Student Media at UC Santa Cruz's 2020 Ballot Guide

Includes info for national, statewide, and local elections for Santa Cruz voters!
WHAT IS STUDENT MEDIA?

Student Media is home to multiple print and broadcast organizations at UCSC. These student-led orgs produce media in a variety of genres for the greater student body.

Student Media provides an opportunity for students to think critically about the world they live in, and to create thoughtful, intentional media. Students work with each other and advisors to craft content that will last long beyond their time at UCSC.

Student Media is a part of SOMeCA, which also includes SOAR and Cultural Arts & Diversity.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

In preparation for the upcoming election and to ensure Student Media is creating timely content, several students established the Student Media Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee works on producing media with the goal of informing, educating, and empowering student voters.

This guide provides information on statewide races and ballot initiatives, but much of the second half is intended for those voting in Santa Cruz County. That said, we believe that voters throughout California will still be able to find the guide valuable. Thank you for reading and sharing.

While this guide is based on extensive research, we know that it does not contain everything there is to know about this election. We hope readers use this as a jumping off point to conduct their own research in preparation for the elections.
For voters in California
Check your registration status:
voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

Register to vote:
registertovote.ca.gov

Track your ballot:
wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov

Continuing students who have previously lived in Santa Cruz can register in Santa Cruz County or whichever county they moved back to. If a continuing student wants to register in Santa Cruz County, but receive their mail-in ballot at a different address, they will need to update their MAILING ADDRESS through the registration portal in order to receive it.

Other resources:
Voter Registration and Outreach Guide from the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Office

Report of Registration for California, showing breakdowns of voter registration by different demographics

Ballot Box/Polling Place Locator for California; The information on this page will be updated closer to the election. We also encourage you to check your county’s elections site for more detailed information.

WHAT YOU’RE VOTING ON

President of the United States
You’ll decide whether the current president, Donald Trump, should serve a second term as president, or be replaced by another presidential candidate.

U.S. Congress
You’ll decide who should represent California’s 18th and 20th congressional districts, depending on where you live in Santa Cruz county.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOE BIDEN</th>
<th>DONALD TRUMP</th>
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**Current Position:**
- **JOE BIDEN:** 2020 Democratic Presidential Nominee
- **DONALD TRUMP:** 45th President of the United States

**Experience:**
- **JOE BIDEN:**
  - 47th Vice President of the United States (2009-2017)
  - Delaware Senator (1973-2009)
  - founder/president of the Biden Foundation
  - as vice president, Biden worked on the following:
    - the Middle Class Task Force
    - the implementation of the Recovery Act
    - payroll tax cuts during economic recovery
    - the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault
    - the Cancer Moonshot Taskforce

- **DONALD TRUMP:**
  - President of the Trump Organization (1971-2017)
  - Owner of Miss Universe brand (1996-2015)
  - Producer and host of the reality-television program *The Apprentice* (2003-2015)
  - as president, Trump has:
    - withdrawn from various international partnerships and agreements
    - been impeached by the House of Representatives for soliciting Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, but was later acquitted by the Senate
    - overseen construction of 15 miles of new border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border

**Supports:**
- **JOE BIDEN:**
  - Affirmative action; access to abortion; increasing gun control; partial decriminalization of sex work; No War Against Iran Act; rejoining the Paris Agreement and ending U.S. support for international oil extraction projects.
  - **KAMALA HARRIS:**
    - United States Senator from California
    - **Supports:** Affirmative action; access to abortion; increasing gun control; partial decriminalization of sex work; No War Against Iran Act; rejoining the Paris Agreement and ending U.S. support for international oil extraction projects.
    - **Opposes:** Capital punishment; Nicolás Maduro's actions in Venezuela; Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement targeting Israel.
- **MIKE PENCE:**
  - 48th Vice President of the United States
  - **Experience:** Governor of Indiana (2013-2017), U.S. House of Representatives for Indiana’s 2nd congressional district (2001-2013). As Vice President, Pence has served as the head of the White House Coronavirus Task Force and head of the Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.
  - **Supports:** Stricter border security and laws against hiring of non-citizens; overturning of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling
  - **Opposes:** Abortion and the federal funding of abortion; same-sex marriage and same-sex civil unions; scientific evidence of climate change

- **LEARN MORE AT**
  - **JOE BIDEN:** joebiden.com
  - **DONALD TRUMP:** donaldjtrump.com
ON THE ISSUES

BIDEN

Trump's climate change platform focuses on reducing emissions. He has pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Biden, on the other hand, has proposed a more aggressive timeline, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2030. Biden also supports the creation of green jobs and the transition to clean energy. Trump has criticized Biden's climate change policies, calling them too costly and harmful to the economy.

