Statement of Interest — Altadena Town Council, Census Tract 4601

Martha House

As a longtime Altadena resident, I am running to represent Census Tract 4601 on the Altadena Town Council (ATC) because I want to play a more active role in supporting my neighbors and helping our community navigate the ongoing challenges of recovery following the Eaton Fire. I also want to help ensure that new neighbors arriving in Altadena feel welcomed and become part of the strong community we are working to rebuild.

My goals as an Altadena resident and prospective ATC representative are straightforward:

1. **Advocate for our community.** Help neighbors access assistance from county and regional agencies by communicating our needs, elevating our concerns, and working to ensure that our voices are heard.
2. **Support thoughtful, safe development.** Help shape the future of Altadena in ways that prioritize safety, reflect community needs, and preserve what makes our community special.
3. **Strengthen community safety and preparedness.** Support a robust network of neighbors, organizations, and local resources that can work together to keep our community safe and resilient.

I believe my professional experience, community involvement, and commitment to service have prepared me to contribute meaningfully to these efforts. For more than 20 years, I have worked as a community college educator and administrator while living in Altadena. Throughout my career, I have collaborated with students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and community partners to address challenges and achieve shared goals. This experience has taught me the importance of listening carefully, approaching people with empathy, and working collaboratively to find solutions.

A central part of my professional role has always been advocacy: helping people navigate complex, sometimes opaque systems, understand their options, and connect with the right people and resources. I know firsthand how valuable that kind of support can be. When my neighbors and I struggled to get our neighborhood safety concerns addressed, ATC representatives listened, responded, and helped us find a path forward when we felt our voices were not being heard. Their assistance brought tremendous relief during an already stressful time. I would like to offer that same responsiveness, persistence, and practical support to my neighbors as an ATC representative.

As Altadena continues to recover and rebuild, we face significant challenges and difficult questions about whether existing systems are meeting our community's needs. Each of us has our own experiences and struggles in the wake of the fire, and moving forward will require listening to one another, advocating effectively, and working together. Through my participation in the Altadena Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), I have seen firsthand how many local groups and dedicated individuals are working to support our community. I see the ATC as an essential part of this network, connecting residents with resources, amplifying community concerns, and helping turn shared priorities into action.

Finally, one of the things I value most about living in Altadena is the opportunity to get to know my neighbors and learn about their experiences. I do this through neighborhood walks, participation in community groups, and supporting local businesses. I especially value the moments when I can connect someone with a person, resource, or opportunity that makes a difference.

I would be honored to serve Census Tract 4601 on the Altadena Town Council. I would bring a commitment to listening, a collaborative spirit, and the energy to help our neighbors navigate the challenges ahead. Most of all, I would work to ensure that residents feel heard, supported, and connected as we rebuild not just our homes, but our community.