



For Immediate Release ...
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Powerful, Non-Partisan Voice for Fresno Citizens Launches Today

Fresno Citizens for Good Government Addresses Community Stewardship

A group of Fresno leaders gathered today at Fresno States' Smittcamp Alumni House to launch an organization designed to give citizens more influence over the political affairs of the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area. The mission of the organization, Fresno Citizens for Good Government (FCGG), is to provide a powerful, non-partisan voice for citizens who wish to encourage elected officials to exercise community stewardship in pursuit of solutions that are in the best interests of the totality of the community.

"The organization was founded by fifty-one community leaders from across the spectrum of our society" said Peter Weber, Chairman of FCGG. He continued, " it is a non-partisan, highly diverse and inclusive group, bonded by a history of civic involvement, community Stewardship, and a strong commitment to making the Fresno/Clovis area one of the great communities in the country". Membership will be open to any resident sponsored by any one of the founding members.

Two documents form the foundation of FCGG, the Fresno Region Community Values and the Fresno Community Agenda. "The Community Values, originally developed by the Fresno Area Regional Collaborative Initiative, were adopted in whole by FCGG because they describe the expectations we have of our members and of the officials we elect into office to serve our community", said Ashley Swearengin, CFO of FCGG. The Values include Stewardship, Collaboration and Fact-Based Decision Making, among others.

The Fresno Community Agenda asks elected officials to focus their attention on the larger issues that have remained unsolved in our community for far too long: our chronic unemployment; the quality of k12 education in so many of our schools; our high crime rate; the quality of our air; and the socio-economic disparity between the North and South of our community. The Agenda also asks elected officials to commit themselves to efficient government, regional solutions and fiscal responsibility. "Our key priorities require sustained effort over several years and we cannot afford to have them derailed by diversions in support of narrower interests" said James Hallowell, FCGG Board Member and former owner of Hallowell Chevrolet.

FCGG will develop positions on critical issues and communicate them to their members and the public at large through their web site (www.fcgg.com), white papers, guest editorials, candidate forums and other means. A brochure with the Values and Agenda will be available at the press conference.

In addition to announcing the new organization, FCGG introduced the members of its founding Board of Directors and Advisory Council and announced the creation of a Community Political Action Committee (C-PAC), which will help elect individuals, incumbents or newcomers, who adhere to the Fresno Region Community Values and support the Fresno Community Agenda. "There are many well organized single interest groups with influence over the affairs of our region" Weber said. He continued, " what is lacking is an organized voice for community stewardship, and that is the role we expect FCGG to play".

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