

Gina Cuclis

I am the only candidate who made improving county roads a top issue from the day I announced my candidacy. This is because I'm a homeowner in unincorporated Sonoma Valley and know this has been a major issue for residents.

All county roads are the county's responsibility, unless property owners on a particular road agree to assume responsibility and turn their road into a private road.

Filling potholes is inadequate. More thorough pavement preservation steps are needed. In the cases where roads are crumbling away due to poor construction, rebuilding the road maybe necessary.

The condition of our roads is not an engineering problem. It's a funding problem caused by the fact Sonoma is a rural county, with an extremely large network of roads (1,382 miles), penalized by how state gas taxes are allocated. What most voters don't know is that Sonoma County provides more money from its general fund for roads than any other Bay Area county. I support the recent actions of the Board to provide additional funds for roads through existing fees the county collects, such as the solid waste franchise fee and the transient occupancy tax (TOT).

The scope of the problem is so large we need multiple solutions and funding streams. We need a comprehensive plan, created with input from residents, to address the \$120 million maintenance backlog.

I also believe we need to increase the TOT tax by two or three percentage points and allocate that money to roads. I also support the current board's action to explore the creation of a road maintenance district. This would involve assessing property owners to help fund road maintenance. As a property owner, I believe this would provide a return on my investment by increasing my property values and decreasing my vehicle maintenance expenses.