

# Palm Springs Mayoral Candidate Statements

August 23, 2015

On November 3, 2015 Palm Springs voters will select one candidate for election to a four-year term as the city's Mayor (and head of the city council). Eight registered voters have qualified as candidates and filed statements with the City Clerk's office in support of their candidacies. The following are copies of those statements together with other available information.

The candidates, listed in alphabetic order, are as follows:

Guy T. Burrows, MD  
Ginny Foat  
Erbil "Bil" Gunasti  
Robert "Rob" Moon  
Ron Oden  
Mike Schaefer  
Ricky B. Wright  
Bob Weinstein

Note: Incumbent mayor Stephen Pougnet is not seeking re-election and his seat is open.

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**Guy T. Burrows, MD**, Age ?? - 760-548-0273  
Medical Doctor Neurologist. Resident since February 2012.  
[www.drguyburrows.com](http://www.drguyburrows.com) - Email: [Gabadoc1@me.com](mailto:Gabadoc1@me.com)

I received my MD from George Washington University Medical School. I trained in Neurology at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. I trained as a fellow in Peripheral Nerve Disorders and Sleep Medicine certified by the American Board of Sleep Medicine.

I served in the USAF as a doctor for 14 years and had a scholarship from the USAF for my schooling. During my career, I was certified as a Flight Surgeon serving as Surgeon General of The Wing during the Iraq War overseeing a 1000 bed hospital, several clinics and the Prisoner of War Camps for Iraqi prisoners. I left military service as a Major. Other responsibilities included President of Medical Staff at Wilford Hall and AMA-RPS USAF representative elected to Military Section President. I served on the Board of Directors Wilford Hall and after leaving to become Chief of Neurology at Scott AFB. I was selected to serve at the Pentagon as assistant to the USAF Surgeon General, due to his early retirement I elected to leave and establish a private practice.

My practice was most recently at Cedar Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles as Peripheral Nerve Specialist. I moved to Palm Springs February, 2012 joining the staff at Desert Regional Medical Center as a Neurologist. Additionally, I served as Vice Chair, Pain and Palliative Care Section, American Academy of Neurology from 2013.

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**Ginny Foat**, Age 74 - 760-413-2650  
Councilmember/Senior Advocate. Resident since before 2003.  
[www.votefoat.com](http://www.votefoat.com) - Email: [VoteFoat@gmail.com](mailto:VoteFoat@gmail.com)

I have been proud to serve as your representative on the City Council. I have worked tirelessly to fulfill your mandate to restore economic stability, preserve our history and improve our quality of life, all while moving us fully into the 21st century. Our collective efforts have brought us to this time of

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exceptional growth and worldwide recognition as an unparalleled resort destination and an extraordinary place to live.

During my 11 years of service, my achievements have included an improved airport with a new tower, new retail shopping areas, a homeless shelter, a state-of-the-art animal shelter, the award-winning small business incubator, IHUB, the creation and implementation of the organized neighborhood associations, Measure J, renovated and new hotels and a balanced budget and strong financial reserve.

Palm Springs is a complex city. Unlike other cities, we operate our own airport, wastewater treatment plant, fire department, police department and much more. Our Mayor needs to be a person who is knowledgeable about city government; one who fully comprehends its infrastructure and the budget required to support it. I have the experience to keep Palm Springs moving forward responsibly. I would be honored to serve as your Mayor and grateful for your vote.

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**Erbil "Bill" Gunasti**, Age 57 - 917-434-5810

TV Executive Producer. Length of residency not stated.

Email: [GunastiForMayor@gmail.com](mailto:GunastiForMayor@gmail.com)

I am for:

To repeal the utility tax.

To keep City Hall open 5 days, Library 7 days.

To establish Citizen's Finance Committee.

To build a private university and a hospital (relying on our Own global resources), - incubators of high paying jobs to keep primarily the youth in Palm Springs.

Currently:

Producing educational documentaries with Daphne Barak, airing in the US and worldwide, involving presidents of Israel, US; Andrea Bocelli, Robert De Niro, Lionel Richie, Kid Rock and the likes.

Investing family funds into hotels, creating health & education centers next to Palm Springs, bringing desperately needed good jobs and four season economic activity to the region.

I have:

BA - University of Miami: Politics and Public Affairs, Spanish and Philosophy.

MA - New York University: Politics and International Negotiations.

Operated small businesses.

Represented 8 Prime Ministers for 15 years at the UN.

Represented Daphne Barak, a decade, producing and distributing 100s of exclusive TV specials (some with Elisabeth Murdoch) like Michael Jackson, Liza Minnelli .. world leaders, A-Listers, who have made headlines worldwide.

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**Robert (Rob) Moon**, Age 65 - 760-832-2122

Retired Military Officer and retired corporate officer. Resident since 2001

[www.robmoonformayor.com](http://www.robmoonformayor.com) email: RobertLMoon@yahoo.com

From my first day at The United States Naval Academy until my retirement as a senior naval officer I was trained to be a leader, to seek responsibility and accept full accountability for my decisions. From battle operations in the Persian Gulf to senior shore duty assignments at the Pentagon, I strived to the highest personal and professional standards of leadership and service.

After retiring from the military, I worked as a global information technology executive. Now fully retired, I have dedicated myself to public service. In my "Pledge to the Residents of Palm Springs" I have promised that as your mayor I will focus on the principles of integrity, transparency and accountability; to be a full time mayor; NOT to accept consulting positions, outside jobs, outside salary or outside compensation in any form from any organization, business or individual.

A Palm Springs resident since 2001, I live here full time with my husband and partner of 34 years. I am president of my neighborhood association, a Measure J Commissioner, a docent at the Palm Springs Art Museum, and serve on the boards of several local non-profit organizations.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree from Annapolis and did graduate work at George Washington University.

