



KEVIN LINCOLN FOR STOCKTON MAYOR

GREATER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Many Stockton residents currently have concerns about City Hall engagement, accountability, and transparency. Resolving these issues constitute the majority of this policy proposal for increased Civic-neighbor interaction.

Stockton is ready for greater civic engagement The “Greater Civic Engagement” platform represents the notion that everyone matters and that everyone’s voice must be heard.

Each policy measure produced by this campaign falls under one of the following categories: Public health, public safety, and public service and unity.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Mayor Tubbs and his administration do not prioritize community input and fail to facilitate comprehensive community engagement. This can be seen in Mayor Tubbs’ unwillingness to extend public comment during Council meetings, disengagement from several community events, and lackluster to completely absent responses to constituent concerns. Such behavioral activity attenuates the foundations of our democratic values and directly violates the responsibilities of the mayor — to serve as a representative vessel for the will of the people.

The Importance of Communication for Effective leadership

The opaque communication actions of Mayor Tubbs and his administration compromise the values of local democratic action. Many stakeholders have been completely shielded from participating in the policy process. Rather than taking advice from the few, Stockton requires a mayor who is responsive to the needs of the community, and respects the voices of all citizens, not just those who agree with him.

GREATER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

RESPONSIVENESS

Throughout our research, interviews, and discussions, one of the most salient points continuously mentioned is the lack of responsiveness to community requests. Here are recommendations for creating a more responsive municipal government.

Community Hotline

In an attempt to better serve the needs of the city, it is recommended to establish a direct community hotline number to facilitate greater

communication with Stockton. This number will be used to respond to requests for information, record public opinion/comments on policy issues, and submit recommendations for municipal action. Each and every request will be reviewed by a mayoral staff member, and information or inquiries will be passed onto council members and other relevant parties for further action. A web-based solution will also be included on the City of Stockton website for the constituency to use. Constituents will be guaranteed responses within Two business days or sooner. Depending on the nature of the request.

Mayor Office Hours

Currently, there is no regular access to the mayor or his taxpayer-paid policy advisors. Those who request meetings through the current process are often denied. Scheduling recurring mayoral office hours with easy-access sign-up fixes this issue. These office hours will be held on a weekly basis.

BRINGING CITY HALL TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS

Regular Town Halls in Six Districts

The past few years, local government has not gone to the neighborhoods for input. Rather, those with opinions have had to come to the government to share them. As local representatives of our community, such action by an administration is unacceptable. In order to increase government responsiveness to Stocktonians, and make conversing with officials convenient, I recommend organizing regular town halls in all 6 City Council districts with the elected representatives of the area invited to attend as well. This will increase the accessibility to government to the wants and needs of those the mayor's office and city council serves.

Shifting Locations of City Council Meetings and Adjusting Frequency

It is recommended that a few times a year, some city council meetings occur at different locations around Stockton. This makes the government more responsive to the needs of the community by allowing for attendance to become more convenient. For example, the Lodi Unified School District Board will meet in Stockton multiple times during the academic

year to bring the administrative structure closer to its Stockton stakeholders (e.g. John Muir Elementary School, Julia Morgan Elementary School, Manlio Silva Elementary School, Bear Creek High School, McNair High School). The responses to changing meeting locations are overwhelmingly positive; adoption at the city level can also bring about similar sentiments. The frequency of these council meetings must also be adjusted to meet increasing demand.

TRANSPARENCY

The lack of transparency of the Tubbs Administration contributes to the lack of accountability for enforcing community policies not in the best interest of Stockton.

Monthly Addresses

The only way to increase transparency is to increase the utilization of informational mechanisms. I propose creating monthly addresses to the city regarding policy and events. We must also look to utilize CH 97, YouTube, Social Media, and Newsletters more widely. It is the responsibility of the municipality to act as an educational utility for the general public. In turn, this increased educational focus will foster greater democratic sentiment and administrative legitimacy. The educational aspect of government has been completely absent from Mayor Tubbs' administration.

Greater engagement will lead to better government and more action to improve Stockton.