

The Inside Scoop

June, 2025

Dear District 3 Resident,

My name is Peter De Hoff, your current City Council Representative for Poway's District 3. This monthly-ish newsletter one way of keeping you informed about some city government activities. My goal is to provide clear, accurate updates on current topics so you can stay engaged and informed.

Let me know if you'd like any further refinements!



Poway Annual City Budget – Balanced with Healthy Surplus

Another “boring” budget year — and we’re grateful for it. Poway continues its tradition of sound fiscal management: all city programs remain fully funded, and a healthy budget surplus is being set aside to safeguard our future.

The Poway Budget Review Committee had some well thought out recommendations and Poway, once again, leads surrounding cities in fiscal management and focus.

However, one troubling item stood out.

Councilman Blain has, to date, cost Poway taxpayers over \$250,000 — a result of the City funding additional legal support for him, responding to the high volume of public records requests he submits, and covering the cost of multiple HR investigations stemming from allegations made by various city staff. And since all the expenses have yet to be paid, the cost is expected to rise sharply.

Poway deserves transparency and fiscal discipline — and residents are right to expect both.



The Tony Blain Train Wreck Is Costing Us — Big Time

The HR Investigation results are in — and they’re expensive.

Multiple independent harassment investigations into **Councilman Tony Blain** concluded in late June, and the findings confirmed the worst: **all allegations were sustained**, and **Blain was found to have significantly harassed city staff**.

The cost to taxpayers? Already over \$250,000.

Worse still, legal experts warn of **more than \$1 million in potential liability** — and that figure is growing.



As of this writing, the city has received **at least two legal demand letters** related to Blain’s conduct. And I have concerns that **up to three more staff members may soon file formal HR complaints**.

Who’s Paying the “Tony Tax”?

At the July 1st City Council meeting, we learned something even more disturbing:

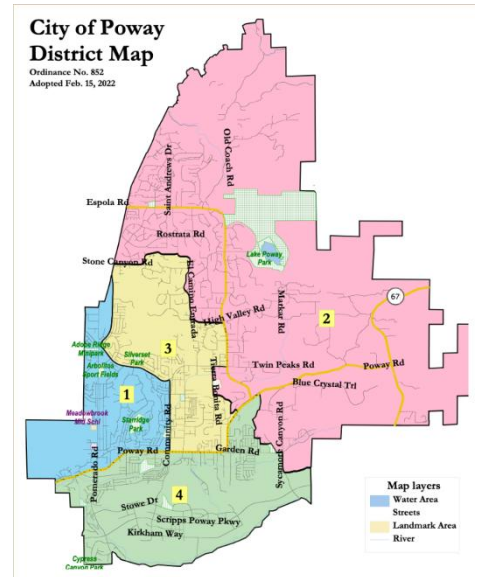
This “**Tony Tax**” is being split between **Poway’s General Fund (your sales and property taxes)** and the **Water Fund (your monthly water bill)**.

That means **every Poway resident is footing the bill** — even those who had no say in electing him.

What Can We Do?

This newsletter is for **District 3**, and unfortunately, **only District 2 residents** can sign the petition to **Recall Tony Blain**. But you **can help** by:

- **Calling your friends in District 2** (that’s the pink area on the district map)
- Urging them to **sign the Recall petition before the July 16th deadline**
- Or contact me directly — I can connect them with the right people.



Poway deserves better. Let’s put an end to the chaos — **before the costs get even higher**.

Looking Ahead

Tuning Up Old Poway Park: A New Beat for Local Business

On July 15th the City Council is set to hear the *Music Overlay Zone Specific Plan Amendment*. This amendment would allow small-scale live music to take the stage at local favorites like Hop Stop and Uvas Winery in Old Poway Park.

It’s designed to strike the right chord between supporting small businesses and preserving neighborhood peace with sound measurements and control. This initiative is a direct response to requests from local business owners and the community who want to see a little more life—and live music—brought to the area.

In that same vein, you can now hear live music on most Saturdays from 10AM-2PM at the Gazebo in Old Poway Park.



Picnic with the Chief – You're Invited!

Join the Poway Neighborhood Emergency Corps (PNEC) for our Annual Picnic with Fire Chief Brian Mitchell → an evening of community, conversation, and preparedness!

Wednesday, July 16th at 6:00 PM

Mickey Cafagna Community Center

Free Registration: <https://bit.ly/PowayPicnic2025>

Enjoy a classic summer cookout with hamburgers and hot dogs, generously provided by Poway Kiwanis.

- Hear from Poway's Fire Chief about this year's wildfire outlook
- Learn how to create defensible space around your home
- Get tips on evacuation preparedness
- Connect with members of the FireSafe Council and PNEC



Let's build a stronger, safer Poway — together. Bring your questions, your appetite, and your neighbors!

Your Feedback Matters

I want to hear from you about what interests you most for future newsletters. Your input will help shape future updates.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and engaged. Together, we can continue making Poway a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Peter De Hoff

Poway District 3 City Council Representative

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If you don't want to get this newsletter anymore, please reply "unsubscribe". If you want to add someone to the list, please let me know their contact information. – TIA

If you have a question or concern regarding governance in Poway, please email me at pdehoff@poway.org

Paid for by Peter De Hoff

Paid for by De Hoff for Poway City Council District 3, 2026

FPPC #: 1492464