

2020 County Board of Supervisors Candidate Forum

We asked each candidate to answer a few questions so that you can know a little more about their priorities. Here are their answers.



John Peschong

*Candidate for
District 1 Supervisor*

Supervisor John Peschong was sworn in on Jan 3rd, 2017 to serve a 4-year term as the San Luis Obispo County 1st District Supervisor. As a County Supervisor, John served two consecutive years as Chairman of the Board in 2017 and 2018. John currently serves as an appointee to the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and Cal-ID Board. As 1st District Supervisor, John has worked to ensure our first responders receive resources they need. Including working to add more Sheriff's deputies and strengthening county fire departments; helped pass the Paso Robles groundwater plan to ensure that North County's groundwater stays under local control; has worked to expand resources to combat drug addiction, improved housing programs for those experiencing homelessness, and improved mental health access to help those with psychiatric emergencies; and worked to keep taxes low to help small business and working families in North County.

Rank the issues in order of importance in your district.

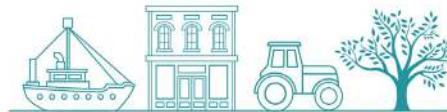
- 01** Taxes
- 02** Public safety
- 03** Homelessness
- 04** Housing
- 05** Number of head of household jobs
- 06** Government regulation
- 07** K-12 education
- 08** Infrastructure
- 09** Regionalism
- 10** Diversity

If elected, what will you do to address the issue you identified above as most significant?

I have been a taxpayer advocate my whole career. I have previously served as President of the Central Coast Taxpayer Association and have twice been endorsed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association. This is the ideology I held during my time as District Supervisor, looking at how to prioritize spending so that we get the resources we need without increasing the tax burden. As supervisor we successfully balanced the budget with no tax increase, and if re-elected I will continue fighting for lower taxes to help small business and working families in San Luis Obispo County. Additionally I am, and have been, a supporter of Proposition 13. The passage of Proposition 13 was a benefit for all Californians who saw their taxes rise exponentially. The certainty provided by Prop. 13 is essential for homeowners and families. I will continue to fight to keep Prop. 13 intact.

Which theme in the Chamber's economic vision, Imagine SLO, do you think deserves the most focus in the next four years and why?

I believe the priorities listed in the theme "We Before Me" should be a main focus for the county in the coming years. Our county has the potential to encourage economic opportunity for many of our local businesses and attract new business to our areas. I hope that we continue to do what we can to foster these opportunities. Additionally we have faced many challenges between the cities and unincorporated areas of the county. We should continue trying to develop solutions that benefit all.



What is the biggest opportunity for your district in the next four years?

Over the next four years, I believe North County has a tremendous opportunity to attract new business to our community as well as foster growth of existing small businesses.

What is the biggest opportunity for the County as a whole in the next four years?

The biggest opportunity we have in the coming years is to work together, under the flag of regionalism, to develop a plan and expand outreach to businesses that would like to make SLO County their home.

Do you think our business environment is healthy? If not, what would you do to change that?

I believe the business environment for small business has improved over the last 4 years. I believe the Board of Supervisors for San Luis Obispo County is a pro small business board.