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Why you should vote for change.

The Orihuela town hall is failing to govern in a responsible, honest and fair way.

1. Failure to create an annual budget.
2. Failure to create a strategic plan, allowing uncontrolled expansion.
3. Failure to award contracts consistent with legal requirements, leading to corruption.
4. Failure to manage and monitor contracts.
5. Failure to allocate funds equitably across all areas of the municipality relative to the population.
6. Failure to react to population growth and put in place the public services required.

PIOC - honesty, openness & inclusive.

PIOC representatives elected on the municipality council to address all the above.

1. Set a full and comprehensive budget every year.
2. Budgets reflecting population size in all areas in the Municipality.
3. Create a strategic plan considering the environmental impact.
4. Award contracts following a robust procedure to prevent corruption.
5. Use project managers to ensure plans are delivered on time and on budget.
6. Put into place services, such as waste collection to reflect the population size in each area.

Objectives.

1. To do an audit of the actual situation of Orihuela.
2. Every year to prepare a budget.
3. To have Advisors for specific projects and for a limited period of time.
4. Plenary sessions to be held on a rotating basis in the different urban centres that make up Orihuela.
5. Participatory budgeting according to inhabitants and increased to 1 million per district.
6. Subsidies to hire a Technician to help Orihuela Costa have its fair share.
7. Motorway, sort out the mess of having the most expensive stretch of motorway in Spain either free or subsidized for those on the Padrón and those visiting Zenia Boulevard.
8. Manage in an ecological and efficient way all parks and gardens.
9. Build the bridge over the AP7 in Campoamor.
10. Build a Cultural Centre with Auditorium and Library
11. Create a day centre for the elderly.
12. Look for an alternative location to the Saturday market.
13. Develop a system to have the rubbish collected properly.
14. Build an Eco-park.
15. Incorporate more services into the Emergency Centre.
16. Stop new houses being built until a comprehensive review has been made of the public services in place.
17. Cala Mosca to become a municipal natural park.
18. Start working to prevent flooding.
19. Put in place cycling/ecological routes.
20. Create the Mediterranean museum.
21. Create a cemetery.
22. Offer land for an industrial site to create employment.
23. Open a SEPE / job centre for the unemployed.
24. Facilitate alternative energy in houses.
25. Cooperate with rescue centres to set up one in Orihuela Costa.

Several centuries ago, Orihuela was huge. It ranged from Guardamar del Segura to Pilar de la Horadada and villages all around that are now independent. Little by little Orihuela has been losing people and land. It has always had the same problem, it does not treat distant people well.

After the secession of Pilar de la Horadada in 1986, Orihuela should have learned to improve the treatment of distant urban centres, but as we see in Orihuela Costa, sadly, this is not the case.

Orihuela has 83,000 inhabitants. One third correspond to Orihuela Costa, although in Orihuela Costa another 25,000 live without being permanently registered on the Padrón and in some months of the year more than 100,000 are reached. Every year 200 inhabitants are lost in the rest of Orihuela and 2,000 are gained in Orihuela Costa. Purely looking at this aspect, Orihuela Costa at this rate will have the same number of inhabitants than the rest of Orihuela in about 7 to 12 years and from there it will surpass the rest of Orihuela. And this without considering a sudden increase in the population in Orihuela Costa for some reason or that the 25,000 inhabitants who usually live on the coast without registering do so, which would mean that from one day to the next we would have more inhabitants than the rest of Orihuela.

Now, we have 50,000 houses and there are proposals to build 20,000 more at a rate of 1,000 houses per year. Therefore, if only 2 people lived in each house in 20 years, we could have around 140,000 inhabitants on the coast. That is against 40,000 people in the rest of Orihuela. Think about that!

From the economic point of view, Orihuela Costa provides 60% of the resources to the whole of Orihuela and receives around 20%. Without Orihuela Costa, Orihuela would have gone bankrupt economically. This uneven distribution is clearly seen in the lack of maintenance of parks, in the uncollected rubbish, on impassable sidewalks, on potholed streets, in the lack of services such as a cultural centre, library, day centre, police and so on. If we become independent, we will have approximately 15 million Euros more per year to spend on our own town.

Orihuela continues to neglect Orihuela Costa, with the result Orihuela Costa in about 7 to 12 years will far exceed the number of neighbours to the rest of Orihuela. We foresee it!

The way to become independent will be through voting. There are 25 Councillors in Orihuela. None from the coast. With 6 Councillors, the PSOE is governing. 9 Councillors are what is needed to have a majority. With 13 councillors, Orihuela Costa will become independent.

It is obvious that at some point in the future Orihuela Costa will become independent from the rest of Orihuela.

But PIOC's goal is not independence per se. Our aim is for all the residents of Orihuela to have similar services regardless of where they live, of course, we care more about our neighbours from Orihuela Costa. Perhaps we should start calling it Costa Campoamor, (Coast Country Love), a nice name without the addition of Orihuela. A name that also visualizes our coast, our countryside, and the paradise we could have if we were treated well and with respect. The main challenge facing Orihuela Costa is to encourage people to register on the Padrón and then to vote.

Right now, if all the residents with the right to vote in Orihuela Costa voted for a single list, we would nominate our own Mayor. If half of the neighbours voted, we would enter local government.

We at PIOC will do what we can. We are not politicians as such, but neighbours interested in improving our town. But it is you, neighbour of Orihuela Costa, who must decide. Do you want an ambulance when you need one to arrive in time to save your life? Do you want a library where your children can study? Do you want a suitable health centre? Do you want to see the streets clean, the pathways suitable for all including dropped curbs, the roadways without potholes, the zebra crossings visible?

Do you want to live in paradise? Because we can live in paradise, but only if we vote. You have a voice, use your vote, it is worth it.

For the next 4 years, PIOC proposes a series of objectives that are obvious, which can be achieved and will improve life here in Orihuela Costa.

To achieve these goals, votes are needed. Of course, independence is a very long- term goal. We would not seek it if we were treated fairly with equality and decency.

Together we can, one step at a time.