

Higgins Has Earned His Shot at the 5th District Supervisor Slot

Of the candidates vying for the Fifth District opening created by Jill Duffy's retirement from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Pat Higgins has clearly earned his shot at the job the old-fashioned way – by years and years of devoted service to our community as a volunteer atop his heavy workload as a local businessman.

By 2007 Pat was fed up with what he viewed as wasteful spending by the Humboldt Harbor Commission on its fantasy deep water port 'to capture the China Trade', ran against the incumbent and won the 5th district seat on the commission. As a harbor commissioner Pat then began to dig into and gently out the awful truth that the harbor district was 'upside down', living off its capital account rather than its annual income, spiraling toward bankruptcy.

While Pat was always totally open about his opposition to the deep water port proposal – and very skeptical about the restoration of rail service to Marin County and beyond, upon which the deep water port scheme relied – he has been a positive, not a negative force as a commissioner by organizing and chairing the commission's economic development committee, the recommendations of which were reported in the Times-Standard in its 30 April issue.

The harbor district will never go back to its old way of mooning over a deep-water port and railroad to the Bay Area, wasting Headwaters Fund grants and other public money pursuing such fantasies, thanks to Pat's hard work. The economic development committee recommendations that Pat helped craft throughout last year really do point to new directions for attracting and growing out new business, and for protecting our Bay's health and beauty.

Pat has worked hard as a harbor commissioner, just as he has worked hard on dozens of important volunteer community assignments that he has accepted over the nearly 40 years since he came up here to attend Humboldt State.

Pat Higgins has earned his shot at the 5th district Supervisor slot the old-fashioned way, including the hard work of digging through public agency budgets to determine what's working, what needs trimming or, as in the case of the harbor district, what needs total redirection.

Public service is hard work. As Supervisor Duffy said in a recent journal article about serving the 1,500 square-mile 5th district "you'll work harder, you'll travel more and you will juggle more challenges than almost anybody will ever experience."

Fortunately for us Pat Higgins has been juggling the challenges of the sprawling 5th district for the many years that he has been in business, years during which he has also served on so many of the district's committees, boards, and commissions.

Pat Higgins is ready to serve us. He certainly will get my vote for 5th district Supervisor on June 8th.

Bill Kier
Blue Lake

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