid the “catch and release” back into the community of criminal defendants before their matters are resolved by the courts? Should the 48-bed Juvenile Hall – with only one or two persons in custody – be repurposed as an adult facility?

The “catch and release” narrative is caused by the failed policies from Sacramento lawmakers. Laws have to be in place to be enforced. The act of theft is the same crime, regardless of the dollar amount. Hold your government accountable. The County has the authority to sue the Governor for failure to protect its citizens. The Juvenile Hall, with a secure physical plant and necessary staffing can be repurposed into an adult facility. But if the County cannot financially staff the county jail, how can it expand the ability to do so across town? Priority budgeting is a last option, what gets cut to support safety?

4. What is the most pressing problem in your supervisorial district? What do you propose as a solution?

The residents of the Third District indicate safety and security as the most pressing concern. We must support the newly elected Sheriff to the extent possible to perform his necessary Constitutional duties.

5. How can Del Norte County become a place where young people want to remain, to raise a family, to start a career, and become a vital part of this community? What will you do to bring about these changes?

Legacy monies are unsustainable. Bring in revenue to support the services of the county to keep taxes to a minimum, and invest in activities, vocations, and challenges that will hold young peoples’ attention. We must work with stakeholders, investors, financial planners, and community developers to grow this community in positive ways, without destroying the resources and assets that make this county a desirable destination community.

6. Should Del Norte County impose additional controls and fees on short-term rentals? Should short-term rentals be confined to commercial or multi-family zones, or to owner-occupied properties?

Yes. Backyards were not intended to be commercially viable. Most backyards do not possess the facilities and utilities to support commercial traffic. Property with wells and septic tanks within Community Service Districts are not built to sustain such activity. At the very least, the CSDs should require commercial infrastructure hookups, taxes and fees. ADU’s were intended as family assistance dwellings, not as a commercial income stream.

7. Should Del Norte County turn down state and federal grants with strings attached that dictate how local government must solve local problems? Under what circumstances should Del Norte County confront problems without outside funding?

YES! Counties have long been left without assistance to resolve matters within the county. No burden, however small, originating by any other entity outside the county, to include commercial, State or otherwise,

should be allowed without full financial and logistical support provided by said entity, as long as that burden exists.

8. Should the Measure R sales tax increase be repealed? Why or why not?

Yes. The recall of Measure R vote was lawfully requested by the people. The Board of Supervisors serve at the will of the people, and should not act in contravention of the people, regardless of how noble the Board professes to be. This is why the critical operations of the county are not sustainable by taxation alone, especially with record inflation and taxation.

9. Briefly explain, Why are you the best candidate for a seat on the Board of Supervisors representing your district?

The last eight years have shown that the Sheriff's Office is in crisis, the schools define the word blight, the Harbor has drained monies and run off local family businesses, large sums of monies are unaccounted for, County employees have an unfunded retirement, people are tired of being misled, all under the current Board of Supervisors. The current Board of Supervisors allows the Governor to dictate failed policies and pet projects without financial and logistical support, which will continue to cripple this County.