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May 27, 2006
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Spring for supervisor

Suisun's mayor would be the best leader

The race for District 3 Solano County supervisor pits mayor vs. mayor. But the differences in track records, philosophies, agenda for the future and personalities clearly make Jim Sperring the right choice on June 6.

As mayor of Suisun City for two decades, Mr. Sperring guided an extraordinary turnaround, taking a city wracked by blight and crime and leading it into the 21st century.

While his city suffers the same economic woes as other cities face, no one can credibly argue that Suisun City is the same, or worse, than it was when Mr. Sperring took office. It has received national recognition for its innovative housing in a core area that has a bright new City Hall and attractive waterfront.

His opponent's tenure on the Fairfield City Council, while honorable and competent, created no such legacy. And her leadership skills pale in comparison to what Mr. Sperring has accomplished in his city, across the county and throughout the region.

Mr. Sperring's participation in regional transportation planning is unmatched. He has become the expert not only for solutions that must be pursued here, but for the collaboration that must occur between counties to ensure the greater Bay Area fixes what needs to be fixed to keep commerce and commuters from being choked by gridlock.

In the campaign for county supervisor, however, Mr. Sperring's most compelling testament is to the fight against crime. He rightly believes the county can be the thread that ties cities together in cooperative crime-fighting endeavors coordinated through the Sheriff's Department. He understands how battling gang crime must be addressed by all cities. Otherwise, he argues, we only move it from one community to the next.

His savvy in economic development also puts him ahead of his competitor in this election. His plan to protect Suisun Valley by giving farmers a viable economic strategy is smart. A special agricultural district would enable the farmers and the environmentalists to carve out a niche for the valley. Making it a destination for visitors looking for wineries, fruit stands, art galleries, gift shops, restaurant and bed-and-breakfast establishments makes economic sense. Simply banning development and enterprise there will doom farmers.

We see Jim Sperring as a consensus builder on the Board of Supervisors, a leader in transportation issues, a defender of Suisun Valley, an economic development advocate for the good of all residents of Solano County.

On June 6, elect Jim Sperring supervisor of District 3.

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