HEALTH CARE

Biden has proposed a comprehensive healthcare plan that includes expanding Medicare, lowering prescription drug prices, and providing universal healthcare coverage. Trump, on the other hand, has presented a plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, a move that has been met with widespread opposition. Trump has also faced criticism for his administration's handling of the opioid crisis.

COVID-19

Biden has pledged to work with public health officials to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine, while Trump has been criticized for his handling of the pandemic, including his frequent downplaying of the severity of the virus.

TRUMP

Biden's healthcare plan includes expanding Medicare and lowering prescription drug prices. Trump, on the other hand, has proposed a plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, a move that has been met with widespread opposition.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biden has proposed a comprehensive climate change plan that includes achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Trump, on the other hand, has been criticized for his administration's dismantling of many of Obama's environmental policies.

U.S. CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives District 18

Anna G. Eshoo (D)

Current position: Incumbent candidate
Experience: Chaired one of the first Congressional hearings on COVID-19 to prompt action from Trump administration; voted in favor of CARES Act; voted to impeach Trump in December 2019
Supports: reducing student loan debt, combating climate change, expanding affordable healthcare, protecting net neutrality
Opposes: Citizens United SC ruling

Rishi Kumar (D)

Current position: Hi-Tech executive; Saratoga City council member; community organizer
Experience: Prevented San Jose Water Company rate increases; 86,000 Seniors campaign to help provide groceries and medications during the pandemic
Supports: Medicare for All, Green New Deal
Opposes: campaign funding from PACs or special interest groups
U.S. CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives District 20

Jeff Gorman (R)

Current Position: Small business owner
Experience:
Supports: First and Second Amendment Rights, limited federal government, limited federal government spending on COVID-related support
Opposes: Green New Deal, Medicare for All, previous impeachment efforts

Jimmy Panetta (D)

Current Position: Incumbent candidate
Experience: Afghanistan war veteran, former deputy district attorney
Supports: Immigration reform that provides pathway to citizenship for farmworkers, their families and DACA recipients; federal funding to support women’s rights and equality in the justice system

WHAT YOU’RE VOTING ON

State Senate & State Assembly

You’ll decide which measures on the ballot should be written into law in California.

You’ll decide the representative for District 17 in California’s State Senate and District 29 in California’s State Assembly. These two houses make up the California State Legislature, the branch of state government that holds lawmaking powers.
CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES

There are twelve state propositions on the ballot this year. These propositions can create new laws or change old ones. A proposition makes it onto the ballot when proposed by a state legislator or when someone collects enough voter signatures toward an initiative.

Prop. 14 through Prop. 24 are initiatives, so would become law if they receive more than 50 percent “yes” votes. Prop. 25 is a referendum, or a vote on a law that’s already been passed, so a “yes” vote is in favor of the existing law and a “no” vote means you don’t want the existing law to go into effect.

**PROP. 14**

This proposition would authorize $5.5 billion in new bonds to fund stem cell research, including $1.5 billion to brain diseases like Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s. This would build on the 2004 Prop. 71, which authorized $3 billion in funding and founded the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to oversee stem cell research.

**Supporters:** Various patient advocacy groups, including the American Association for Cancer Research and the National Medicine Association; Robert Klein, former chairman of CIRM

**Opponents:** Center for Genetics and Society

**PROP. 15**

Owners of commercial property currently pay taxes based on the property’s current value instead. This tax would raise $6.5-11.5 billion annually starting in 2025, with tax money to go toward public services. This tax would not affect residential property tax.

**Supporters:** Governor Newsom, Senator Kamala Harris, various California school districts, California Teachers Association.

**Opponents:** California Chamber of Commerce, California Taxpayer’s Association

**PROP. 16**

Under the 1996 Prop. 209, California public programs cannot use “affirmative action” when making decisions about public education or employment. Prop. 16 would repeal this law, allowing public programs, including universities to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, and country of origin in their decision-making.

**Supporters:** Dianne Feinstein, Kamala Harris, Karen Bass, Barbara Boxer; ACLU of California; California NAACP State Conference; Los Angeles County Board of Education; University of California Board of Regents

**Opponents:** Students for Fair Admissions, Inc; Tom Campbell, former dean of UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business

**PROP. 17**

After completing a prison term, some people are placed on parole, which typically lasts about three years. Parolees face certain restrictions and are not currently allowed to vote. There are currently about 50,000 people on parole in California. Prop. 17 would allow parolees to vote and, in some cases, run for public office.

**Supporters:** Senator Kamala Harris, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, ACLU of California, League of Women Voters of California

**Opponents:** State senator Jim Nielsen

**PROP. 18**

California currently has a strict voting age of 18. Prop. 18 would allow any registered 17-year-old to vote in the state primary if they will be 18 by the day of the general election. Eighteen other states and Washington, D.C., already allow primary voting for 17-year-olds.

