

County Supervisor, District 4: Margaret Sargent

May 23, 2022



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

Homeless answers are unfolding in other counties. Having patience to see how these types of answers impact their communities and why. Placing homeless in the center of a community would only be beneficial if they were provided a community service for the benefits they are receiving. Wherever they are located, they deserve to become part of our community.

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?

I have no worries for our Sheriff's Department. A non-politically motivated Sheriff will improve morale; that will be done when Sheriff Scott steps into office. Using resources allocated from Measure R to increase pay and benefits similar to corrections officer pay will definitely help support recruit, hire and retain deputies longer.

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?

Yes, The juvenile hall would definitely help expand our jail capacity, along with using the old CHP office, as well as Bar-O Boys’ Ranch. All of our juvenile offenders need to learn how to become functioning community members, by learning how to work with others.

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

We are relying too heavily on local government, not on the families in our community. We have rich resources in volunteers, we just need more. Think, “what can I do to help support and rebuild my community with the skills I have?” JFK’s quote, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,” is a very vital reminder of our duty to our county.

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?

Let’s build a community that works together to create positive bonds amongst community members. This will naturally evoke a place where young people want to remain. Create food sustainability where all families choose to volunteer time; do community service projects as a family outing once a week, rather than being idle. Structure cultural bonding behaviors around base resources; start by involving kids’ emotions positively. A family that eats together, sticks together.

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?

Short-term vacation rentals should pay taxes/fees the same as hotels pay. People should do what they wish on their own property. Helping develop a healthy cultural structure in our community that will lead property owners to develop appropriately for common benefits of the structure.

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?

Careful case-by-case grant analysis should be considered. Our physical and private properties in Del Norte County should never be put at risk of being held ransom by government funding, debt or grant requirements. We should protect ourselves, as well as invest in ourselves, by paying taxes to support our community, instead of grants.

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

It’s never popular to pay taxes, but Measure R passed and should remain until we have time to see what positive impact it can have on our county. We must invest in our community positively, to see positive results

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

I'm not politically motivated. My goals consist of bringing the community together to promote self, sustainability of land and families, to achieve natural positive mental health supports and to develop a community culture.