

Will the governance of Portola Valley be better, more fair, more gracious, and more environmentally consistent in 15 years?

How will amending our zoning laws to increase our housing density impact our future town? How could it impact our fire and geologic safety or evacuation capacity? What will be the impact on our schools, our open spaces, our increasingly congested roads and aging infrastructure? Or on the wildlife that has no voice — and no representative — in our local government?

Will we jettison the long-standing objectives and principles of the Portola Valley General Plan that conserve and protect our magnificent heritage? Will we continue to allow governance from the top down, with disparagement of those who question or disagree?

Or will we instead embrace and applaud our differences, respect the dignity and contribution of each resident, and draw on the vitality of democratic participation to strengthen our governance?

I certainly don't have the answers to all these difficult questions. But I intend to ask them continually, to listen carefully and to learn eagerly from the many concerned residents who are asking these and similar questions. If you too are concerned for the future of our town, please support my candidacy for the Town Council in November.

<https://maryforcouncil.org>