

***Democrats of Napa Valley
Candidate Questionnaire
Candidate for City Council***

DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRATS OF NAPA VALLEY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Candidate's Name: Pam Reeves
Mobile ph #: 707 945-1133

Area/District: Yountville
Party Affiliation: Life-long Democrat

E-Mail: pam@awarecare.com

Occupation: aesthetician

Campaign Manager: None as yet

If an Incumbent, please provide the year your original term of office began:

I am an appointed incumbent. I ran for Mayor in 2022 but I lost by 48 votes, I was appointed to the new mayor's remaining two years seat. I was appointed on January 17, 2023.

Employer: self...Awarecare.com

Contact #: same as cell and email (previous)

Candidate Specific Questions

- 1. Provide a bio of your relevant experience/background for this office. (200 words maximum)** I have lived in Yountville for over 40 years. I owned and worked in my own business (Anemone Aesthetics) for 5 years and then worked together with my husband for 15 more years in a larger salon (Anemone) in Yountville. I currently work in a studio in my home as a home occupation. I have kept abreast of the issues facing small businesses in our community and am working to relieve some of the fees and restrictions that prevent innovative small businesses from being able to get a foothold in Yountville. As a resident, I have been involved in the town for about 38 years. I was on the Zoning and Design Review Board for 5 years (3 as Chair) just before I was elected to the council in 1988. I served one term and returned to my family and business responsibilities. I kept active as a resident, organizing committees and petitioning the council for specific actions. I ran for mayor in 2022 because I felt there was a lack of respect for residents and I could actually change things as a voting member of the council (that were not possible as a public commenter). Even though I did not prevail in the mayor's race—I am so glad to be able to serve other residents from the dais as an appointed council member. I have learned so much during my term and feel that my participation and initiatives have been well-received by the community.
- 2. List your key supporters, including campaign volunteers and hired consultants, and endorsements.** I have maintained connections with all the former supporters from my campaign 2 years ago. Since I have just turned in my papers yesterday, I really haven't begun my official campaign. I have had conversations with many supporters and past campaign workers who are excited about and grateful for my candidacy. I will not hire a consultant. Yountville is a very small town and campaigning happens one-on-one.
- 3. Where do you expect to receive your main financial commitments?** I expect to have some small donations—I don't plan to take more than \$50 donations per person and I expect to stay under the \$2000. campaign spending limits. Again, Yountville is a small town and campaigning is very personal.
- 4. What distinguishes your candidacy and campaign from the other candidates for this office?** I have been part of a very successful and dynamic council. There are two seats open in this election and two incumbents running against two challengers. I am committed to the best interests of the community and feel reelecting both incumbents will accomplish that. I want to continue the work we have started (and fully understand) into the future. I will offer the same transparency and

commitment to open communication and community participation and inclusion that we have put into place in the last two years. And I will support moving forward with Workforce Housing, local-oriented businesses, enhancements of trails, paths, and common spaces, and especially support the Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department as they are drivers of community. I believe setting up for a better future begins with creating opportunities right now. It is also the most rewarding way to govern.

5.

Issues: (100 words maximum per question)

6. **What do you see as the major issues and their possible solutions in this campaign?** I think the community is feeling a breath of fresh air with this current council. We are faced, like many desirable communities, with the loss of full-time residents as second and vacation homes proliferate and put pressure on those full-time residents to remain as a scattered minority or sell. I have worked hard to create community both on the east and west side of Highway 29. I have worked with a group to produce "Picnic with a Vet" that connects Yountville's residents with a veteran for a picnic lunch. This is part of my effort to re-create community and bring people together socially to develop relationships and bonds. I have also been involved in bringing people together for emergency preparedness both in the neighborhoods and town wide. These are all community efforts to make us resilient and ready and more comfortable in our own community. I am also a member of the County Climate Action Committee and am working to bring more sustainability to our governmental policies and processes, our business community, and the lives of our residents. These are all top-of-mind issues that impact us every day and when addressed, can create a more cohesive community. The solutions to providing community are evolving and changing, it will be necessary to monitor and adjust our approach to fit the needs of our small community.
7. **Do you believe in and would you work to protect a women's right to choose and to have control over her own body? Yes No** **Is it easy enough for a woman in Napa County to access healthcare to have an abortion?** It appears that Planned Parenthood is alive and well in Napa and can assist pregnant people who do not have insurance or who need counseling. But it also looks like providers such as Comunicare+Ole Health refer to Planned Parenthood instead of providing those services directly. Even though they may provide pill abortion medication, their website is not helpful and could deter people from getting the care they need. I would say that because of the gravity and needs of people in this situation, more could be done to support them before and after they have become pregnant. Education and birth control are key needs to help people avoid the need for abortion or to navigate its realities. As a community, I think we can always do more in this arena. We need to de-stigmatize and demystify abortion so that it can be provided as part of every person's reproductive care.
8. **Is the City doing most everything it can to ensure that residents feel safe? Yes No** **If no, what 1-2 ideas do you think should be considered?** Our town has good relationships with sheriff's deputies and we have good coverage. Our "crime rate" is very low. We are working on creating neighborhood pods for emergency preparedness to help people know how to be good, supportive neighbors in a crisis or just everyday. We also provide lots of community events which bring people together and create strong connections. We have just set a date to open our first dog park because we know that statistically the randomness of dog walkers in a community thwarts opportunistic crimes. We want to support the dog owners in town because of that contribution. I hear many single women say that the safe nature of our community is what drew them here.

- 9. The number of children enrolled in school in Napa County continues to decline. What are 2-3 solutions to at least slow or stop this decline?** This question of where are the children is a very broad topic. First, we must tackle the housing issue. Our council has just bought the decommissioned elementary school site from the NVUSD. (closed because of too few Yountville children)—purchased partly with Affordable Housing money because we intend to build work force housing that we can control rather than depending on developers to “do the right thing”. Providing more reasonably priced housing may allow people to live where they work and eliminate such long commutes which eat into people’s lives. Beyond that, we must provide the kinds of amenities that younger people and families desire. We are working on more locally serving uses for the rest of the same property. Beyond that, as a society we must recognize the value of parents and children and make it easier for people to WANT to have children. There is very little physical, social, or emotional support for one of the most challenging and rewarding endeavors humans can engage in. AND we must trust and support teachers in their role as educators and guides for our future citizens. Education that includes thought about responsibility to each other and the whole rather than just the desires of the individual. We must be willing to provide high quality, affordable, or free daycare that segues seamlessly into school so that there is no angst over where children will be when parents are at work.
- 10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?** I am afraid I will be unable to attend the ZOOM meeting you will be holding on August 19. I am scheduled to attend an open house and scoping session with our community at our newly acquired school property (Yountville Commons). This is followed directly by a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new dog park (Canine Commons). I feel it is very important for me to attend both of these community events, to listen to comments and ideas and to get a feel for the desire of my constituents. I am especially excited to attend and participate since I had a hand in creating these new community opportunities..

Pam Reeves
Signature

8/9/2024
Date