

Community Comment May 16th

This is Karen Brooks, candidate for third district supervisor, with today's Community Comment. I won't use my time to talk about my ideas for creating private sector jobs, or fixing and finishing the general plan update, you can read that for yourself by clicking on my website – [brooksforsupervisor.com](http://brooksforsupervisor.com).

I want to talk about a fundamental difference in my view and Mark's on the role of government in our lives. My opponent looks towards state and federal programs and policies for his answers; his approach is a top down model. He views his role as advocating for more government which seems self-evident to me as he spends so much time going to, and talking, about Sacramento and Washington DC.

The more intrusive government becomes in our lives the less freedom we enjoy. The Patriot Act is a good example. This Act has taken away some of our civil rights for the perception of safety. After nearly eleven years since 911 do you think this Act will go away or expand? Local government needs to be our last line of defense from the whims of faceless, distant bureaucrats. I believe that we should have the freedom to choose what is best for us and our community and that this concept transcends party lines and ideology.

What motivates me to run and knock on thousands of doors, is that I view the state and federal government as an ally and a resource to work with us and foster prosperity. Rather than look outside our county for answers I look within, my approach is a bottoms up model. We have an amazing brain trust right here, I say let's leverage it!

Here's another example of more government intrusion in our lives, Wireless Smart Meters. If you want one great! Get yours, free from PG&E and get ready for their NEW time-of-day rate card, where the most expensive kilowatt will be from 1 to 6 pm. If you who don't want a Smart Meter and want to keep your perfectly good analog meter, you'll now have to pay a \$75 fee, then pay \$10 per month for a service that was FREE last month.

The Smart Meter is an OPT IN Federal program; meaning you decide IF you want one. Our state and county have taken that choice away from us. Local governments do have local control over a state-sponsored monopoly and the staff attorneys who tell them otherwise are wrong. Here is the key point - Government Code Section 54-9-50 states: The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. Our supervisors are elected to advocate on the public's behalf and conduct their business in an open and transparent manner.

As your supervisor, I'll stand up and defend your personal freedoms from over-reaching governmental agencies. But first, you need to elect me, Karen Brooks, as your third district supervisor on June 5<sup>th</sup>.