



# Paid Candidate Statements

Statements are prepared by the candidate and are printed at the expense of the candidate unless otherwise determined by the governing body. Statements can be translated by a third party and printed in Spanish at an additional cost. Each candidate's statement is printed exactly as submitted by the candidate, including errors. A full list of candidates appears on the Sample Ballot, minus any qualified write-in candidates.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Cotati – City Council</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>SUSAN HARVEY</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Age: 64</b></span>  <b>Occupation:</b> Cotati City Councilwoman</p> <p>I have been privileged to serve as your councilmember for 11 years, through some very challenging times. Cotati weathered the economic downturn, fires, power shutdowns and a pandemic, still maintaining essential services.</p> <p>Cotati, with its strong community values and small town character, believes in self-reliance and supports funding essential services. We have seen the benefits of infrastructure improvements, maintaining local police, streamlined services, recreation programs and progress continues on economic development. I worked to balance wholesale water rate increases with ensuring the need to keep a reliable water source. I have fought for reasonable cost effective and environmentally responsible waste solutions in this constantly changing atmosphere. I continue to ensure we have balanced budgets and a solid reserve for those unexpected events.</p> <p>My husband Paul and I have lived in Cotati for 42 years because we love the unique character of Cotati. We raised our three children here and enjoy sharing our community with our grandchildren.</p> <p>These are trying times, but there is more to accomplish. With your support, I'll continue working hard to protect our character, engage our community, remain fiscally responsible and bring the right economic development to Cotati.</p> <p>I would be honored to have your vote.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Cotati – City Council</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>LAURA SPARKS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Age: 38</b></span>  <b>Occupation:</b> Community College Astronomy Teacher</p> <p>After earning a master's degree in physics, I moved to Sonoma County in 2009 to teach astronomy at SRJC. I have served there as a department chair and academic senator, and my background in college governance has prepared me well to serve in city government.</p> <p>In the wake of the George Floyd protests I began working with the group Cotati Organized Against Racism. Our recent survey revealed that people of color are three times more likely than white people to say they don't feel safe in Cotati. This breaks my heart, and my desire to help fix this is what finally motivated me to run for office. I will push to fast-track the collection of racial profiling statistics, rewrite troubling police policies, and create effective civilian oversight.</p> <p>As a city council member my top priority will be truly inclusive, transparent government that proactively seeks and relies on public engagement before making decisions. I will use Cotati's strong voice in county-wide discussions to fight for progressive causes including affordable housing, equity in education, improved broadband access, green infrastructure, and expanded mental health services.</p> <p>I hope to earn your vote! Questions? sparks2020cotati@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ciudad de Cotati – Concejo de la Ciudad</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>LAURA SPARKS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Edad: 38</b></span>  <b>Ocupación:</b> Profesora de Astronomía de la Universidad Comunitaria</p> <p>Después de obtener una maestría en física, me mudé al condado de Sonoma en 2009 para enseñar astronomía en SRJC. Allí, me desempeñé como presidenta de departamento y senadora académica, y mi experiencia en el gobierno universitario me ha preparado bien para servir en el gobierno de la ciudad.</p> <p>A raíz de las protestas por George Floyd comencé a trabajar con el grupo Cotati Organized Against Racism. Nuestra encuesta reciente reveló que las personas de color tienen tres veces más probabilidades que las personas blancas de decir que no se sienten seguras en Cotati. Esto me rompe el corazón, y mi deseo de ayudar a solucionarlo es lo que finalmente me motivó a postularme para el cargo. Presionaré para acelerar la recopilación de estadísticas de perfiles raciales, reescribir las políticas policiales conflictivas y crear una supervisión civil eficaz.</p> <p>Como miembro del concejo de la ciudad, mi máxima prioridad será un gobierno verdaderamente inclusivo y transparente que busque y confíe de manera proactiva en la participación pública antes de tomar decisiones. Utilizaré la fuerte voz de Cotati en las discusiones del condado para luchar por causas progresistas que incluyan viviendas asequibles, equidad en la educación, mejor acceso a la banda ancha, infraestructura verde y servicios de salud mental ampliados.</p> <p>¡Espero ganarme su voto! ¿Preguntas? sparks2020cotati@gmail.com</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Cotati – City Council</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>BRITTANY MURPHY</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Businesswoman/Mother</p> <p>As I seek the opportunity to join Cotati City council, I want residents to know that I believe leadership starts with listening and acting as a voice for our community. Communicating is my passion, and I am running for city council with the goal of finding creative solutions and compromise. I am committed to preserving Cotati's unique charm while finding innovative ways to further progress our beautiful community and serve all residents as best as possible. I would be honored to have your support and your vote.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Cotati – City Council</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>BEN FORD</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Age: 55</b></span>  <b>Occupation:</b> Mathematics Professor</p> <p>I'm Ben Ford, a Cotati resident since 2003, Design Review Committee member 2009-11, Planning Commission member 2011-2019 (and chair for two of those years). I was Cotati's citizen representative on the Sonoma County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee 2010-12. In my day job, I'm a math professor at Sonoma State; at SSU, I was Chair of the Faculty twice.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic, and resulting economic and social disruption, means that our council will have to make tough choices as revenue shrinks. At the same time, we need to have difficult discussions about ways that Cotati can respond to major crises we face: climate change; policing that systemically impacts people of color adversely; online and big-box retail that threatens small business; and historic wealth inequality and unaffordable housing.</p> <p>I believe in Cotati and our potential to be leaders in the county as we work out approaches to local challenges. I listen well and can find common ground among differing opinions.</p> <p>I would appreciate your support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ciudad de Cotati – Concejo de la Ciudad</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>BEN FORD</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Edad: 55</b></span>  <b>Ocupación:</b> Profesor de Matemáticas</p> <p>Soy Ben Ford, residente de Cotati desde 2003, miembro del Comité de Revisión de Diseño de 2009-11, miembro de la Comisión de Planificación de 2011-2019 (y presidente durante dos de esos años). Fui representante de los ciudadanos de Cotati en el Comité Asesor de Ciclistas-Peatonales del Condado de Sonoma de 2010-12. En mi trabajo diario, soy profesor de matemáticas en el Estado de Sonoma; en SSU fui presidente de la facultad dos veces.</p> <p>La pandemia de COVID-19 y el trastorno económico y social resultante significa que nuestro concejo tendrá que tomar decisiones difíciles a medida que se reduzcan los ingresos. Al mismo tiempo, necesitamos tener discusiones serias sobre las formas en que Cotati puede responder a las principales crisis que enfrentamos: cambio climático; las políticas que afectan sistemáticamente a las personas de color de manera negativa; el comercio minorista en línea y las tiendas de grandes superficies que amenazan a las pequeñas empresas; y la desigualdad histórica de la riqueza y la vivienda inasequible.</p> <p>Creo en Cotati y en nuestro potencial para ser líderes en el condado mientras elaboramos enfoques para los desafíos locales. Sé escuchar y puedo encontrar puntos en común entre diferentes opiniones.</p> <p>Apreciaría su apoyo.</p>