

Glenn Martin for Mayor 2026

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September 16, 2026

EQUIPPERS CENTRAL COAST

By introduction, my name is Glenn Martin. I am a 35 year resident of Arroyo Grande, raised my two children here, own a small local business, and value our community. I recognize its uniqueness and have served on the city's Planning Commission for the past ten years. As a result I am now seeking the office of Mayor.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to your Questionnaire related to the current local election. While some of the questions are timely in nature to current local interest, by and large they are not pertinent to the responsibilities related to the position of Mayor of Arroyo Grande. As a result, I hope this extended response will give more insight into my qualifications for the office of Mayor versus responding to questions in a format that may create unnecessary polarization.

The voter registration process requires citizens to provide appropriate and adequate documentation to register. Voting polls are historically a very friendly interaction between people who have provided adequate identification. The accusation of voter fraud is undocumented at polling locations. To imply that we need additional protective measures to secure the vote just serves as a deterrent to many in the voting public.

The availability of recreational cannabis is widespread. Arroyo Grande has a ballot measure on this November's election that will poll the local citizenry on whether they want to allow it to be sold within city limits. I will abide by their decision.

Localities are required to maintain balanced budgets. Reserves exist to respond to emergency situations where spending must exceed receipts. Circumstances arise where it is appropriate to reduce spending and circumstances when it is appropriate to seek new/additional funds to cover expenses. This is not a black and white condition. Whether through a local bond request or sales tax, obtaining new revenue comes with a supporting vote of the community.

I support the nation's 2nd Amendment and the right to bear arms. I also support reasonable laws requiring registration of firearms when conditions deem them appropriate.

The remaining questions drift into the arena of religious opinion. These issues have challenged us for many years and will continue to challenge us. I believe my role as mayor is to respect the diverse opinions and beliefs of the community and to facilitate conversations with dignity, respect, and balance. I believe it is critical that all voices are welcomed and heard in a manner consistent with local laws and practices. It is not the city's intention or my position as mayor to dictate what any individual may believe or advocate. It is the city's obligation to address issues in a civil and balanced manner, and the mayor's responsibility to conduct public hearings by following the law, allowing for sharing diverse opinions, and facilitating the decision-making process in an open fashion, respecting the needs, concerns, and aspirations of the entire community. To that end, I must focus on an integrated approach to problem solving.

I appreciate, respect, and support the faith community. The many churches in our community provide valuable spiritual foundation to their respective congregations. Other faith followers find support at locations outside our city and are successfully served by those organizations. I was raised in an Episcopal church in Long Beach, and I try to live a life founded on a strong moral structure, with respect for the diverse community in which I reside.

My most important responsibility as mayor is to facilitate public meetings in an open, fair, courteous manner, allow for the sharing of diverse opinions, and facilitating the decision-making process of the council for the betterment of the community at large. My personal opinions are less important than my responsibility to encourage the public's participation. To that end, my personal beliefs, religious and otherwise, will be held in private by me.

I have served Arroyo Grande for over ten years on the Planning Commission, half of them as chairman. I believe I have the experience and skillset to run city council meetings and other public forums in an open manner, respecting the diverse opinions of the community.

Although I believe the city is currently in good condition and reasonably managed, there are growth and housing challenges being presented by the State of California that could change the face and charm of Arroyo Grande. These challenges will be best navigated by city leaders with experience in what can become a complicated process.

I hope this long form response is received as an honest attempt to answer questions.

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