

VCF POLITICS & GOVT. RP 3/10/89

Candidates for council take stands

By JENNIFER KOSS
STAFF WRITER

The campaign statements of the seven Watsonville City Council candidates were made public yesterday, and there were no real surprises.

The statements pretty closely reflect what the candidates have said previously about the issues they consider important and their reasons for running for the council.

Watsonville residents can check out the statements at the City Clerk's office, if they just can't wait for their sample ballots.

All candidates but Floyd Pereira Jr. chose to have the statements printed in both English and Spanish on the sample ballot; Pereira's will be in English only. The approximate printing costs to candidates is \$200 for English-only and \$425 for both languages.

The seven candidates are vying for three council seats in the May 9 election. The order in which their names will appear

on the ballot was selected through a randomized alphabet drawing," according to a memo from City Clerk Lorraine Washington.

The order and appearance of the candidates' names as they will appear on the ballot are: Todd McFarren; Luis De La Cruz; Jeffrey Solinas, M.D.; Rebecca J. Garcia; Cruz Gomez; Gwen Carroll; and Floyd Paul Pereira Jr.

Both Garcia and Pereira mentioned in their statements that they were born and raised in Watsonville. None of the other candidates is a Watsonville native, although Carroll has lived here 40 years.

De La Cruz and Solinas, both 36, are the youngest candidates. Carroll is the oldest; she declined to give her age when asked in a telephone interview, but said she was 52 when she took up flying. According to a 1979 newspaper story, that was in 1967.

Gomez is 47, Pereira is 39,

See CANDIDATES page 2 ►

Corrales.....	1.47	24.48	18.01
Eureka Canyon.....	.40	11.71	11.76
Watsonville.....	.30	12.90	11.00
Aromas.....			

VCF POLITICS & GOVT. RP 3/10/89

CANDIDATES

► From page 1

McFarren is 38 and Garcia, 41.

Garcia, a Watsonville High School teacher and president of the local League of United Latin American Citizens, expressed confidence in her campaign statement that "Watsonville can be a model for other cities in this county" by providing for the needs of its residents, such as affordable housing and freedom from crime and violence.

"As a teacher, I researched, analyzed and provided information so that students could learn, solve problems and make decisions," she wrote. "As your City Council representative, I will implement these same strategies to create a better Watsonville."

Carroll, owner and manager of Pajaro Valley Memorial Park and Crematory and an incumbent councilwoman, listed her membership on the Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County and on the local Seniors Council.

"I will continue to support and seek ways to insure affordable housing," she wrote, "endeavor to maintain and preserve agricultural lands, encourage suitable light industry to locate in Watsonville and promote downtown revitalization."

"I will promote essential programs for senior citizens, hazardous waste and drug abuse."

Pereira, who listed his occupation as "maintenance person," said he was "deeply concerned" about the residents of Watsonville.

"It is clear to me that city government does not serve the great majority of ordinary people who live and work here," he wrote. "I am running

for office so that I can change or help it change for the need of the people, not just for the few, but for all."

Solinas, a family doctor at Plazita Medical Clinic on Main Street, said he would "work hard to promote a healthy and prosperous Watsonville." He said his first priority would be to strengthen agriculture and the frozen-food industry, and other priorities were transportation issues, crime-and-drug problems and the need for senior-citizen services.

"With my mixed Italian and Mexican heritage, I understand that the differences between Watsonville's ethnic groups makes this a richer city," Solinas wrote. "With your support on May 9, I will work to make Watsonville a healthier community for all."

De La Cruz, listed as a "businessman and educator," wrote of his involvement on the city's Planning Commission, the General Plan Steering Committee and the Watsonville Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He also said he is president of Watsonville's Little League and was a teacher and elementary school principal for 15 years.

"I promise I will work hard to review each issue individually and vote for the best interests of the overall community," he wrote.

McFarren, an attorney with an office on Freedom Boulevard, said he was running for the council "because I want to

to treat building foundations against termite infestation. It was banned about a year ago

support the values of Watsonville."

"Watsonville people are good people," he wrote. "They believe in families, work and a common-sense approach to our problems."

He said he grew up in Ohio, "where the work ethic is a way of life," and served in Vietnam with the Marines before entering law school.

Issues he listed as priorities include protecting youth from drugs, providing affordable housing, preserving agricultural land, helping businesses to provide decent jobs at livable wages, protecting senior citizens from soaring mobile-home rents and giving residents "neighborhood representation."

Gomez described herself as a "community organizer, advocate who works with the low-income immigrant community."

"We, supporters and myself, have chosen education of the community on DISTRICT ELECTIONS as our main campaign goal," she wrote. "A vote for us is a vote in support of changing to ELECTION BY DISTRICT in the city of Watsonville."

She also pledged to support an aggressive effort to provide housing that would be low-cost or subsidized, working to provide people with job security, living wages, decent benefits and safe working conditions.

"Also, we are participating in this general election to include the viewpoint and needs of the working class and extensive non-voting resident community," Gomez wrote.