

Sean Schuur for Mayor of Arroyo Grande

ARROYO GRANDE, Calif. - Sean Schuur has announced his candidacy for Mayor of Arroyo Grande in the November 3, 2026, election, pledging to bring practical leadership, responsible planning, and a strong commitment to the community he is proud to call home.

"The blessings I have received from my faith, my family, my customers, and my community have been greater than one could ask for. To whom much is given, much is required. As such, I feel a responsibility to give back and serve our community. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as Mayor of Arroyo Grande."

Schuur's campaign will focus on responsible growth, strong local businesses, safe neighborhoods, infrastructure, fiscal responsibility, and protecting Arroyo Grande's unique historic and agricultural heritage.

Business Experience: Bringing People Together and Getting Things Done

As a longtime local mortgage professional, Schuur has more than 20 years of business experience. He has been part of thousands of people's largest financial decisions, helping families achieve the dream of homeownership.

In the mortgage business, we have to listen to our clients' needs and goals while working within government regulations, lending requirements, and investor guidelines.

We have learned how to negotiate, bring people together; and find solutions while still meeting the requirements that have to be met.

Prior to my career in the mortgage industry, I worked with large retail organizations, where I gained experience working with budgets, employees, goal setting, and achieving results. My degree in Finance will also be another tool I can use as Mayor to be a good steward of the community's tax dollars and help keep government accountable to the people it serves.

I believe we can bring that same approach to our community:

Listen. Understand the rules. Negotiate. Bring people together. Find a workable solution. Get it done.

Community Service

Schuur has been actively involved in the community, including serving as President of the South County Chamber of Commerce. In 2015, he was honored as Arroyo Grande Citizen of the Year.

His community involvement has included Rotary, 5 Cities Men's Club, **Elks**, the Pismo Coast Association of REALTORS®, South County Chamber of Commerce, Central Coast Influencers/M6, Five Cities Fire Authority

Foundation, Cuesta Crankers, New Life Church, Gideons, Leadership South County, South County Historical Society, California Central Coast Cops 'N Kids, Welcome Home Military Heroes, Five Cities Homeless Coalition, Toys for Tots, Salvation Army South County, AMPSURF, Nipomo Men's Club, Community Health Centers Foundation, Central Coast Women's Council of REALTORS®, REALTORS® Foundation, Junior Achievement, and other community organizations.

He has also served in leadership roles with the Pismo Chamber of Commerce and Nipomo Chamber. His community recognition includes being named Nipomo Citizen of the Year in 2012 and Arroyo Grande Citizen of the Year in 2015. He is also an Eagle Scout.

1. Arroyo Grande: Open for Business

As a business owner, I understand firsthand how policies, fees, regulations, and state mandates can make it more difficult for businesses to thrive, grow, and maintain their operations.

My experience with the Chamber of Commerce reinforced for me just how important our local business community is to the ongoing and future success of Arroyo Grande.

When businesses thrive, our community thrives. Successful businesses also contribute to the City's ability to provide services to Arroyo Grande residents.

Supporting existing businesses while making Arroyo Grande welcoming to new businesses is one of the reasons I stepped forward to run for Mayor.

We need to make Arroyo Grande a first choice for businesses looking to locate, grow, and invest.

Our Community Development Department should work with citizens, community leaders, property owners, and businesses to help attract and retain businesses in our community, including filling vacant retail spaces, restaurants, and office buildings.

Doing this can increase local economic activity, strengthen the City's revenue base, and create more head-of-household jobs.

Let's create a future where our young professionals do not have to leave the area to find good-paying jobs.

Creating Business Synergy

We should look for creative ways to bring businesses and property owners together.

For example:

- Encourage artist and maker collectives in appropriate commercial spaces.
- Help home-based businesses that are ready to grow transition into Main Street or other commercial locations.

- Work with property owners to identify opportunities for compatible businesses to share or activate underused spaces.
- Partner with regional organizations such as REACH and other economic-development partners to promote Arroyo Grande as a great place to live, work, and do business.

Arroyo Grande should be open for business.

2. Water: A Fresh Approach for Arroyo Grande

Water has been a longstanding issue for Arroyo Grande. The drought from 2011 through 2017 showed just how vulnerable our community can be.

Today, the City relies on a combination of surface water and groundwater. Lopez Lake has historically provided approximately 60-65% of Arroyo Grande's water supply, with groundwater providing much of the remainder.

For years, administrations, councils, and community leaders have worked on water planning.

But we need to ask an important question:

Have we moved the needle far enough toward long-term water reliability?

I wasn't part of the decisions that created today's challenges, but I am willing to take responsibility for helping find solutions for tomorrow.

