

To the community of Felton.

My name is Michael Shults I am a lifetime resident of the San Lorenzo Valley.

I have been a resident of Felton for the last 25 years. In that time, I have served as a firefighter and Engineer for the Felton Fire Protection District under Fire Chief Ron Rickabaugh.

During that time, I saw in my opinion some of the best Firefighters Felton ever had and participated in some of worst disasters ever forced upon our community. Due to complications outside my control, sadly I left Felton Fire in 2020.

I had intended to go back but time got away from me, and it wasn't until I was contacted by the present board about an appointment to take the vacant seat of board member Cyndi Foreman that I returned home.

I jumped at the chance to serve our community again, but what I came back to was not the same fire district I left. Crucial members within the district were at odds with each other and nothing seemed cohesive. It became blatantly clear that changes needed to be made, and the board set in motion the processes to make those changes. The board's responsibility is to lean heavily on their Chief to run the district and remain distant from operational issues unless absolutely necessary or fiduciarly required.

Sadly, we have been through three Chiefs within the last 16 months. A change that has not provided consistency for the firefighters responding to your emergencies.

A large change in seats may mean an unintentional delay in the direction of the fire district is moving.

I believe Felton Fire has what it takes to become what it once was, a strong vibrant standalone volunteer fire district.

But it must first have a consistent chief, more firefighters through all ranks, and greater accountability of its budget and time allocations. Lastly it requires the support of its community, through actions such as this election. To choose those who have proven through their actions to put your needs first. Who know the inner workings of the fire service and have previously held positions needed to affect the changes necessary for Felton Fire.

I stand for these simple truths and will strive to bring back our volunteer fire district to what it once was.

I thank you for your time, and thoughtfully ask for your consider in my re-election to the Felton Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Michael Shults