

Jane Tolmach

Oxnard

1. Give a brief comment on why you are working in a job that is out of the home.

Because I want to do something worthwhile in the community. I have the time to pursue my interest in making local government respond to the needs of the people.

2. Describe for us what your job is and what it involves.

I am one of 5 city council member (one is mayor) elected to four year terms. We set policy, enact laws, and set the tax rate in order to carry out our responsibility to provide the services of a city --- police, fire, street, building standards, planning, parks and recreation, etc. We hire a city manager who is responsible for hiring all the employees necessary to ~~carry out~~ provide these services at the level determined by the city council.

3. Tell us why you selected this career.

After college I got a graduate degree in Social Work. However, after I was married, I had five children and did not have time to work full time. As I was having my children I worked as a volunteer on community issues and projects. Gradually, as my children got older, I became more and more active in partisan and non partisan politics until I decided to run for school board. After I was elected twice, I ran for city council because the city was facing many problems.

4. What did you have to do to prepare for this job?

My volunteer activity on city issues prepared me for the job. Also it helped me be elected because people knew me and how I stood on the issues.

5. How do you combine your career of work away from home with the daily duties of home life?

As a city councilwoman I go to many meetings. Most meetings require hours of study in preparation. I plan my cooking and housework around each days schedule of meetings, study and phone calls. I work fast and my youngest boy (17 years) who lives at home is very helpful. My husband is very busy, too, because he is a doctor.

6. Describe for us a typical daily schedule for us.

Each day during the month is different except Tuesday. On Tuesday I make the bed, do the dishes, straighten the house, prepare lunch and plan an easy supper. During the rest of the morning I study, phone city hall for more information on council agenda items. Sometimes I attend the Board of Supervisors meeting if they are discussing a matter that the Oxnard City council is concerned about. Our regular city council meeting begins at 1:30PM. For the first half hour the public is invited to speak on matters ~~of~~ that are not scheduled for the day. The public may also speak during the rest of the meeting. We finish at about 6 PM. I hurry home to fix supper. We eat at about 6:30 and I leave ~~the~~ the house by 7:15 to get to the city council chambers before the meeting begins again at 7:30PM. We have formal "Public Hearings" in the evening. We finish at ~~about 9, 10, 11, or 12.~~ 9, 10, 11, or 12. When I get home I read for several hours before ~~going to bed.~~ going to bed.