[www.palmspringsmoon.com](http://www.palmspringsmoon.com)

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**Ron Oden**, Age ?? - 760-534-8026

Executive, Non-Profit Organization. Resident since before 1995.

[www.mayorronoden.com](http://www.mayorronoden.com) - Email: RonOden@aol.com

My long history of community and political involvement has been based on a personal commitment to improving the lives of citizens in our Palm Springs community.

In 1995, I began my service as your City Councilmember. In November 2003, I was elected Mayor of Palm Springs, becoming the first openly gay African American Mayor in the United States.

I have the education, experience, energy and personal integrity to keep Palm Springs moving in the right direction.

I hold B.A. Degrees in history, sociology, and theology and Master's Degrees in theology and ethnic studies.

I worked with Desert Career College, College of the Desert, Chapman University, Cal State San Bernardino, and served as pastoral care consultant at the Betty Ford Center. I currently lead a non-profit organization that is working to assist people recovering from natural disasters.

We need to honor Palm Springs' past as we embrace the future. While I was Mayor (2003-2007), our city experienced the greatest period of economic growth and development. As your next mayor, I will promote jobs and economic development, fight to lower crime, support traffic and transportation improvements, boost efforts to conserve water, and work to keep Palm Springs THE place to visit, live, work and thrive.

Please visit [mayorronoden.com](http://mayorronoden.com).

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**Mike Schaefer**, Age ?? - 213-479-6006  
Public Interest Advocate - Length of residency not stated.  
[www.psmayor.com](http://www.psmayor.com) - Email: [oz.blueyman@yahoo.com](mailto:oz.blueyman@yahoo.com)

**EDUCATION:**

UC Berkeley, Business Degree  
Georgetown Law, Juris Doctor  
University of Notre Dame, Engineering studies  
USC, graduate tax studies

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Councilman, City of San Diego  
City Prosecutor, City of San Diego  
San Diego County Board of Public Health,  
Background actor, Central Casting Burbank (Criminal Minds, CBS)  
Manager hotel, apartment family investments~  
Member, Friends of the Palm Springs Library; Desert Business Association

Challenged Alphabet as unfair way of listing candidates on ballots, leading to Ca. Election Code sec. 13112 requiring random listing. Candidate, US Congress, Palm Springs, upon death of Sonny Bono; gave rise to federal 9th Circuit case, see Schaefer v. Townsend, Riverside County Registrar, 215 Fed3d 1031. Won case assuring voters right-to-write-in, Canaan v. Abdelnour, City Clerk; 40 C3d 703.

Website: PSMAYOR.COM

**Issues of importance to City:**

Term limits, politicians should not threaten to serve forever;  
Have Council Districts, today councilmembers have no office at City Hall, each represents everyone, no accountability; Evaluate proper speed zones for streets, "Be Safer with Schaefer"  
Let our \$386,000 City Manager run the City, Mayor and Council should promote our city, encourage major figures to visit, speak, perform, invest in a 2nd home, and retire here. As president of Hollywood Kiwanis, present monthly program of note, more able than others to bring attention to us.  
Sunday half-day library hours. Most valley libraries open, we are closed.

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**Bob Weinstein**, Age 50 - 760-797-5502  
Mediation Attorney/Businessman. Length of residency not stated.  
[www.votebobweinstein.com](http://www.votebobweinstein.com) - Email: [WeinsteinLaw100@aol.com](mailto:WeinsteinLaw100@aol.com)

As a Superior Court assigned mediator and arbitrator the past 23 years, I developed abilities to resolve issues and disputes at all levels of government and private entities, skills needed to get things done. I prize competency and transparency. I will not accept special interest campaign money and will donate my salary to local charities.

As mayor, I will make Palm Springs safe again by increasing police presence, community policing, prioritize budgets to aggressively fight crime, restore and exceed vital police positions lost during the recession, and target blighted homes and businesses used for criminal activity and vagrancy.

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As a business leader, I'm sensitive to the struggles local business suffers and will seek tax credits, incentives and reduction of bureaucratic red tape to encourage development.

A graduate of New York University and Loyola Law School, I clerked for California Attorney General John Van De Kamp, prosecuted crimes committed against seniors and children. For 26 years, sole partner of my law firm dedicated to protecting and defending rights of people damaged by the harmful acts of others, protecting LGBT rights, fighting sexual harassment and workplace violations.

As mayor, I will protect every resident and make Palm Springs the beacon of tourism and the standard for renown architecture and natural beauty. [www.votebobweinstein.com](http://www.votebobweinstein.com). (760)797-5502

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**Ricky B. Wright**, Age 66 - 760-861-5710  
Retired Educator. Resident since 1998.  
Email: [WrightRicky9@gmail.com](mailto:WrightRicky9@gmail.com)

I am a retired educator and reside in Palm Springs with my wife, son and three daughters. I have 41 years of experience as a science teacher, counselor, assistant principal and principal. I was selected as principal to open Desert Hot Springs High School in 1997 and moved to Palm Springs High School in 1998, where I served as principal until 2013.

My prior civic experience includes: YMCA board member, Boys and Girls Club of Palm Springs board president and member, city planning commissioner and Palm Springs Cultural Center board member.

My passion for serving people translates into a leadership style that is candid, accessible, fair-minded and relationship-oriented. I believe that whether on a high school campus or in municipal government, the basics of effective leadership involve identifying the needs of the community, developing a vision to meet those needs and motivating others to work together to accomplish that vision.

I will contribute to the betterment of our city by drawing upon all segments of our diverse population to become partners in making Palm Springs a great place to live, work, vacation and conduct business.

For more information, please email [meat WrightRicky9@gmail.com](mailto:WrightRicky9@gmail.com)

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