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Contact: Laura Avila
661.541.4637
avila4assessor@gmail.com
www.avila4assessor.com

****PRESS RELEASE****

Laura Avila announces candidacy for Kern County Assessor-Recorder

Laura Avila has announced that she is a candidate for Assessor-Recorder running to replace the current Assessor-Recorder, Jon Lifquist, who has announced he will not run for a third term. Avila is the current Assistant Assessor for Kern County and has been with the Assessor’s office for the past 15 years.

Lifquist is supporting and has formally endorsed Laura Avila as the best candidate for the job. “I’ve worked with Laura for years, trusting her over time with increasingly important responsibilities. She has always exceeded expectations. Laura is a problem solver dedicated to fairness and efficiency, a strong leader and gifted administrator. I believe Kern County would be wise to make Laura its next Assessor-Recorder.”

Avila also has the endorsement of the former Assessor-Recorder, James W. Fitch. “Laura’s experience and knowledge of the many aspects of the Assessor’s office, and the leadership she has shown as the Assistant Assessor makes her very qualified for the position of Assessor-Recorder.”

Avila was raised in Bakersfield and has a love for Kern County that has made her proud to be a resident of Kern County. Avila graduated from California State University Fresno with a BS in Business Administration - Real Estate and Land Economics.

Quote: Said Avila, “I look forward to continuing to work hard for the tax payers of Kern County. I love this community and will work tirelessly to make sure that all tax payers of Kern are equally assessed under the numerous and complicated tax laws we deal with each day. With all the challenges of the last two years, I’ve learned that we need to be able to immediately adapt to new problems and situations. Our office has begun to do that and I am excited to see how we can grow and continue to adapt new technologies and procedures designed to better serve the tax payers of Kern County. There is a lot of work to be done, but I am ready to get to it.”

Background: The day-to-day responsibilities of the Assessor and Recorder offices consist of technical and complicated documentary recordings, property valuations and appraisals. With only 87 staff members the Assessor department is responsible for valuing every property in Kern County. This includes all residential, commercial, agricultural properties, natural resource properties like oil, gas and wind generation, as well as business personal property and fixtures. For the last 3 years, the Assessor’s office has delivered record breaking assessment rolls allowing the Kern County government to fund all County departments that provide services for the citizens of Kern.

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