

DAVE WARDEN

Age: 49

Occupation: Vice-Mayor / Software Engineering Manager

Education and Qualifications:

I'm honored to have served Belmont for over 15 years: a decade on the City Council, two terms as Mayor, Planning Commissioner, Ralston Middle School teacher, Chamber of Commerce board member, and Neighborhood Association president. I'm a Belmont native and high-tech manager, with an engineering degree from U.C. Berkeley.

After two unopposed elections, I want Belmont to have a choice for City Clerk. I want to save Belmont taxpayers critical funds that should be redirected into services that improve our quality of life. Additionally, I'll use technology to improve the efficiency and operation of the City Clerk's office, while increasing citizen participation and government transparency.

The current annual budget of the City Clerk's office is \$382,000—outrageous for a department of two. The budget has increased from \$236,000—over 60%—since Fiscal Year 2001. Furthermore, the City Clerk's total compensation is \$130,000, 8 weeks of paid vacation and administrative leave, and a generous retirement package!

The elected City Clerk's role should be consistent with a volunteer-based salary—in line with the elected City Treasurer, the Mayor, and the City Council.

If elected, I'll reduce the salary of the elected City Clerk to \$390/month—consistent with every other elected Belmont position. This alone will save taxpayers nearly \$500,000 every 4 years.

The elected City Clerk provides needed oversight—such as recording legislative actions, conducting elections, and noticing public meetings. However, many other administrative tasks should be handled by professional city staff—not expensive, unsupervised elected officials.

Additionally, here are some of my ideas for improvements:

- Thousands of pages are printed and distributed yearly to Council, commissioners, and staff. I will manage and distribute these documents **electronically**, to save staff time, improve sustainability, and make records more publicly accessible.
- I'll make citizens more aware of what's happening in Belmont using innovative web and e-mail technology, such as *govdelivery.com*, used by many other cities.
- I'll establish a citizens' working group to provide ideas on improved uses of technology, government transparency, and revenue generation. I'll schedule office hours at community centers to increase voter registration and better connect the residents with the City.

I have the knowledge and experience to enhance City services, to reduce the burden on Belmont's budget, and to dramatically increase transparency at City Hall.

I ask for your vote for City Clerk. Thank you!

