

Local

Watsonville - Gov't & Politics

Election '89

A liberal-conservative choice in District 7

District 7 has the largest concentration of retired people of any of Watsonville's voting districts.

The district includes Bay Village and Pajaro Village, two adjacent developments of small homes for people 55 and older. There are 800 homes in the two villages.

The district also includes the apartment complexes on Tuttle Avenue, the upper-middle-class homes on East Beach Street, and several pockets of housing for the poor.

District 7's two candidates give voters a clear choice. Robert Chacanaca, 35, who ran for mayor in 1987, espouses what he calls a combination of traditional values and left-wing causes.

"He (Chacanaca) is a liberal and I'm a conservative," said the other candidate, Johnny Kacsmaryk, 68, a retired Air Force officer who is entering politics for the first time.

The district boundary follows the city limits on the north and east, then goes along Riverside to Lincoln, over Lincoln to East Beach, up East Beach to Blackburn, along Blackburn to East Lake, and west on East Lake back to the city limits.



Mike McCollum

Bay Village, a community for people 55 and older, and the similar Pajaro Village make up a large part of the District 7 constituency.

Kacsmaryk offers conservative voice

Chacanaca takes issue with labeling



on ag land, taxes

Johnny Kacsmark chose to live in Watsonville because it's an agricultural area, and he doesn't want that to change.

"I'd like to see us keep on as an agricultural area," said Kacsmark, a candidate for City Council in District 7. The city's frozen-food plants are known worldwide, Kacsmark said, and the fields are needed to provide product for the plants to process.

"I like to see things grow," said Kacsmark, who grew up on a farm in upstate New York. Kacsmark, 68, fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force in 1970

'I'd like to see us keep on as an agricultural area. ... I like to see things grow.'

— Johnny Kacsmark

as a lieutenant colonel. He's worked at several jobs since then, including home-building in Lake Tahoe and being a distributor for a Watsonville salsa company.

Kacsmark said he's against developing prime agricultural land.

"If it's prime land, it should be kept as agricultural," Kacsmark said. He's against development of the Franich property on East Lake Avenue, if the final determination is that it's prime agricultural land.

Property owner Tony Franich, who wants to annex the 72-acre parcel to the city and develop it, has challenged the "prime" designation on part of the property. Franich's long-running battle to annex the property has been of particular interest to residents of District 7, which borders the orchard.

Kacsmark said he'd like to keep taxes low, but if a majority of the people favor a tax to provide needed services, "I'm not opposed to it," Kacsmark said.

Kacsmark said he doesn't oppose spending city money on social services, but wants the basics taken care of first, naming such services as sewers, road maintenance and police and fire protection.

Kacsmark, who lived in a mobile home at Pinto Lake for two years before moving to his current home in the Pajaro Village retirement community six years ago, endorses the initiative on the December ballot for a mobile-home rent-control law.

The law, he said, is a "reasonable support" of the mobile-home residents.

Kacsmark said he doesn't support the idea of an inclusionary ordinance that would require developers to make a certain percentage of their homes available at below-market rates, but endorses all efforts to get grants for subsidized housing.

Such housing should not be all in one place in the city and not on agricultural land, Kacsmark said. Subsidized housing "can be a nice place" if it's properly maintained and the residents take pride in their homes, he said.

The city needs to provide more park land, Kacsmark said.

"We need more soccer fields," Kacsmark said. "Half our population is Hispanic, and that's their game." Providing more recreation opportunities would help reduce youth crime, he said.

Kacsmark said he'd support small residential units on the upper floors of downtown stores and offices being built or renovated after the Oct. 17 earthquake.

'We need more soccer fields. Half our population is Hispanic, and that's their game.'

— Johnny Kacsmark

The city needs all the help it can get in earthquake relief and should pursue all avenues of funding, Kacsmark said.

