



June 4th, 2022

Community members of San Benito County,

Recently, the Elections Department informed the community that as of June 1st, the total turnout for the June 7th, 2022 election, was only about 10%. This tells me that many of you are waiting to turn in your ballots, and I believe I understand what is contributing to that delay: you are not happy with the way things are in San Benito County. You are disappointed with the status quo, and you may not be sure what the answer really is.

I am running for Sheriff, because I am also disappointed with the status quo in San Benito County. During this campaign, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and I have heard story after story of people waiting more than 45 minutes for law enforcement to respond to an urgent call. By the time law enforcement arrives, the situation is stale and little investigation is done. Rarely, if ever, does it sound like the sheriff's department follows up to see how the victim is doing and if there is any new valuable information to add. Rarely, did I hear about following up on leads, seeing if neighbors have video, or if fingerprints were located. I believe we can do better. I believe we must do better.

I understand that some of you may like my opponent, or feel that he deserves a chance. I also like my opponent, but I want to talk to you about that chance. **He has had a chance.** He's been a part of the executive team at the sheriff's office for eight years, and here's the thing, if he hasn't been happy with the status quo, he has had more than enough time to change it. My opponent has stated he was limited with his influence due to his "boss" at the time, former Sheriff Darren Thompson. The thing my opponent seemed to have forgotten is, that our real boss, is the community, and they deserved better then, and they deserve better now.

I'm not running a public safety popularity contest, nor am I looking to be the most liked Sheriff by my staff. I'm determined and looking to be the most **effective** Sheriff for San Benito County residents. I don't believe volunteering for every event just to get my name in the limelight helps our residents. I don't believe an effective Sheriff really has the time for that. I believe, that being an effective sheriff for a county the size of San Benito is easily a 60 hour a week job. My desire is to focus single-mindedly on the task of being a sheriff, of running that department with an eye towards accountability, ensuring that the captains are holding the lieutenants accountable, and in turn the sergeants, who then educate and lead the deputies.

I'm proud that I grew up in Hollister. That I met my wife in Hollister. That we are raising our family here in Hollister. I don't have anywhere else to retreat to if Hollister gets worse, this is home. I want to bring the absolute best that I can to San Benito, and with maximum effort. I want to be creative in our profession to stop Hollister from further decay. Some of you may think: but aren't I being a little bold to run for Sheriff at this point in my life? And I want to leave you with this thought; you will get to choose between a sheriff candidate who waited his turn, until the time was absolutely right, and got appointed for good measure; Or, you could choose a sheriff candidate who risked it all in a great and worthy endeavor, and challenged an appointed incumbent because he believes you, the voter, deserve a better choice.

That choice is yours.

Respectfully,

Juan J. Guevara