

For Redwood City Council, the Post recommends

McCarthy, Aguirre, Bain and Foust

The Redwood City Council needs some new blood, but voters don't have many choices in this election. Four seats are up for grabs and the incumbents who hold those seats are running again, along with one challenger, Paul McCarthy, whom we are enthusiastically recommending.

(As an aside, we were surprised

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opponents of the Saltworks development didn't run for council, since those elected in November will likely decide whether it is built. The lack of anti-Saltworks candidates suggests that sentiment against the project isn't strong in Redwood City, and that the opponents are in Menlo Park and Atherton.)

Our first choice

McCarthy said he hasn't made up his mind about Saltworks. He believes that development of the waterfront is appropriate but worries about traffic.

McCarthy is a sergeant in the CHP, a position that carries a high level of responsibility and public trust. He received a Bronze Star while serving in the Army.

He's a 12-year resident of Redwood City, is married and has two children.



McCarthy



Aguirre



Bain



Foust

He's a solid citizen who is well informed on community issues.

Two positions he took got our attention.

First, he opposes Measure M, the city's attempt to increase business taxes by \$21 per company a year and \$15 for each employee. While the amount may not seem large, he didn't like the idea of raising costs on local businesses struggling to get by. The fact that the current council would even put this on the ballot shows a political tone deafness that illustrates our argument that new blood is needed on council.

Second, he's also against Measure I, which would raise the hotel tax from 10% to 12%, arguing that it's wrong to tax people from out of town to support the city government. To us, a 10% tax is plenty — it practically makes the city a business partner with any hotel. The city shouldn't be greedy.

We like how McCarthy thinks. We wish he was waging a more aggressive campaign because it's hard to knock off an incumbent. But we don't make recommendations based on who is likely to win, but who we believe can do the job the best.

About the incumbents

If you agree with us about McCarthy, then you have to not vote for one or more of the four incumbents.

You can argue that the four deserve credit for revitalizing downtown, though the city has a long way to go besides bringing in a cineplex and excellent restaurants. The next step is housing, and the city is slowly moving in the right direction.

The city budget is another story. In May, the city put out a misleading press release saying various city unions had agreed to givebacks, giving

the impression that the council and its negotiators were tough bargainers. Yes, the unions agreed to pay more for their pensions and medical benefits. But the press release omitted the fact that these union members would be getting pay raises in the form of cost-of-living adjustments or COLAs. The fact that nobody on council even raised concerns about the misleading news release speaks volumes to the fact that new blood is needed on council.

Our recommendation is that, in addition to McCarthy, voters re-elect Alicia Aguirre, Ian Bain and Rosanne Foust. Of the four incumbents, the one who has served the longest is Barbara Pierce, having first been elected in 1999. If she is re-elected and serves her term, she will have 16 years on council. We appreciate her service, doing what is often a thankless job. But 16 years is too much for anyone, in our opinion. Time for new blood.