

Gerardo Padilla: Declaration of Intention. Ashland City Council Seat 03.

My name is Gerardo Padilla. I am a Citizen of the City of Ashland. I am on the ballot for Ashland City Council Seat 03.

High level overview of my goals:

- Civic Engagement and Social Engagement.
- Responsible and Sustainable Growth for the City of Ashland.
- Diversification of Revenue Generation for the City of Ashland.
- Economic Responsibility and Stewardship for the City of Ashland.

We live in interesting and challenging times. We are facing a recession, economic injustice, racial injustice, social isolation, a pandemic, and uncertainty. Navigating the circumstances we are experiencing requires patience, understanding and a willingness to lean in and rumble with our differences and, more importantly, our similarities.

Our visions of the future are shaped by the context of the unique social circumstances of the struggles of our lived experiences. The tensions we are experiencing exist because we all have a unique vision for our nation, our state, our county, and our city.

I want to acknowledge and lean into the idea that we all care deeply about the future of our City, our State, and our Nation.

I am willing to lean in and rumble with the causes of those tensions, especially in situations where the stakes are high, and there is no higher stake than the direction of our future. I acknowledge this fact.

The ideas, the knowledge, the kindness, the compassion, my love of liberty and freedom for all, and my love for the pursuit of happiness would not be possible without the struggle of generations before me.

The history of the American people has been a fight for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I cherish the struggle and the victories of our American past. The commonality that we share, that link us together, ring true in the words below:

I am and We are the legacy of the words written on July 4, 1776

“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights...”

- Declaration of Independence

I am and We are the legacy of the passage of the 13th Amendment of 1865 that abolished the institution of slavery.

I am and We are the legacy of the words in “The New Colossus”

“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddles masses yearning to breathe free..”

- Emma Lazarus 1883

I am and We are the legacy of the 19th Amendment of 1920 that established the legal rights of women to vote.

“The vote is the emblem of your equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty...”

- Carrie Chapman Cat founder of The League of Women Voters

I am and We are the legacy of D-Day

“People of Western Europe... the hour of your liberation is approaching...”  
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower June 6, 1944

I am and We are the legacy of The Civil Rights Act of 1964

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Acceptance Speech for the Nobel Peace Prize of 1964

We are linked to these events. They are our historical legacy and the shared commonality that links our past to our present. The decisions of the past and present will always affect the future. The fight for liberty and justice for all does not end. It is a daily challenge. I have faith and trust that our past hard fought victories will endure and will serve as a guiding light in the shaping of a better tomorrow. Everyday, we must start today.

I ask you the Citizen of Ashland to share your dream. I ask you the Citizen of Ashland to give grace to our neighbors and to lean-in with open ears, minds, and hearts. I ask you the Citizen of Ashland to rumble with the idea that we all care deeply about the future of our City, our State, and our Nation.

I am running on a platform of Civic Engagement and Social Engagement, Responsible and Sustainable Growth for the City of Ashland, Diversification of Revenue Generation for the City of Ashland and Economic Responsibility and Stewardship for the City of Ashland.

I see you with open eyes, I hear you with attentive ears and mind, I choose to be present for you with an open heart. Together with open eyes, with open ears and minds, and with open hearts we can, together, prepare and sculpt the future we will all share.

We the People.

Thank you, Citizen of Ashland.

Gerardo Padilla.

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