

Candidate Positions on Transportation Matters

Watsonville City Council Candidates

Click on the question links below to see the answers:

[Question 1: What type of high capacity public transit do you support on our rail corridor?](#)

[Question 2: How would you strengthen METRO services for our county?](#)

[Question 3: How would you support adding transportation funding?](#)

Question 1): The Watsonville City Council recently voted unanimously in favor of implementing passenger rail service connecting Watsonville with the City of Santa Cruz. What type of high capacity public transit do you support on our rail corridor?

Candidate Name	Supports ... on Rail Corridor	Please explain your choice:
District 1:		
Eduardo Montesino	Bus and rail	METRO should be the operator of any rail option whether passenger train or light rail but until we get there we need to strengthen METRO.
District 2:		
Aurelio Gonzales	Rail	I feel that rail is the best utilization of an existing rail system that connects the county and it gives another option for our community members for transportation within the county.
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter	Rail and Bus	I would like to see the rail with some connecting buses being able to use the corridor.
District 6:		
Jimmy Dutra	No response	
Tony Gomez	Rail	Because it can reduce the amount of frustration and cars sitting on the freeway while still allowing freight business service.

Question 2): The pandemic has adversely impacted METRO. How would you strengthen METRO services for our county?

Candidate Name	How would you strengthen METRO services for our county?
District 1:	
Eduardo Montesino	Financing and partnership with different community groups to emphasize METRO is an option for community not just what poor people ride.
District 2:	
Aurelio Gonzales	We must continue to maintain routes as much as possible to serve the community that relies on the services. This pandemic has really hurt ridership. As Board member of METRO and City council member I have advocated that the EV Bus that will be placed in service in Watsonville some time late fall 2020 or early Spring 2021 be placed on a circular route that would better serve the needs of the residents of the City of Watsonville.
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter	I would like to see METRO add more Express routes to Santa Cruz and Salinas.
District 6:	
Jimmy Dutra	No response
Tony Gomez	I strongly support METRO for them to provide more routes. The public's safety during this pandemic is important to ensure the driver's and the rider's public safety. The ridership is down due to the schools going virtual which is the greatest portion of their ridership. Until we get past the pandemic and the restrictions are lifted, METRO will remain low on their ridership count. Once a decision is reached about the corridor, this will supplement the resources for METRO and ridership in the County.

Question 3): FORT has launched the Coast Connect vision to transform transportation in our county.

Would you support funding a more robust public transportation system, including safe streets for pedestrians, cyclists and other active transportation users? How would you support adding transportation funding?

Candidate Name	Supports Funding	How would you support adding transportation funding?
District 1:		
Eduardo Montesino	Other	DMV fee
District 2:		
Aurelio Gonzales	Yes	Continue looking for grants and advocating to our State and Federal Governments to support mass transit projects and agencies so that infrastructure can be maintained or improved to better meet the needs of our county.
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter	Yes	I would support by looking for and applying to federal grants that the project is eligible for.
District 6:		
Jimmy Dutra	No response	
Tony Gomez	Yes	Look for State and Federal funding, possibly work with Monterey Bay Community Power as a potential resource for electric incentives for public transportation and being green friendly. The challenge will be to go back to the voter for an additional tax without having a solid plan with the buy in of the voters and community.