

# GATEWAY HOUSING

1 Good morning. I believe it is the responsibility of each major party to find the  
2 best candidates for office. After elections, especially at the local level,  
3 officials should work together to improve the quality of life for citizens and  
4 enhance the community. However, I've observed that cooperation often  
5 breaks down when decisions are made strictly along party lines, as happened  
6 under Rob Daugherty's leadership. When party lines dominate, progress  
7 stalls, and everyone loses.

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9 Now, after 20 months, I see no unified effort to address key issues like  
10 employment, housing, or general governance. While we agree on what needs  
11 to be done, disagreements over implementation prevent progress.  
12 Compromise is essential to move forward.

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14 For example, we all agree on the need for gateway housing to help people  
15 transition and become active members of their community. Yet, we've  
16 struggled to finalize a location. The original site in Liberty was promising, but  
17 then we considered Petaluga, which failed due to inadequate amenities. Now  
18 we're exploring a third site, but delays continue. The state is ready to fund this  
19 project, and it's our responsibility to maximize the value of that investment.

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21 I still support the Liberty site for several reasons: it requires no major sewer  
22 infrastructure, water is already available, the land is owned by us, and it's  
23 close to essential services. These factors make it ideal for helping people get  
24 back on their feet. While the facility would initially have 20 beds, Honor's  
25 program could help 80 to 100 people transition to independent living and a  
26 better quality of life. Emergency housing is ineffective and often exploited for  
27 profit, whereas the Liberty site is on a bus route and offers the opportunity to  
28 build a purpose-designed facility in collaboration with Honor.

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30 By avoiding expenses for water and sewer, we can allocate more funds to  
31 create a welcoming, home-like environment that inspires hope and supports  
32 recovery. This project could serve as a model for other counties. Delaying  
33 further only hurts those in need. It's time to stop studying the problem, stop  
34 searching for alternative sites, and act. Decide and move forward with Liberty.