

# POWAY MAYOR

## 2018 Candidates Survey Results



	YURI BOHLEN	BRIAN EDMONSTON	EMILY JOHNSON	STEVE VAUS
Personal/professional background	<p>I am a Poway resident since 2012 but I have been very familiar with Poway since 1991. I have worked in Poway in the mid 90s when I was young and I know many people in the community. Also about 8 years ago I hosted several comedy shows here in Poway where people still remember me. Professionally I have worked at our local Walgreens for 6 years and I know many people in the community that share my views on the city. More importantly many of the people in the community know me from my job.</p>	<p>I am an attorney who graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law. I completed my undergraduate at Washington Univeristy in St. Louis. I first practiced law at Blakely Sokoloff in Orange County, and then joined QUALCOMM in 1995. I formed my own technical consulting company iCODING in 2000 and manage residential apartment rental units. I continue to provide legal advice to various clients.</p>	<p>I graduated from Poway High (2016) and Miramar College (2018) with a degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences with Honors. At PHS, I belonged to Speech and Debate and PHS Democrat Club, was vice president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, and was a leader through peer counseling. At San Diego Miramar College, I was a member of the LGBTQX Alliance which was working towards creating a more inclusive and accepting campus through policy. Currently, I work at DiegoDev, a local programming group.</p>	<p>I've been Mayor for four years after having served two years on the council. I am 25 year Poway resident &amp; Poway small business owner. My wife (Corrie) and I raised our two kids (Anna &amp; Jacob) here. In my "other life" I am a Grammy Award winning recording artist and my production company creates music for tv, movies and marketing campaigns. Earlier in my career I was the Executive Vice-President for a nationwide non-profit serving disadvantaged youth and a marketing executive for Hallmark, Inc.</p>
Why are you seeking this office?	<p>What inspired me to seek public office is the Poway road corridor specific plan long before I knew its title. All I knew was the carriage center mall was going to be destroyed where I have gone to the thrift shops for the last 27 years for apartments and mix use businesses and a two story parking garage. That is over development when there are plenty of unused businesses that are empty for years now.</p>	<p>I want to make sure Poway maintains its status as one of the most desirable places to live in San Diego Country. This means we have to actively continue to improve our community each year. The current leadership seems to think Poway is done improving itself. I disagree. I will also work to ensure that the massive development being planned for Poway Road does not impact the quality of life of the residents in that area (or anywhere in Poway.)</p>	<p>Having grown up here, I have seen Poway's once great reputation become laughed at by my peers. A lot of us have felt that we have been ignored and our issues have gone unaddressed. The older I got, I realized that a lot of people in Poway were feeling that way. Many were struggling with the growing cost of living here, affected in a large part by the amount of construction in Poway, and others were dealing with abuse from strangers due to a lack of acceptance in the city. I hope to change that</p>	<p>During the last four years Poway has become the 11th safest city in the state while remaining safest in the county; we were recently ranked the #1 city in the county to raise a family; our streets are the best in the county; we've expanded Poway's Open Space and we're revitalizing Poway Rd. This is all thanks to City Council members who work well together keeping a laser focus on the important issues. I'm proud to lead that team and look forward to what we can do in the next four years.</p>
How should the city engage the community to ensure that the scope and details of future new development projects in Poway are communicated clearly to residents?	<p>The first thing the city should do is listen to the community leaders that represent the people of our fine city. After all we as politicians are supposed to be the voice of the people. This is not always the case I am afraid there are times when certain individuals feel as if they own the city themselves that is morally wrong and unethical. If elected as Mayor of Poway this will change.</p>	<p>Social media is an excellent vehicle for the city, and in particular city council members, to communicate with Poway residents on a variety of issues including the scope and details of future development projects. It is also an excellent way to receive feedback on these projects. Social meida should be including along side the other normal channels of communication such as print media and direct interaction with the residents.</p>	<p>There needs to be more communication between the community and the city. I feel that more opportunity for public forum (aside from city council meetings) and open discussion in online forums (like the Facebook page South Poway Votes) would provide a clearer picture to taxpayers.</p>	<p>Poway has stepped up its communication game by making our Public Information Officer a full time position. We aggressively push out information on all social media platforms, traditional outlets, a city e-newsletter and on Poway.org. Additionally my email newsletter, Poway Now reaches nearly 8000 residents. On top of all that, our council is probably the most accessible and available group of elected officials anywhere. All to say, if a resident wants information it is readily available.</p>

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<p>Two plans are being considered for the new Poway Community Center:</p> <p>a. an 18,450 sq ft “hybrid” design for an est. \$11.8 million with one large meeting room, five classrooms, restrooms, office space, and kitchen;</p> <p>b. a 22,587 sq ft “hybrid-plus” est. at \$13.4 million which adds a second meeting room and classroom.</p> <p>Which option best fits the city’s budget and the community’s needs, and why?</p>	<p>Whether you like one plan or the other based on costs or specific features in dedicating this center in honor of a former Mayor is a matter of opinion. I personally may be in the minority in this issue because I believe we have a good center already sure it could use a face lift with upgrades and restorations that would cost the taxpayers a fraction of the cost that either proposal will be to the city taxpayers. Money saved on these proposals would benefit long term for other services to Poway</p>	<p>I lean towards the smaller option, as the cost of this project is already distorting the entire city budget. However, if the city’s other priorities can be met while also completing the larger version I would consider the it. I would also reinvestigate remodeling this facility as it might save money and be completed more quickly. Completing the project quickly is important because our seniors and other groups will be without a facility during the construction process.</p>	<p>I believe that option A is the best option because this way we can save some money, observe the use of these new facilities and then be able to later make a decision on whether to expand or not.</p>	<p>First, the estimates are just that, estimates. We won’t have hard numbers until early ‘19. We currently have \$9.8 million set aside for the project &amp; though we might be able to reallocate limited funds or draw from a year-end surplus, in any event it will be a stretch. I oppose incurring debt to build the project because of the debt service burden it would place on operations. Because the “hybrid” design allows for future expansion &amp; includes expansive courtyard space it will meet current needs.</p>
<p>List your top priorities as Mayor of Poway:</p>	<p># 1 STOP OVER DEVELOPMENT</p> <p># 2 UTILIZE EXISTING UNOCCUPIED BUSINESSES BEFORE DESTROYING CURRENT ONES.</p> <p># 3 VETERANS HOUSING</p> <p># 4 SAVING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS</p> <p># 5 FULL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY</p>	<p>I want to review all Poway’s recreational amenities including parks, paths and recreational facilities (both public and private) and determine the best way to protect, upgrade and augment these offerings. This is important because I believe Poway is falling behind the other newer communities in our area including 45 Ranch and Del Sur, which are attracting many younger families because these benefits are important to them.</p>	<p>I would want to work towards beautifying our current business fronts instead of tearing them down and rebuilding, making Poway more affordable for its residents, creating a new community center where all people can safely come together without fear of confrontation, and creating a job center where our jobless population can receive training and opportunity to change their paths.</p>	<p>Public safety will always be my top priority followed closely by keeping our roads and other infrastructure in top shape. Other priorities are fiscal prudence; expanding open space; preserving Poway’s unique character, continuing revitalization of Poway Rd; reducing our unfunded pension liability; and last but not least continuing to have a collaborative council that is accessible and available to constituents 24/7.</p>