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## Five candidates qualify for Moraga's town council ballot

By Vera Kochan

Election day is Nov. 3, but before anyone can fill a seat on the town council dais they must qualify as a candidate. First and foremost, candidates must be a registered voter of Moraga at the time nomination papers are issued. All prospective candidates are given a Candidate Application Packet often referred to as "papers" which include a bevy of forms to be filled out and processed with the Contra Costa County Registrar.

Nomination Petitions must be filed with the required number of valid signatures for the office. Signers of Nomination Petitions must also be registered voters and reside in the town.

There is no filing fee, per se, but each candidate must pay \$335 to have a Candidate Statement printed into the voter's information packet.

A Declaration of Candidacy is an official document in which the candidate indicates how his/her name and ballot designation is to appear on the ballot.

The Ballot Designation Worksheet is a group of words that will appear on the ballot under the candidate's name, designating the candidate's principle profession, vocation or occupation.

A Candidate Statement of Qualifications is designed to familiarize voters with a candidate's qualifications for the office he or she is seeking.

The Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) provides transparency and ensures accountability in two ways. It gives necessary information to the public about an official's personal financial interests to ensure that officials are making decisions in the best interests of the public and not enhancing their personal finances. It also serves as a reminder to the public official of potential conflicts of interest so the official can abstain from making or participating in governmental decisions that are deemed conflicts of interest.

Lastly, there is a Code of Fair Campaign Practices in which a candidate vows to follow the principles of decency, honesty and fair play during the campaign period.

Moraga's five candidates who qualified to run for a town council seat in 2020 are: Renata Sos (qualified as of July 23); Teresa Onoda (qualified as of July 30); David Stromberg (qualified as of Aug. 5); Ursula Schilling (qualified as of Aug. 7); and Kendall Langan (qualified as of Aug. 13).

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