



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Jane Weed is forsaking politics to spend more time with sons Luke and Dash.

Weed won't run again

By TOM LONG
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SANTA CRUZ — After five controversial years in office that included a state Supreme Court battle and a trip to the Soviet Union, City Councilwoman Jane Weed announced Wednesday that she will not seek re-election so that she can spend more time with her family.

"I need to slow down and smell the flowers a little," Weed said. "The primary reason for this is my young family. It's true what they say — they grow so fast."

But Weed, surrounded by husband, Ron Pomerantz, and sons Luke, 6, and Dash, 3, promised she would remain active locally.

"City Hall and the people of Santa Cruz haven't seen the last of me," Weed told reporters and supporters gathered at Loudon Nelson Center, the place where she announced she would run for office.

"I'm a rabble rouser," Weed said earlier. "I'm going to keep my hands in a lot of different pies."

Weed's decision means that two progressive incumbents — she and Mike Rotkin, who cannot run

again after two terms in office — will not be returning to the council next year and would seem to endanger the security of the council's progressive 4-3 majority. But Weed said she thought that progressives would capture the seats being vacated.

"Among the candidates who have taken out papers, there are some real fringes," she said. "The folks that show the greatest strength are pretty much right in the middle of the progressives."

She endorsed two progressive candidates Wednesday — planning commissioner Mo Reich and Saturn Cafe owner Don Lane — and said she would also support activist Jane Yokoyama if she runs.

Weed won office by a mere 32 votes in 1983, squeezing out fellow progressive and former Mayor Bruce Van Allen. A conservative coalition filed a lawsuit against Weed, saying that 472 students who voted while using UC Santa Cruz addresses were not actually living on the campus, in an attempt to force her out of office. After more than four years of deliberation, the state Supreme Court ruled in Weed's favor earlier this year.

REFERENCE

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