Statement of Qualification for Altadena Town Council

Theresa Fuentes (Census Tract 4601)

Greetings! I am running for Altadena Town Council because I want to be part of the dynamic group of people working on the tremendous tasks required to recover from and move forward after the Eaton Fire. My family has lived in Altadena since 2004 and love every aspect of this unique community.

I have been a believer in the strength of local government all my life. I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and worked on my mom's campaigns for local school board when I was a teenager. I earned my B.S. in Economics at MIT and my law degree at UCLA. I represented public agencies and local government as a lawyer for 30 years. My last position was with the City Attorney's Office in the City of Pasadena, where my primary client departments were the Planning and Community Development Department and City Clerk's Office, and where I also served as General Counsel to the Rose Bowl Operating Company. I retired from the Pasadena City Attorney's Office in the late spring of 2024. In retirement I have found deep satisfaction in volunteering with Union Station Homeless Services, Food Forward, Habitat for Humanity, and in riding my bike throughout the San Gabriel Valley and volunteering with the Pasadena Athletic Association.

I feel like I had just settled into retirement when the Eaton Fire devastated our community. Although our house survived, it wasn't unscathed. We were fortunate that we were able to remediate and return to our house within months, although we too have battle stories to share about that process. We now walk around Altadena and wonder at the reconstruction and recovery in process. We can hardly wait for the return of access to Eaton Canyon and the trails beyond.

A particular strength I hope to bring to the Town Council is my extensive knowledge of land use planning. I am intimately familiar with local government, open and public meetings laws, and value the public participation I witnessed and facilitated throughout my career. I had the privilege to be part of the General Plan and Specific Plan processes in several communities throughout my career. As Los Angeles County updates the Altadena Community Standards District rules and develops a 2029 blueprint for capital improvements in our area, I believe my experience can help amplify our voices and clarify the direction in which we want to see our community grow and prosper. I want to hear what you think.

Thank you for the honor of considering me for Altadena Town Council.