

Doug's Speech

"Ladies of the Golden State Republican Women District 7 organization and families, I appreciate this opportunity to spend a few minutes with my fellow Republicans and talk about the present and the future. What a day! We are here to save Riley's Farm and honor the "County Line Fire" Firefighters, a terrific group of dedicated individuals. It is only right that we recognize the brave men and women who risk their lives for us. All while we paint faces, throw tomahawks, ride on a hayride, decorate balloons, do archery, and eat great food!

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Doug Wilson. People in Grand Terrace know me as "The Budget Watchdog." I believe I can speak with some authority that local government is the last bastion of freedom having served Grand Terrace for thirty-one years to-date. Forty-six years ago, God granted me the great fortune of marrying my wife Ricki, who is the most intelligent, wonderful, and creative woman I have ever known. Together we recognize the critical importance of maintaining a "Family First Zone." In my professional life I spent fifty-two years as a developer and homebuilder and so, of course, I am a huge advocate for homeownership. In the recent past I was privileged to teach construction to men and women clients of the County Welfare-to-Work program that ended up with real-world job interviews. At heart, I am a numbers guy, so I solidly support budgeting based on real-world assumptions, not ghost "wish lists." I am still for all the good government we can afford, no more, no less.

The City of Grand Terrace found out the hard way that it did not need a bigger waistband, it had to get skinny in a hurry. We got down to the bare bones! Then we were the first jurisdiction in the State to dig ourselves out from under the Redevelopment Act. The secret is we do not spend money we do not have.

We cannot drag things out like they do in Sacramento. You would be appalled at how dysfunctional Sacramento is. If a bill survives rounds of legal review, the meat of the legislation can get gutted by a wholesale re-write or stalled in committee. Not an effective way to conduct business.

The government of Grand Terrace owes it to the citizens of our community to get things done. There is no hiding. We meet with our constituents to hear their priorities. Our City Manager has an open-door policy. We communicate our citizen's needs to our representatives at the county, state, and federal level. We believe in hard infrastructure investment and investment in people. Afterall, we are a nation of producers, so let us produce!

Those who are hungry to succeed get their chance. My daughter worked her way through junior college, served an apprenticeship at Catholic Charities, and on to get her master's degree from the University Southern California at San Bernardino; and today she is a star in the mental health field with twenty years under her belt. And her daughter is following in her footsteps.

I believe it is important for local government officials to remain current and informed. About a week ago I toured the State of California Water Resource facilities as far north as Sacramento, and I am encouraged by recent traction achieved by forward-thinking men and women who live here. We must think fifty to a hundred years ahead to provide a

safe water supply to the generations who follow us who deserve a comfortable and affordable living environment. We toured the location of the Sites Reservoir that is slated to start moving dirt in 2026. It will be a gigantic undertaking that will increase California's storage capacity, eventually passing through the 100-inch pipeline in the road right in front of my house. Talk about the real world!

Our Grand Terrace forebears would be proud of the progress we have made over the course of more than forty-six years. Property values have grown as well as our downtown. Businesses continue to be attracted to our circulation. New housing development continues. The Sheriff fights our crime. San Bernardino County fights our fires. Riverside Highland does water. The utilities do utilities.

But everything else is up to us. The Mayor and City Council. The City Manager and his staff. Community volunteers and citizens. That is what makes Grand Terrace the biggest little community in the largest county in the continental United States.

Today I am announcing my candidacy for Grand Terrace City Council for the November 2026 election. To that effect I pledge my knowledge, experience, and energy to the best interests of the people of the community in which I live. Again, I thank the Golden State Republican Women District 7 members and their families for this day when we gladly

show our support for Riley's Farm and honor the County Line Firefighters for their service!"