



William "Bill" Sewell

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION

Candidate Name: William "Bill" Sewell

Party Affiliation: Independent

Have you ever changed party affiliation? No

Office Sought: City Council Member

Home Address:

Home phone:

Personal email:

Cell phone:

Business address: N/A

Campaign Manager: N/A

Campaign Consultant: N/A



Campaign Team Phone numbers: 310-227-9092

Campaign Address: 955 Deep Valley Drive #4795, Palos Verdes, CA 90274

Campaign Email: billsewell2020@gmail.com

Campaign Budget: \$9,500

Campaign Committee Name: Sewell 4 Council 2020

Will you utilize personal funds? How much? Yes. \$2,000

Have you ever sought office before? No

Please include your most recent FPPC Statement: Attached

Who are your currently declared opponents? Jim Roos, Dawn Murdock, Gayne Brenneman, Sanford Davidson

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime? No

Have you ever been party in a civil, bankruptcy
or other legal action? No



Have you ever held a seat or office in any political party committee?

No _____

Is there anything in your background, personal and/or professional experiences (or other, etc.) we should be made aware of? If so, please explain:

Nothing Negative – Before retiring last year, I held a DOD TS/SCI/TK Clearance, I have been vetted as a volunteer in PVE PD and Redondo Beach PD



Candidate Questionnaire

1). Why are you running (or re-running) for the Palos Verdes Estates City Council?

Public Service is in my DNA and I have attended City Council meetings for the past year. Our current Council has had challenges getting things done. I believe my experience in infrastructure and public safety can break the logjam and get things done. One of the things I want to get done is to retire pension debt and take financial pressure off the Police Department so that they can continue to perform our public safety services with the professionalism that we've become accustomed to. I believe that with some of the upcoming changes being brought by others, the PD needs someone like me on the Council to look out for them.

2). What are the political platforms you are running on?

Financial Stability, Retain our Police Department, Fight Density, Preserve Parklands,
Simple, Ethical, Responsible, and Transparent Government Details are on my website at
www.sewell4council2020.com

3). Are you looking for a monetary donation? A written endorsement? Or both?

Both.

4). What does an endorsement from the Palos Verdes Police Officers' Association mean to you?

It would acknowledge publicly that I am solidly behind our Police Department and our fine officers even as others in our town are trying to disband our Department and contract it out. I want to show everyone that our Department stands with me just as I stand with them.



5). What major endorsements have you already received and plan on receiving?

I plan on receiving an endorsement from the PV Pulse on-line newspaper. I am working on other newspapers but it is too early to tell what result will come

6). What are the 3 most important concerns facing the City of Palos Verdes Estates?

Stabilizing our finances, Retaining our Police Department, Fighting State Mandated Housing Density

7). What concerns do you see with the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department?

Our citizens conflate high pension debt and pension cost creep with the cost of the PD. They don't understand that CalPERS is the problem, not the Police Department. I want to make sure that when Council decisions are made, they are made from the correct perspective. Our Police should not be penalized for CalPERS incompetence.

8). What do you know about the last contract negotiation that was negotiated with the Palos Verdes Estates City Council?

The last negotiation extended the status quo for one year without changing terms



9). Do you believe the Palos Verdes Estates police officers should receive comparable pay to surrounding agencies (pay, benefits, health care, etc.)?

Yes. In order to attract and keep the best we have to be competitive

10). What, if anything, is more important than Public Safety?

If you imagine a pyramid, the top (point) is public safety. Everything else supports it. If any of the lower pieces fail or are out of sync, then public safety can falter. Therefore, when public safety is whole, it means everything else is right. That implies that there is nothing more important than public safety except for family, possibly.

11). Do you believe social projects are in more important than public safety (law enforcement related)?

I think that social projects and public safety go hand in hand. Social projects can cure some of the underlying troubles that cause crime but law enforcement is always necessary to keep the peace. As I said above, nothing is more important than public safety.

12). What are your views on unions?

Unions are necessary to protect workers and to support families by making sure that everyone is treated fairly. Without unions, workers would be at the mercy of employers with no recourse.

13). Have you been in a union or have family members in a union?

I have not, but my oldest son was Steward of the Postal Workers Union in Elgin, IL for many years.



14). What are your views on collective bargaining?

Collective bargaining ensures that all employees receive consistent pay, benefits, and working conditions by using the power of the bargaining unit instead of having to negotiate each of these items as individual employees. Collective bargaining makes it easier for the bargaining unit and also for management since there is only one negotiation. In this case, everyone can win.

15). What are your views on binding arbitration?

Binding arbitration can be a bad deal for employees in that both sides have to accept the ruling of the arbitrator whether it is fair or not. While arbitrators are well meaning, their decisions are their best guess as to what is fair. In my past, I have negotiated substantial dispute agreements with construction companies and vendors and I've had better luck with mediation than binding arbitration but (full disclosure) I have not attended any negotiations with unions.

