

Leslie Rule for City Council

Platform Brief
1 of 3 Reelection 2026

Values in Action. To protect and defend, and to grow and nurture what we value.

PRIORITY ONE

Safety

Ojai is a fire-prone valley of four square miles with two roads out. Safety for us means readiness, not just response — and a city council residents can trust to protect them and defend them against catastrophic events.

Already done: the FY 2026–27 budget added \$1M in new fire-safety funding — the largest single amendment made — and the city adopted the Ojai C.A.R.E. policy I helped develop with Councilmember Lang and city staff.

\$1M

New fire-safety funding added in the FY 26–27 budget

2

Roads in and out of a four-square-mile city

2025

Year the Ojai C.A.R.E. policy was adopted

140

Council meetings attended to get this done

- ◆ **Wildfire & climate resilience.**

Fund the Emberless Incentive Program (part of Zone Zero), aggressive zero-zone and defensible-space enforcement, and fuel-reduction work ahead of the next Thomas Fire — not after it.

- ◆ **CERT training in every neighborhood.**

Expand Community Emergency Response Team training so every block, not just the fire department, knows its evacuation routes and can check on neighbors who can't self-evacuate.

- ◆ **Calm streets.**

Traffic-calm Ojai Avenue and side streets so cars aren't racing residents and cyclists for space, and cut the everyday congestion that competes with evacuation routes in an emergency. Designate one street as optional pedestrian only.

- ◆ **Mediating community & business needs.**

Sit between neighborhood groups and local businesses on issues like the Farmers Market relocation and noise or parking disputes, so change doesn't come at the expense of livability.

- ◆ **Housing affordability.**

Keep the people who make this town run — teachers, service workers, longtime residents — from being priced out of the community they sustain. This includes workforce housing, rental assistance, housing trusts.

- ◆ **Protection from unconstitutional actions.**

Helped write Ojai's C.A.R.E. policy, protecting residents from unlawful search and seizure by ICE, and pushed the city to log and report every ICE sighting to the Attorney General.