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San Leon municipal utility district forum covers water, bond

SAN LEON

Citizen group San Leon Matters hosted a virtual candidate forum Sunday night for the San Leon municipal utility district board of directors election.

Three men are running for two spots on the board: incumbent Kenneth Bishop, incumbent Keith Gossett and Phillip David Haskett.

The forum was hosted by resident David Jetelina, who is the campaign finance manager for Haskett. Bishop and Gossett were contacted several times for the forum but did not respond, Jetelina said.

Gossett did attend and listen into the meeting but chose not to participate, his wife said. Bishop was not immediately available for comment Monday.

Forum proctor Tony Poyner, who does not live in San Leon, posed questions submitted by citizens to Haskett during the Sunday night virtual event.

The candidate discussed making sure the water is safe and clean for residents, providing relief on water bills to those affected by COVID-19 closures and financial transparency of the board.

The candidate also discussed a \$39.8 million bond for wastewater improvements, which passed in 2019 and included money to expand the wastewater plant to meet the needs of a growing population.

The forum was interrupted about 10 minutes in by a spammer account that played audio of expletives and rude comments about San Leon.

Municipal utility districts are political subdivisions that provide water, sewage and other services within the utility district boundaries.

The five-person board oversees the San Leon district.

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