16). What are your views on public employee labor groups raising political action money?

Just as the POBAR says officers cannot be prohibited from participating in political activities while not on duty or not in uniform, the groups they are members of and who support them should not be prohibited from raising money for those same political purposes.

17). Do you support the implementation of a "Last, Best and Final" contract offer to a peace officer?

No. This, in my view, can violate the National Labor Relations Act (Section 8(d) & 8(a)(5)) which says that management has a duty to bargain. "Last, Best and Final" is a ploy by management to signal what they believe is the end of negotiations. However, the duty to bargain remains.

18). What are your views on public employee pensions?



As a former Federal public employee (1970-1987) I appreciated the pension system and its promise of a secure future. I left Federal service but remained a contractor on many government projects. Generally, public employees get paid less than private sector so they need the promise of pensions in order to attract them to work in a public sector position.

19). What are your views on public safety pensions?

Police officers put their lives on the line often for average or below average salary compensation. Pensions and other benefits ensure that we have the ability to attract top notch talent to the Police Department.

20). What are your views/stance on the Peace Officer Bill of Rights (POBAR)? Are there changes you would recommend or support?

I support the POBAR because of the unique functions that peace officers serve in life and death situations. I'm not aware of any changes being contemplated at this time.

21). What are your views on body worn cameras for peace officers?

Body cameras are a double-edged sword. On the one hand, they can prove that an officer's actions were exactly as reported and were in compliance with Department protocols. On the other hand, and probably more important, video recordings don't accurately portray the state of mind of an officer nor the sense of urgency of reacting to an immediate threat. They also can miss visual cues that are available to the officer but are out of the frame of the camera.

22). Do you support the death penalty, and do you believe that a mandatory death sentence for the murder of a peace officer is appropriate?



I support the death penalty and, upon conviction, the murder of a peace officer should carry a mandatory death sentence

23). Please share your thoughts on AB 109. Props 47 & 57 and the impact on public safety?

AB 109 takes away the standards of incarceration and probation for some felony offenders. This creates a county-by-county or jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction patchwork of supervision that is often less stringent than State prison. This has already caused the death of a Police Officer in Whittier. Props 47 & 57 put more offenders on the street and make it less safe for ordinary citizens. The reduction of felonies to misdemeanors under Prop 47 for some crimes has the potential to increase crime because there is a lesser punishment. Early release and release of repeat offenders under prop 57 puts the more violent criminals back on the street sooner and makes our city less safe. I voted against them.

24). Please share your thoughts on SB 1421. Do you support or oppose expanding the types of information available for release?

I believe that all personnel records are private and should be protected. Release of records during or after an investigation can insert bias into the investigation. Release of these records can also, in the court of public opinion, convict an innocent officer and have a lasting impact on his/her life, safety, family, and ability to work.

25). Do you support or oppose attempts to change the standard for use of force by a peace officer, from reasonable to necessary? Please Explain:

Oppose. Many times, officers are faced with life threatening situations and must make snap judgements that affect their own safety and the safety of others nearby. The extra split second that the officer spends deciding reasonable vs necessary could mean life or death for the officer and others. It also opens up the officer and the City to endless lawsuits.

26). Do you support or oppose the reduction of sentences for those convicted of violent felonies?

Oppose. Violent felons pose a danger to the public. I learned from my Dad, a Federal Probation Officer, that rehabilitation is possible, it takes a long time and is as often ineffective as it is effective. Violent felons need to stay in prisons long enough for professionals to certify their behavior.

27). What ideas do you have to improve public safety in the City of Palos Verdes Estates?



PVE is pretty safe due, in part, to its geography and more to the diligence of the Police Department today and throughout its history. One of the most vocal complaints I hear today is excessive speed on certain streets. Some traffic calming measures have been tried and have had some success. Personally, I believe enforcement is the answer. Many RPV residents cut through PVE on their way to work and some ignore the speed limit. I think writing tickets to these folks would make our streets safer. Another issue that I've brought up to Capt. Helinga is to better utilize our volunteers. We are primarily used for vacation checks. I also volunteer in Redondo and we have many more tasks in RBPB that free up sworn officers to do what only they can do.

28). What are your views/stance on "Defunding Police Departments?" Specifically,

Palos Verdes Estates:

I am against defunding the police. We need more, not less, funding for training and equipment and to support special functions like detectives, crime lab, community outreach and the like.

29). What are your views/stance on contracting police services with the County of Los Angeles or another outside law enforcement entity?

I am 100% against it. There is no doubt that many Sheriff's deputies are good officers but the real deal is: our officers know us and know our City and our service will be degraded if we switch. If we switch and become dissatisfied, there is no way to go back. KEEP OUR PVE POLICE!!

E-MAIL QUESTIONNAIRE:

Palos Verdes Police Officers' Association

Attn: PAC Committee

publicsafetyac@gmail.com