

My Public Service Work Ethic

By Fred Strong

You need to know about me. This is about me and my relationship with you.

I am one of the leaders who have built the reputation of Paso Robles, statewide, as a community to be envied for its prudent, forward thinking and cohesive Council and City. I continue to work hard for the best interests of the City at all times. I have been a volunteer and participant in the evolution of Paso Robles from a sleepy agricultural community to the vibrant, friendly and successful community it is today. It has generally kept its small town feeling while providing more city amenities.

I try to build consensus. I am a team player. I emphasize that it is not me that is important, it is us.

I believe in a total approach to being a public servant.

I have been actively involved in issues and opportunities at every level of government and community life since I was a teenager. I have proven that we can make things work together and get things done with cooperation from people exhibiting a positive attitude.

When I learn of an issue, I move quickly to: (1) resolve it if I know how, (2) turn it into an opportunity for greater good for everyone if I can discover a way or (3) research with people and educational resources in greater depth before deciding upon any action or proposal.

To do the above I: (1) seek information and opinions from interested parties and professionals in the area of concern, government staff at the appropriate level(s) – city, county, state or national, (2) use my personal library of materials gathered across the State and Nation, with in-depth materials for the State of California, Central Coast region and cities, regions and states across this nation dating back over half a century, and (3) I do additional research, if necessary, on the world wide web with a cross check for reliability of the information.

I respond as reasonably as possible to nearly all inquiries within my schedule of activities doing my elected responsibilities. My current position involves approximately 50 hours a week with the responsibilities I have accepted. I currently represent the City Council; the City of Paso Robles; the cities within the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura; and the President of the League of California Cities on various boards, agencies, corporations and policy committees throughout the region and state.

I have been actively involved, at the State level on your behalf, regarding realistic housing mandates; fairness in sales, use and transient occupancy taxes; the State budget process; securing and distributing State bond funds; fairness in State attempts to take away existing water entitlements and permits and impose State water rationing; and many more.

I have been the primary proponent of not solving one issue by creating another. I constantly watch for what are called “unintended consequences” and diligently oppose and offer alternatives to unwise decisions. I try very hard to offer fairness to every citizen without giving special consideration to any one citizen over another. I have lost the support of some previous campaign donors who thought their contribution bought them special consideration. It didn't and it doesn't. Contributions help fund an effort to provide fairness to everyone.

I recognize that I cannot please everyone on every decision made. I can only do my best as a concerned, involved and caring human being. Humans are just that: human. I am human. I have probably made some mistakes. I can only hope that they see the many good decisions also.