

• • • **Fresno Business Council • Weekly Bulletin** • • •
Monday, October 16, 2000

Bulletin & Other Information Available on Website at www.fresnobc.org
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Message from the President—Dick Johanson

I just figured out why we hold elections in the Fall! Outside my window stands a majestic maple tree all draped in reds and golds and yellows in preparation for its wintertime hibernation. All of us watch this annual October transformation thankful for this spectacular seasonal gift of nature's beauty. At the same time, we are assured that in a few short months we shall witness the annual Springtime excitement of emerging bright green leaves out of the void of Winter's dormancy. So too, it seems to me, do we witness this same cycle through our election process. Whether some leaves drop silently from the tree shriveled and forgotten or whether they glide gracefully earthward shimmering in all of their golden glory, their time is at an end. Shortly they will be replaced by new life bringing with it a sense of renewal and optimism for us all. And that is why we hold elections in the Fall!

Business Council Board Endorses Proposition 39 (55 % Vote to Pass School Bonds)

After the Public Affairs and Education Committees heard the pros and cons of Prop 39 from **Dr. Pete Mehas** and **Mike DerManouel** at a joint meeting in August, they made a recommendation to the Business Council Board in favor of supporting the measure. At its meeting on October 12th, the Board voted to endorse Proposition 39. This proposition (1) changes the State Constitution to lower the voting requirement for passage of local school bonds and (2) changes existing statutory law regarding charter school facilities. The local school jurisdictions affected by this proposition are K-12 school districts, community college districts, and county offices of education. If passed, Prop 39 would: allow school facilities bond measures to be approved by 55 % (rather than two-thirds) of the voters in local elections; and allow property taxes to exceed the current 1% limit in order to repay the bonds. Legislation passed in June 2000 would place certain limitations on local school bonds approved by 55% of the voters. One of those provisions requires that the tax rate levied as the result of any single election be no more than \$60 (for a unified school district), \$30 (for a school district) or \$25 (for a community college district), per \$100,000 of taxable property value. The current law does not have this type of restriction. For a full analysis of this and other Propositions appearing on the November ballot, go to <http://www.lao.ca.gov>

FBC Volunteers Needed on Phone Bank to Promote Measure A – Arts to Zoo

The Business Council's "tour of volunteerism duty" to staff the phone banks is Monday, October 23rd from 6-9 pm at Channel 18, 1544 Van Ness in downtown Fresno. Feel free to bring friends and family as callers. If you can participate, please email Deb at dnankivell@aol.com.

Final Chamber Candidate Forum Hosts Yvonne Brown and Brad Castillo on October 25th

Candidates for City Council District 4, **Yvonne Brown** and **Brad Castillo**, will be featured at the Chamber's final candidate forum at a noontime luncheon on Wednesday, October 25th. The cost for the event is \$20. These forums give constituents an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates and will, hopefully, give them a better sense of who is the better qualified for the office. For more information, call 495-4800.

Business Incubation Expansion Program

On October 19 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., The **Central Valley Business Incubator** will continue to help surrounding communities determine whether or not a business incubator is feasible for their areas. To date, thirteen communities within the counties of Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings have participated in this program. The workshop is designed for city officials and employees, economic development professionals and community leaders. This outreach program was made possible through a grant from the **Great Valley Center** in Modesto. To register, contact **Heather Hilscher** at 559-292-9033 ext. 27.

The Combination of Collaboration & Technology Pulls Government Into Efficiency & Address Key Issues

As the Central Valley continues to build its telecommunications infrastructure and explore e-government opportunities, it is helpful to look at what has been accomplished in other parts of the country. In this month's **Governing** magazine, twelve projects were highlighted showcasing technology solutions based upon collaborating between political jurisdictions and across sectors. A difficult challenge everywhere is developing an information technology (IT) pool of workers to meet the high demand in both the private and public sectors. In Jefferson City, MO, the government, private sector and educational community joined together to market this field of interest to students and adults and worked together to develop appropriate curriculums. This homegrown approach to a community challenge has application to preparing the workforce for business clusters and industry specific needs. A public access initiative in Fairfax County, VA involves partnering with its cities to locate kiosks with Internet Access across the county enabling residents to pay taxes, fines, and fees online, schedule business inspections, and access government information. The magazine's website is www.Governing.com

Upcoming Activities and Events:

Second Fall Member Meeting, October 25 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Deloitte & Touche)