

Diary of a Supervisor

Lee Lor, Merced County Supervisor District Two



January 2017 - October 2017

I still can't believe how time flies! It seems like only yesterday that I took office on January 3, 2017. It has been crazy!

I observed the County run as an organization and heard each department's goals. Learning the contents of a new role is generally easy for folks, it is the building and strengthening of relationships that need the attention.

Many have asked how well the Merced County Board of Supervisors get along with each other. I think we get along great and talk like adults. Everyone has their own style, especially their own style of communication and leadership. Remember to look beyond society's defined expectations.

My family have adjusted well, back to our regular routine of school, homework and occasional events. My youngest already asked when she will knock on doors again. I hope they find these long days and busy weekends valuable to building their future.

There are many roles, responsibilities and expectations of a County Supervisor that are unknown to the general public. Keep shining a light on what you do and your thoughts as a County Supervisor. Government is complicated and everyone interprets differently with different points of view.

District Project Funds

Earlier this year, Districts One and Two launched the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Project. The plan was to use each district's \$40,000 from the fiscal year 2017-18 Budget for this project. In July, the PB Steering Committee made up of community volunteers began designing our local project. Keep this website as a reference: www.participatorybudgeting.org.

On September 19, 2017, by a 3-2 vote, the Merced County Board of Supervisors eliminated the District Project Funds, also known as the Discretionary Funds, from



*Regular perspectives and updates
from Lee Lor,
County Supervisor District Two.*

Contact:

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*Tell me you want to join our
email list!*

Diary Entries

District Project
Funds

Activities of a
County Supervisor

Thoughts on
Economic
Development

What I Really Want
to Know About
Residents

OCTOBER 2017

The PB Steering Committee, all resident volunteers, met to write the rules.



Idea Collection Dates

[November 1 at 5:30 pm](#)

United Way of Merced
658 W. Main St, Merced

[November 8 at 5:30 pm](#)

Merced County
Administration
2222 M St, Merced

I can't wait to see our volunteers out in our community asking residents for ideas.

Ideas can be shared by email to:
MrsLeeLor@gmail.com

District Project Funds

the fiscal year 2017-18 Budget. This jeopardized the Participatory Budgeting Project in Districts One and Two.

District Two has a rollover balance of about \$108,000 and will continue with the Participatory Budgeting Project already in place. The PB Steering Committee named this project “The People’s Budget: Community Unity for Improvement”.

I hope our residents will join us at one or more Idea Collection assemblies where they can share what they would like to see in our community and meet their neighbors. Residents can find more information on the People’s Budget or volunteer by calling Blanca at 209-383-4242.

Our People’s Budget Steering Committee are volunteer champions with great minds, amazing perspectives, everlasting passion and huge hearts for our community. So thankful for our champions:

Rosa Kindred-Winzer, Cary Yanagi, Jerome Rasberry, Abigail Ramirez, Nancy Reding, Sonya Severo, Abraham Haven, Robert Garcia, Seng Xiong, Ana Muniz-Laguna, Brenda Mojica, Norma Cardona, Karla Siejas, Kathlyn MacIntire, Samantha Thompson, Laura Espinoza, Necola Adams, Maria Salazar



Activities of a County Supervisor

Many folks have asked, “What do you do?”

There is so much, I usually don’t know where to start! The County’s annual budget is more than \$640 million. County services include and go beyond behavioral health and recovery services, public health services, public works, human services, child protective services, probation, indigent defense, and elections. Full services can be found at the County website: www.co.merced.ca.us.

In addition to focusing on the County as an organization, I am designated to serve on the following boards, commissions, committees or sub-committees:

- Merced County Association of Governments
 - ~ Regional Transportation Plan Committee
 - ~ Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship Committee
- First 5 Merced County
- Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- Santa Cruz-Monterey-Merced Managed Medical Care Commission (*Central California Alliance for Health*)
- California State Association of Counties
- National Association of Counties
- Local Childcare Planning Council
- Merced Oversight Board
- Library Advisory Commission
- Technology
- Cannabis Committee
- Healthcare for All Committee
- Children’s System of Care Policy & Planning

I also volunteered to work on several community projects with community residents or organizations. I can’t wait to unveil these soon!

My focus continues to be the County as an organization with process improvement and efficiency and the County as a community with a different focus on economic development.

Residents can help by volunteering to serve on one of the boards, committees or commissions listed above. Residents can connect with me to talk government, District 2 or the perfect volunteer role for them. My email is MrsLeeLor@gmail.com and my cell phone number is 209-761-6679.

I hope residents join me in bringing a new vision, new energy and new leadership to Merced County District 2.



Policy Work

Cannabis

The Board of Supervisors just passed an ordinance that governs the use of cannabis in the unincorporated parts of Merced County.

Healthcare for All

Residents can watch the Board of Supervisors' discussion on healthcare for all regardless of immigration status.

Information can be found at www.co.merced.ca.us.

Merced County

2222 M Street, Merced

Thoughts on Economic Development

Most local elected officials, their staff and the public are familiar with economic development in terms of infrastructure, roads, bringing business and creating jobs, more tangible things. I believe we need to focus more on building our local human capital.

We talk about the need for jobs but we must stop and think, "What kind of jobs?" or "What level jobs?" We need to be clear when we say, "Merced needs more jobs to boost the economy."

My focus is taking our human capital to the next level. Yes, we have Merced College, UC Merced, the Adult School and Workforce Development but those are a piece of building human capital.

This is more simplified than not but take for example someone who learned a trade skill and has been working in their field of expertise for more than ten years. My focus is to help this person own and operate a business or move higher in their organization.

Another example is a college graduate. Yes, they will begin at the bottom of the ladder. My focus is to help this graduate climb the ladder to executive level management and stay in the Merced area.

There is more to economic development than infrastructure, roads and buildings. I am re-reading "The New Economy of Jobs" by Enrico Moretti. He came to Merced a few years ago. I am wondering where the energy went...? There are so many people focused on the tangibles. We need some folks to focus on our people.

Follow me on Facebook!

Lee Lor, Merced County Supervisor District 2

- Updates on activities and events
- Information for residents
- Events for residents
- Community conversations
- Ask questions
- Share your ideas



What I really want to know about residents:

- *Their favorite foods.*
- *Their favorite family activities.*
- *What motivates them every day.*
- *Their favorite places in Merced.*
- *Their favorite places in California.*
- *Where they see themselves in five years.*

I hope residents will share their favorites with me.

Lee Lor

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