



CITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT

Lisa Craig for District 2

The Lodi Chamber is proud to announce our endorsements of two candidates for city council. We are confident and believe they are best equipped with the knowledge to guide our city. We believe the days and years ahead will be challenging for all of us. In such times as these, the word which underscores our decisions is “*EXPERIENCED.*”

The selection panel was a cross-section of members of our chamber’s eight-hundred small, medium, and large businesses. People who live here, invested in business here, hire employees and work for all their family’s well-being and the overall success of Lodi. Mr. Patrick, Chamber CEO acts as the panel moderator, who does not vote. Candidates do not know the questions they will be asked; each candidate gets the same questions.

Questions are designed to find out what they know about how they city operates. How they might change the next General Plan; what are the two most dependable streams of revenue the city receives. Only three of the seven knew that answer. Council members have the responsibility to oversee how the money is spent. The answer to the question is Sales tax and Property tax, what we Lodians all pay.

For the Council Seat in District two, our endorsement goes to Lisa Craig. Lisa returned to her home town of Lodi 4 years ago. Since then, she opened her own business The Craig Group consults for city governments across the nation on historical redevelopment, planning, and policy development. She was the volunteer Executive Director of the Lodi Historical Society, then became a senior partner in the Redevelopment of Lodi’s Kettleman Station, and joined with Matt Teresi in the development and management of ClearSuites. Lisa volunteered to fill an open seat on the Planning Commission and served for a time, then switched to “Spark” the Architectural Review Committee for new construction in Lodi. Currently Lisa is President of Tokay Rotary. In our panel’s opinion, her long-time *experience* in dealing with and guiding cities is unparalleled by anyone running for City Council. We believe Lisa will be an excellent city council member and Mayor in turn. Our great hope is that Lisa will have a positive influence for change in the City’s building and permitting process. The Chamber will be an ally with her in the endeavor.

Two other candidates in District Two, Sandra Vargas and Hector Galvan both have impressive records in longtime service in not-for-profit organizations. One example; Vargas started her own 501c3 in the Heritage District, that alone is impressive. Sandra's heart for young girls began several years of teaching them life skills, and the joy of dancing in performances and featured in very big parades. Her involvement in ABCD in the Heritage district has positively changed many young lives for the better. Galvan also has given much to efforts such as Love Lodi, and programs benefitting Homeless individuals. In basic knowledge of city management and longtime issues. Their working knowledge of what a council member will deal with and must know is shallow. Learning more about the council comes through sitting through many City Council meetings.

Summer Pennino is ready and well prepared for city service. She is poised, skilled, worldly, smart and impressive with many good ideas. Her knowledge of the city is very good. She is a business owner today, and still does some specialized work for The Voice TV show. She positions herself as a Creative Problem Solver, and gave our panel a great example of her skill. A very close second candidate behind Lisa's years of working *experience* with and for many city governments.