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Frentzen, Veerkamp respond to recall effort; Mikulaco receives notice

By [Chris Daley](#) From page A1 | November 18, 2015



District 2 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen and District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp recently submitted formal responses to the group known as El Dorado County Total Recall. In accordance with California State Elections Code, both supervisors answered vague charges of “corruption and cronyism” and emphasized their achievements while in office.

Within seven days after the filing of the notice of intention, the officer sought to be recalled may file with the Secretary of State an answer of not more than 200 words. (Elections Code §11023(a))

The elected official is allowed under the code to respond but is not required to respond. Thus: *If an answer is filed, the officer must, within seven days after the filing of the notice of intention, serve a copy of the answer, by personal delivery or by certified mail, on one of the proponents named in the notice.*

Frentzen’s comments

Separate from her letter of response, Frentzen wrote the following: “I am grateful for the freedom in our country and as part of our democracy, 20 signatures can start a recall process. I am hopeful that this will give the concerned citizens an opportunity to get a better understanding of what I have accomplished in the past year on the Board of Supervisors. I have an open door policy and welcome any residents that want to meet and discuss their thoughts and concerns.”

Citing a degree of independence from fellow supervisors, Frentzen wrote that she voted against a raise for elected officials, no on the county’s 2014-15 budget and no on the preliminary 2015-16 budget.

Regarding the latter, she called for “an immediate end to deficits” and for “creating financial reserves.”

She also stated that she was the only supervisor to oppose building a 250-unit apartment complex in El

Dorado Hills and the accompanying zoning change from commercial to residential, saying it harmed local job opportunities.

Frentzen noted that she has consistently met with constituents and many community groups to better represent them on the board.

"I have kept my campaign promises by demanding proper planning within our limits to maintain the quality of life, agricultural heritage and rural character of our county for future generations," she wrote.

Referring to her experience in the private sector, Frentzen emphasized her focus on financial accountability, transparency and overall efficiency in government. She described her support for a range of activities and issues including seniors, youth, public safety and broadband infrastructure as well as job growth and economic development in general.

"As a true independent with no political party affiliation, my voting record is a testament to my fiscally conservative values," Frentzen concluded. "My decisions have always been and will continue to be made in the best interests of the majority of the constituents and not for special interest groups."

Veerkamp's comments

Acknowledging the "people's right" to the recall process, Veerkamp's introduction states, "... but I respectfully disagree with the vague and unspecific charges of this recall filing."

His letter highlights a bullet list of actions and accomplishments.

He wrote that town hall meetings have provided "very positive feedback" to him and that, according to polling data, positive feedback is found for him and for the board's accomplishments.

Veerkamp cited the crafting of a "balanced and responsible budget" along with development of a strategic plan to make county government "more effective and efficient." Continuing on that issue, he noted implementation of a wide range of training programs for supervisors, employees and volunteers geared toward increasing efficiency and "better customer service."

He wrote that he has saved the county and taxpayers approximately \$325,000 with his campaign promise not to receive any salary or health benefits during his term as a supervisor. Veerkamp has a pension after serving for several decades as a firefighter and chief of the El Dorado Hills Fire Department. Finally he wrote that he has provided "responsive and efficient actions for constituents for almost three years now." Veerkamp's response notes that he was elected by a large majority of District 3 voters and that he has served the electorate to his "best ability."

"Therefore as stated and supported by factual data," he concluded, "I, Brian K. Veerkamp, wholeheartedly wish to continue serving the people of District 3 for their benefit, not mine."

The formal responses of District 5's Sue Novasel and District 4's Michael Ranalli were summarized in a Mountain Democrat article published Oct. 30.

Mik last on list

District 1 Supervisor Ron Mikulaco received his notice of intention to circulate a recall petition at the Tuesday morning Board of Supervisors meeting.

Prior to this action, Mikulaco told the Mountain Democrat feedback from his constituents continues to be "very good," and said they recognize him as a "very hard worker and a very knowledgeable representative of District 1."

Mikulaco also called any attempt to recall him "futile and a waste of time and money" because he is seriously considering running for the District 5 State Assembly seat currently held by Beth Gaines. That process begins with a primary election next June and a general election in November. Mikulaco's last day on the Board of Supervisors therefore would roughly coincide with a first day of work in the Assembly should he be elected to that post.

Gaines, El Dorado Hills Community Services Director Noelle Mattock, El Dorado Hills Fire Board Director John Hidahl, El Dorado Irrigation District Director Alan Day and independent businessman Steve Ferry have all declared their candidacy for Mikulaco's Board of Supervisors seat.