

Editorial: Kirk has earned another four years

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Our view: We've been impressed with the energy Maureen Kirk has exhibited during her first term as a Butte County supervisor.

While many people would find being a county supervisor dreadful, or at least stressful, Maureen Kirk beams when describing her first four-year term after eight years on the Chico City Council.

"I enjoy my job," she volunteers. She says it's the most satisfying job she has ever held.

Kirk is a good problem-solver, a left-leaning moderate who tries to walk the tightrope between the left and the right. She can talk to anyone. Instead of focusing on politics, she focuses on fixing problems.

She gets involved in all areas of her far-flung 3rd District, which encompasses north Chico and foothill communities like Cohasset and Forest Ranch. She even gets involved in problems with other districts because, well, she's more responsive than some other supervisors. Voters know that if they call her, she'll pick up the phone or call back.

"I enjoy working with constituents," she said.

Kirk's enthusiasm and track record earn her our endorsement in the 3rd District race in the June 8 election over her opponent, Ernest Spears.

Spears, a Chico businessman who owned and operated Communication Impact and now works for Internet provider DigitalPath, has never run for local office. He is seen more at Chico City Council meetings than at Board of Supervisors meetings, but said he won't run for the council because a conservative can't get elected to city

office.

He doesn't seem well versed in the county's business. He thinks money is being spent frivolously, while we believe the county is fairly thrifty lately with everything except salaries. He thinks local companies should always get contracts for county work, but there are laws stipulating that price also plays a role in who gets contracts. He doesn't approve of the General Plan, which he says is "moving toward socialism," but the county is mandated by the state to have a General Plan.

While Spears has some good ideas, it appears his learning curve would be steep.

Kirk, meanwhile, has served her constituents well and deserves another four years.

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