**POLITICAL SPEECH**

**FOR**

**SCOTT DAVIS**

Hello everyone! It’s an honor for me to have the opportunity to see all of you and to share a few thoughts here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**If there is anyone in particular you want to thank for the event, do that here**) I would like to extend special thanks to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for organizing this event. I am always eager to have the chance to learn more about this city as we work together to discover ways to continue our dialogue about sustaining and improving our way of life. As a native of Salinas, I have lived here for my entire life. I’ve grown up here, I’ve gone to school here. I’ve been a participant in this community as a kid, an adolescent, a young professional, and always, as a concerned, involved, neighbor and friend. Even though I’m relatively young, it’s been my goal and mission to serve this community and from my “boots on the ground” perspective, I have seen this city evolve. We are all part of the process of the growth and progress of this city and as times and conditions shift from the impact of social and economic trends we all face as a nation, it becomes clear that in order to sustain ourselves, it’s important to find unity, opportunities, and solutions based in common sense, mutual respect, and pride in our home.

Many people refer to Salinas as “The Salad Bowl of the World.” That’s **A LOT OF VEGETABLES**!!! I’ll take that!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). It means we have a positive impact on life! We’re colorful, we provide nutrition, we’re adaptable and infinitely interesting.... and with the many layers and flavors of our community come challenges and opportunities to address and improve our way of life. I’ve heard some people say that as we accept the tests of everyday living, it’s important to commit to being the best at what we do. That certainly goes for managing the programs and services that work to keep a city like ours running successfully. I have pledged to do what I can, along with the city council and government, to face issues like affordable housing, infrastructure, and homelessness, to name a few, and to work together, as a cohesive community, to confront and handle the issues, and to maintain the wellbeing and quality of life of our residents as our priority.

Salinas bears the distinction of having a fairly young population. The median age is less than thirty four years old. That tells us several things.... while we have enthusiasm and energy on our side, we also have to remind ourselves that we are all part of a continuum... we live in a city with a great heritage.... and as we honor and respect our legacy, it’s important that each one of us partners with our neighbors to teach and learn from one another. It’s important to know what makes us tick in order to find the solutions to the issues at hand.

We have the buildings and the history of Oldtown that inspire us to tell the story of Salinas. We have the demand to come up with viable solutions for affordable housing. Progress is being made with (**Name one or two initiatives that will alleviate the housing issue**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and while we don’t necessarily want our quality of life to diminish, we need to have confidence that Salinas housing will be adaptable and affordable to all of us and our children, now and in the future.

We have to address issues of homelessness.... what are the conditions that contribute to this national and local emergency? Of course tackling the housing issue will initiate the conversation, but it’s more than that. It’s finding the ways to create jobs at every level, strengthen infrastructure in every sense of the word.... maintaining roads and highways, having viable transportation alternatives, and reinforcing and promoting our civic pride that will work to make Salinas the city we’re proud to call home.

(**Name two or three highlights or projects you’re working on to improve quality of life**)... With projects like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Salinas has the potential to provide more than just nourishment to this region!!! With teamwork, community initiatives, and partnership and cooperation with all of you, our dedicated citizens, our potential for growth and quality of life is only limited by our considerations. To paraphrase Kurt Vonnegut, “Every so often, in the midst of chaos, you come across an amazing, inexplicable instance of civic responsibility. Maybe the last shred of faith people have is in themselves and their local government.” I want to thank you for your faith in us.... and if it’s not full faith, then thank you for being willing to question what we do, how we do it, and the results we yield. It is only through the strength of our dialogue and our mutual commitment to one another that we will build a stronger, healthier Salinas. Thank you all!