



## **CITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT**

### **Doug Kuehne for District 3**

District Three has the only incumbent running in this election cycle. That is current City Councilman Doug Kuehne, who wins our Endorsement to again represent District Three. Many Lodians probably do not realize what Doug has done for the City of Lodi. Doug has served on several committees within COG, the Council of Governments, including being the Board Chair. This is the organization led by city council men and women from all the cities in our county. They guide the decision-making process for the RTD bus system, rail service, planning for the future, air service, preservation of farmland and involved in fund allocation for things like the Harney Lane overpass. That overpass came from Measure K, a Tax the whole county pays into. COG works with federal and state monies coming to our county, determining what projects are needed. Many times, Doug has been away from family and his business been to join with other County leaders on the annual trip to Washington D.C. to secure federal funding for local projects. Doug's *experience* here in COG is a big help in Lodi's decision-making on Lodi's growth. In addition, Doug has been the Chair of LAFCO, Local Aera Formation Council. They protect our farmland as much as possible, and are the governing body when cities want to grow and push out their city limits. LAFCO board members must be knowledgeable of many issues which come into play as cities want to expand, such as preventing "leap frog" development keeping growth contiguous to current boundaries. Doug's *experience* gained from LAFCO will become very valuable in the development of Lodi's next General Plan, which must be approved by LAFCO. Doug has spent hundreds of hours learning the governance of our city and the governance of land surrounding Lodi. All of this plus eight-years of City Council work steeps Doug in unmatched *experience* in governing Lodi.

Running also for District Three's council seat is Cameron Bregman. Bregman is an impressive young man; by the age of twenty-one, which he is today, has started two businesses, bought a home at nineteen, is the incoming President of Lodi Rotary, and is now President of Linden Order of Odd Fellows Lodge. He believes in "Service above Self," which is not just a motto to Cameron, but a huge part of his life, and he lives it every day. Cameron someday will make a great Mayor of Lodi. Today, Cameron only lacks the *experience* to pilot the city through its maze of issues, which takes years to

learn. City government has its own culture, driven and often constrained by laws which it must operate under, cities are legally very vulnerable and unique to normal business operation, leading it requires *experience*.

The Chamber found a delightful new friend in Rita Mashni, also running in District Three. Rita is a Mental Health Social Worker, who is also a volunteer for SJC United Way. She has a great desire to help Lodi's Homeless and the residents of her district. Rita has the number one ingredient to serve and *lead* Lodi. A desire to help the people of Lodi live their best life. All she needs is to gain more knowledge of city government and the *experience* needed to guide if City Council is to be her platform.