I believe Arroyo Grande needs a fresh approach—one that looks at multiple options rather than relying on a single answer.

Keeping Communication Open

Measure D-26 will ask Arroyo Grande voters whether the City should be allowed to participate in the California State Water Project without requiring prior voter approval for future participation.

My position is that we need to **keep the lines of communication open with the State and other water providers.**

If I become Mayor; I also believe it is my responsibility to listen to the voters.

When the community votes on a ballot measure, that vote should help guide the direction of local government. The voters' decisions should be respected and used as a guide for where we go next.

Multiple Water Solutions

We need to aggressively explore multiple options, including:

- Partnerships with neighboring municipalities and water districts.
- Additional water-retention opportunities during periods of high precipitation.
- Continued exploration of reclaimed water.
- Long-term opportunities involving desalination at the county and regional level.
- Partnerships with local colleges, universities, businesses, and community organizations to develop innovative solutions.
- A regional **Water Summit** bringing together water agencies, farmers, environmental organizations, businesses, residents, scientists, and government leaders.

We cannot afford to wait for another drought before we start planning.

Lopez Lake and Regional Cooperation

Lopez Lake is one of our community's most important water sources.

We need to work aggressively with the County and all appropriate agencies to find solutions to the ongoing legal, environmental, and water-management challenges surrounding our water system.

We should also listen to people who have been directly involved in resolving other dam and water-management disputes throughout the state. There are lessons to be learned about balancing environmental requirements with the need to responsibly manage and retain water.

The goal should not be to fight with one another.

The goal should be to bring **citizens, environmental organizations, water agencies, farmers, residents, businesses, and government** together to find workable solutions.

A Different Approach

I wasn't part of the decisions that brought us to where we are today. I believe that gives me the opportunity to bring a fresh perspective, ask different questions, and work with everyone to find new solutions.

The question we should be asking is:

What can we do differently today to make sure Arroyo Grande has a reliable water future tomorrow?

Fresh ideas, open communication, regional partnerships, and a willingness to consider multiple solutions can move us forward.

3. Safe Neighborhoods, Strong Families, and Infrastructure

Supporting public safety means supporting our Fire and Police departments.

We need to ensure that our joint community agreements with all partners are equitable, especially our agreements with the Five Cities Fire Authority.

We also need to ensure that our police have the local laws and resources necessary to address homelessness, theft, and drug-related issues, while also supporting treatment facilities that provide people with a hand up rather than simply a handout.

We should also work with the State on mandated housing requirements and building codes while taking into consideration citizens' views, infrastructure needs, and available natural resources.

During construction of major projects, some accommodations for traffic flow are necessary. However, that does not mean all temporary traffic changes should remain in place after a construction project has been completed.

Under Measure E-24, we need to continue making infrastructure, road improvements, and emergency services priorities.

Our planning should focus on improvements to roads, parks, public facilities, businesses, and housing while protecting our historic and agricultural heritage.

Testimony

As stated in Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much will be required." The full verse is one of the reasons I am running for Mayor.

My faith journey began at the age of four, when my friend Timothy's mom stopped by our house and took us to church because we were new to town. At seven years old, I attended classes at the United Methodist Church and accepted Christ as my Savior. Jesus has never left me.

At 15, I was honored to receive my Eagle Scout Award during a morning church service. The ladies at church always made sure to hire me for lawn mowing and other jobs so I could earn money to attend church camp and Boy Scout camp.

When I went off to college, the Wesleyan Foundation was an awesome group to be a part of. Throughout my life, no matter what city I have lived in, I have always been blessed to be part of a great church community. When I moved to the Central Coast, I joined New Life Community Church. Over the years, I have also been involved with M6 of the Central Coast and have served as a Gideon.

My faith has been a constant throughout my life. It has taught me the importance of serving others, giving back, and recognizing that the blessings we receive come with a responsibility to serve.

That is why Luke 12:48 means so much to me: "To whom much is given, much will be required."

God is good, all the time!

Overall Message

Fresh Ideas. Practical Solutions. Bringing People Together.

My approach to serving Arroyo Grande is straightforward:

Listen → Understand the rules → Negotiate → Bring people together → Find a workable solution → Get it done.

I believe we can plan for the future while protecting what makes Arroyo Grande special.

Our community should remain a place where families can thrive, businesses can succeed, and future generations can enjoy the character and quality of life that make Arroyo Grande such a special place.

My campaign will be guided by **faith, integrity, accountability, and public service**, with a commitment to listening to residents and working together to move Arroyo Grande forward.

For more information about the campaign, visit **SchuurforMayor.com**.

Respectfully,

Sean Schuur

Candidate for Mayor of Arroyo Grande