

**John Weiss**

**Mayoral Candidate**

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### **Candidate Introduction and Statement**

I'm blessed to be married to my amazing wife Christine and together we have five successful adult children and three grandchildren. I earned an Electronics Technology Degree from the College of San Mateo and a Business Degree from Cuesta College. In 1978, with my father Dick, we opened Coast Electronics, a RadioShack Dealer in Morro Bay. We diversified to provide Name Brand products, Installation, and Repair. We're currently located in Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, and Paso Robles. I've also been a Manager at a few electronics companies. As a proud member of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, I have served in many roles including Club President, Eco-Rotary Charter Club President, and District Governor managing 80 Rotary Clubs in Kern, SLO, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties with 3,500 members not including 77 Interact Clubs, Youth Exchange, and Youth Leadership training. Since 1986, I've been a resident in Morro Bay.

I am running for Mayor to restore trust in Government and to manage our funds and control the budget. I will find ways to increase our income so we do not lose our Fire and Police by forming a committee made up of successful business owners to help generate sufficient revenue. The goal is to expand current businesses and determine how the City can help them be more profitable. I will work to lead City Hall to be more Customer friendly using my experience in Morro Bay of operating a successful business for over 40 years. I will have an open-door policy for the citizens with office hours by calling me at 805.748.9615.

**Question: Do you think our four economic centers (Downtown, Waterfront, Quintana, and North Morro Bay) are healthy and successful? If not, what three things are needed to improve business conditions in the city?**

Our four economic centers have unique problems.

Our **Embarcadero** needs parking to accommodate the weekend traffic. I will use the in-lieu funds to improve the existing parking and invite interested persons to build the needed parking facilities. I will support the City in investing attractive trash facilities, perhaps with opportunities for citizens or organizations to adopt such and have extra pickups on the weekends as needed. I will reopen the City owned public rest rooms at the Centennial Stairway and each end of the Embarcadero and provide cleaning on the weekends as necessary.



Our **Downtown** has no public restrooms. I will reopen the one in the Triangle Park and work with property owners to build a new public facility on Morro Bay Blvd.

On **Quintana Road**, there are no Public restrooms where most of the visitors flow. I would work with the existing property owners and build a public restroom using grant money.

**North Main Street** is noted for its many restaurants. Some that struggle due to their location. I would seek a name designation, something like "Restaurant Row" and place signage featuring this important asset to help promote these businesses resulting in increased sales tax revenue.

**Question: If you received a \$1 Million dollar grant to use for the city any way you wanted, what would you do with it and why?**

If a \$1,000,000 grant was given to the city, I would direct it to solve the problems that I have identified in the previous question. In short, I would build beautiful, clean restrooms and wash stations in the City where they are needed most, and I would rehab the existing ones. I would construct and find more parking in the areas that have the largest demand.

**Question: In seeking your position as an elected decision and policy maker in this 2020 election, what do you think are your shortcomings or lack of expertise and how do you intend to deal with them?**

I have never held an elective office. Therefore, I would manage the various challenges and opportunities facing the City using my 40+ years of business and leadership skills as an owner and operator of Coast Electronics, a RadioShack Dealer, a diversified million-dollar plus business in Morro Bay. I consider my public serving skilled staff of 10+ employees to be family. Together, we have grown to three strategic locations in Morro Bay, SLO, and Paso Robles. My business experience will foster keeping qualified City employees and promote high morale in the City which is vital to serving our citizens and public. I have already learned to do this by leading by example. As a result, half of my staff has worked with me for over 20 years.

My love for community service leads me to join the innovative service organization (Rotary). I have served in many positions including the Club President of Morro Bay; Charter Club President of the Eco-Rotary Club of Morro Bay; Co-Chartering an Interact Club at MBHS and a young professionals Rotaract Club which serves our county. In 2017-18, I served as District Governor for Kern, SLO, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties with responsibilities for a staff of about 50; 3,500 members; and managing a significant operating budget. I visited each of the 80 Rotary Clubs in the 4 counties noted above. My responsibilities also included 77 Interact Clubs, 10 Rotaract Clubs, an International Youth Exchange program, and a leadership camp for High School students. The leadership training I received to manage these activities in Rotary have helped prepare me to face the many challenges and opportunities the City now faces.



**Please describe your business experience.**

I have operated a successful, diversified million-dollar plus public serving business in Morro Bay for over 40 years, employing a skilled staff of 10+ employees which I consider family. Together, we have grown to three locations as noted above in Morro Bay, SLO, and Paso Robles. My business and life experience will foster keeping qualified City employees and promoting high morale in the City which is vital to serving our citizens and public. I have already learned to do this with my own staff, leading by example. As a result, half of my staff has worked with me for over 20 years. I would bring my innovative business and leadership skills to promote Morro Bay and create opportunities to increase business revenues which would filter to City revenues.

