

Donald Williams for Mayor --- Themes, Principles, Goals

Key Concepts—quality of life, growth limits, small-town character, democracy

Why I Ran for Office: To be of service and offer my experience to community

To give voters a choice, an alternative voice on the council

To reconnect the council and the community by being responsive to their concerns

To allay cynicism of people who feel they're unheard

To have interesting conversations with interesting people

To uphold community *values*: small-town character, uncrowded hospitality, sustainability, unpretentious way of life

Goal: After 4 years, what will have changed? The Council will be more responsive and democratic, and limits will be recognized to honor the Vision Statement. (Emphasize Calistoga as a community rather than just a place to visit.)

Themes: Respect for small-town character of Calistoga

Responsible growth (including awareness of limits)

Enhancing democracy (connecting Calistogans with their council; people are in charge)

Responsiveness (being a good listener; representing not special interests but yours)

Some Key Issues: limits on developments; restoring the fairgrounds for public use; relieving residents of some of their water bill burden; encouraging economic diversity; respecting our environment (including disaster preparedness and "green" measures); encouraging imaginative artistic expression; traffic control.

Personal values: focused hard work, persistence, pragmatism, understanding (not judgmentalism), critical curiosity, honest humble inquiry.

Key Principles: The People are sovereign. * Show preference for the smaller of options. *

Inclusion/connection is more important than prosperity/affluence. * Sustainable quality of life is more important than any special interest. * All community dimensions are vital: financial, social, spiritual, agricultural, educational. * Calistoga is not a business; it's an organic community respectful of hopes as well as facts. * Every action will have its shadow side. * It's impossible for a small town to accommodate everyone who wants to live and work here. * Avoid acquisitiveness, conformity.

Vision: Respect the past as a guide to the future.

Questions I ask for guidance: What's *really* going on here? What happens if we *don't* do this? What's the premise of this assertion? What need or anxiety is being expressed? What makes this topic important for you? Does this action reflect our values? What alternative might serve us better? What other imaginative options can we consider? What am I missing here---remind me?

Is there a pattern here? What is the core, underlying issue/question? What is the shadow here? Does this action enhance public participation? Is narcissism or defensiveness apparent? Are proposals driven by popular delusions, grandiose ambitions, or entrenched assumptions? Is this idea consistent with our identity or contrary to it? Are we being authentic and true to ourselves, or selling out? What themes, symbols, archetypes are operating here? Will this action enlarge or diminish us socially, economically, spiritually? What's going on here that's not being named? Is this magical thinking? Let's look at the unintended consequences---*before* we act. Does my thinking show honest inquiry? an open mind? critical curiosity? a search for what's true?