On whether City Manager John



JOHNNY KACSMARK

● **Age: 68**
● **Occupation: Retired from the U.S. Air Force as lieutenant colonel.**

● **Opposes development of prime agricultural land.**

● **Says city funding of social services should come only after basic services such as roads and sewers are taken care of.**

● **Wants to see more soccer fields in the city.**

Radin should be fired, Kacsmark said, "I don't know the man well enough" to make a decision.

"I'd like to know the workings of how he handles personnel,"

Kacsmark said, adding that he has no way of knowing the inner workings without being on the council.

— Lane Wallace

his ideas 'liberal'

When Robert Chacanaca ran for mayor of Watsonville two years ago, he didn't expect to win, and finished a distant third in a field of three.

"I ran then to raise the issues," said Chacanaca, a candidate in District 7 in the current City Council race.

"This is a serious campaign," said Chacanaca, 35, a resident of Watsonville for 16 of the last 20 years.

Even though he lost in 1987, Chacanaca said he made an impact on the campaign.

"I set the tone," he said. "People followed me" in bringing up issues.

Chacanaca, who said his philosophy is a combination of traditional politics and some views that lean to the left, has heard himself called a "liberal," and he doesn't like the term.

"I don't know what a liberal is," he said. "Am I a liberal because I oppose the Franich annexation?"

Tony Franich is proposing annexation and development of 72 acres on East Lake Avenue.

"Franich is the liberal for wanting to build," Chacanaca said.

Building on the Franich property, Chacanaca said, would "(negatively) impact the quality of life" in Bay and Pajaro villages, the retirement communities on the edge of District 7 near the Franich property. One major impact, he said, would be increased traffic on East Lake Avenue and on Bridge Street, which runs through the retirement villages.

Chacanaca said he's concerned about causes that directly affect people.

He said the city must pay close attention to any new development, and make sure a project's effects on the rest of the community are considered.

He called the recent development of two shopping centers at Main Street and South Green Valley Road a fiasco because the centers' effects on city services, especially traffic, weren't properly considered.

"Who's footing the bill?" said Chacanaca, who said he doesn't think the developers were charged enough.

Chacanaca said he questions

the building of new shopping centers that end up hurting the downtown, now trying to rebuild from the earthquake.

When he ran for mayor two years ago, Chacanaca said he recommended having a plan for managing relief services after a major earthquake. There would have been less confusion on Oct. 17 if such a plan had been in place, he said.

Chacanaca said he supports an initiative on the December ballot that would give mobile-home park residents a more favorable rent-control law than they have now.

"I helped gather signatures for the initiative," said Chacanaca. The park residents, he said, were treated with a lack of respect when they went to the City Council this summer in effort to get the new law passed.

Chacanaca, an American Indian, said, "I come from a culture that teaches respect for elders."

He also supports the proposal for citywide rent control for one year on all rental housing, which the City Council will consider next Tuesday. The rent-control proposal stems from a desire to protect renters from rent increases following the earthquake.

On the city budget, Chacanaca said, "I think there are more creative ways to find funding than a (utility) tax and giving breaks to big developers."

Chacanaca said the things he proposed in 1987 are part of his present campaign. His proposals include formation of a non-profit housing agency to provide affordable housing, a city labor commission to oversee the work-

'I think there are more creative ways to find funding than a (utility) tax and giving breaks to big developers.'

— Robert Chacanaca

ing and living conditions of all working people in Watsonville and more efforts to develop career opportunities for young people and to fight drug prob-



ROBERT CHACANACA

● **Age: 35**
● **Occupation: Campus supervisor, Santa Cruz City School District.**

● **Opposes the Franich annexation.**

● **Favors the ballot measure for rent control on mobile-home parks.**

● **Says there are 'more creative ways' to raise taxes than the 4 percent utility sales tax.**

lems.

Chacanaca said he wants to investigate the possibility of city purchase of the new homes un-

der construction on Pennsylvania Avenue so they can be used to house people made homeless by the earthquake.

— Lane Wallace