

Press Release

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Slow Growth 4 Redondo announces candidates for Redondo Beach March 2005 municipal election.

Redondo Beach, CA -- Four candidates who spearheaded successful petition drives against the former Heart of the City Plan and the Catalina Redevelopment Plan have announced their candidacy for the March 8, 2005 municipal election.

Running as the Slow Growth 4 Redondo slate, the four are:

- Ellen Allan for Mayor
- Jim Light for District One Council Member
- Bill Brand for District Two Council Member
- Dave Wiggins for City Attorney

After a short rally outside City Hall, the Slow Growth 4 Redondo candidates officially filed their nomination papers and campaign statements with the Redondo Beach City Clerk on Monday morning.

Each of the four candidates has a proven record of consistently opposing over-development. They are also committed to creating a whole new era of open, "resident friendly" city government in Redondo.

In a joint statement the candidates said they "were encouraged to run by many residents who are fed up with the arrogance and unresponsive attitude of city government. Residents deserve more respect and better treatment. We are dedicated to championing the wishes of the people and putting power back in their hands, where it belongs."

Although each of the Slow Growth 4 Redondo candidates has certain goals that are specific to their office or constituency, the slate is united on seven core positions:

Stopping over-development - Any future growth must be determined by the citizens and not developers who see our community Redondo Beach merely as a sales territory.

Traffic can only be mitigated by controlling growth - The city's quality of life is at stake, and other methods have proven inadequate or ineffective.

Honest and open government - The city budget must be designed to inform, not confuse, the public. City audits and annual financial statements must disclose the city's true financial condition. More records must be made available to the public, especially settlement records from city lawsuits.

Spending restraint and budget priorities - The hiring of expensive out-of-town consultants, incurring unnecessary debt, and adding to our tax burden must be halted. Cutting crossing guards, after school care programs, and the Harbor Patrol while maintaining the "old boy network" of giveaways must be stopped.

Maximizing public safety services. Our public safety services are stretched to their braking point. Over-development has placed an incredible burden on our paramedics, police, and other social service providers. Our poorest and weakest citizens, especially the elderly who have lived in and contributed to the city for the longest, often suffer the most.

Preserving and expanding open space - More parks and community amenities are a priority. Slow Growth 4 Redondo supports the Heart Park Vision at the AES site, not more development and congestion. Million of dollars in park bonds funds have been available up and down the California coast for decades, yet Redondo City government hasn't applied for them. Now is the time to change our priorities.

Citizens must be heard - When citizens ask questions, city government must respond, not be dismissive. When enough signatures are gathered on petitions, the voters must be given a chance to decide crucial issues.

According to the slate, "Local government is supposed to be where residents can have the most influence, but Redondo has a long history of elected officials selling out for profits. This coming election in March is an incredible opportunity to turn our city around. It has happened in other cities, and with the help of the community we can do it here."