**Supporters:** California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, State Assemblyman Kevin Mullin

**Opponents:** Election Integrity Project California

**PROP. 19**

Current property taxes for homeowners are based on property value at time of initial purchase, with slight annual increases. Prop. 19 would expand rules for special groups of homeowners, including those over 55 or those affected by natural disasters. Homeowners in these special groups could keep their lower property tax when moving to a new home in-state for up to three moves. Prop. 5, which proposed similar expansions in 2018, was voted down.

**Supporters:** AFSCME California, California Association of Realtors

**Opponents:** Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, Newspaper editorial boards including San Jose Mercury News, East Bay Times and Orange County Register.
CALIFORNIA BALLOT MEASURES

PROP. 20
Prop. 20 would undo various criminal justice reforms passed over the past 10 years. First, it would reclassify certain crimes, including petty theft and unlawful use of a credit card, so that they could be punished as felonies with stricter sentences. It would also limit the early release for individuals convicted of certain felonies. Prop. 20 would also expand mandatory DNA collection to include individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes.

Supporters: Los Angeles Police Protective League; Albertsons Safeway grocery store
Opponents: former governor Jerry Brown, ACLU of Northern California, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

PROP. 21
Prop. 21 would allow rent control on units more than 15 years old and for which the landlord owns more than two units. This would replace the Costa-Hawkins Housing Act of 1995 that allows landlords to raise rent once tenants move out, limiting the increase in rent to 15 percent over three years. Prop. 21 requires that local rent control laws guarantee landlords make some profit.

Supporters: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, US Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California Democratic Party, ACLU of Southern California, Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles, AFSCME CA

PROP. 22
A 2019 law reclassified rideshare and delivery app (Uber, Lyft, Doordash, etc.) drivers as employees, as opposed to independent contractors. Employees get protections that independent contractors do not, including minimum wage, overtime pay, and paid sick leave. The California state attorney general and three cities are currently suing Lyft and Uber for refusing to follow the 2019 reclassification law. Prop. 22 would allow drivers to stay as independent contractors, but includes a minimum wage floor and requires companies to pay health insurance for contractors driving more than 15 hours per week.

Supporters: Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Postmates and Instacart; several chambers of commerce organizations, California Police Chiefs Association
Opponents: various for-profit dialysis clinics, including DaVita and Fresenius; California Medical Association

PROP. 23
Individuals with kidney-related illnesses must undergo dialysis treatment. Prop. 23 would place new requirements on dialysis clinics. For example, Prop. 23 requires that clinics have a doctor present during all treatment hours and that clinics have to report dialysis-related infections to the state every three months. It would also prevent clinics from discriminating against patients based on insurance or how they pay for treatment.

Supporters: SEIU healthcare workers union
Opponents: various for-profit dialysis clinics, including DaVita and Fresenius; California Medical Association

PROP. 24
Prop. 24 would amend the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (CCPA). It would expand “pay-for-privacy” models that would allow businesses to withhold discounts from consumers unless consumers allow the company to collect and share their user data. Prop. 24 would allow consumers to contact companies with requests to prevent them from sharing “sensitive personal information” and create a state agency to enforce these rules.

Supporters: Alastair Mactaggart, San Francisco real estate developer; former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang

PROP. 25
Passed in 2018, Senate Bill 10 eliminated the cash bail system, replacing it with an algorithm-based risk assessment system. Under the new system, a judge determines whether an individual should be released from jail based on public safety factors, instead of the individual’s ability to post bail. Similar risk assessment systems have been criticized for their potential to contribute to racial biases.

Supporters: California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association, League of Women Voters
Opponents: American Bail Coalition, various chambers of commerce
**CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE**

**California State Senate District 17**

**John Laird (D)**

*Experience:* Former California Secretary for Natural Resources (2011-19), former California assemblyman (2002-08), former mayor of Santa Cruz (1981-90)

*Supports:* Environmental policies including climate change reform, wildfire prevention, and ocean protection; increased minimum wage; affordable housing, healthcare, and education

**Vicki Nohrden (R)**

*Current Position:* Businesswoman

*Experience:* Served on civil grand jury for one term, director for youth-focused nonprofit, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

*Supports:* Immigration reform, reducing taxes, supporting small businesses, transparency in law enforcement, reduction of homelessness, rebuilding jobs and schools after COVID-19

*Opposes:* Prop 15, defunding the police, Assembly Bill 5

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**CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY**

**California State Assembly District 29**

**Mark Stone (D)**

*(Unopposed)*

*Current Position:* Incumbent candidate

*Experience:* Former county supervisor for Santa Cruz County’s Fifth Supervisorial District, former president of Scotts Valley Unified School District

*Supports:* Reducing homelessness through aid to individuals released from prison and aid to impoverished families; plastic bag ban; eliminating medical co-pays for incarcerated individuals

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**WHAT YOU’RE VOTING ON**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superior Court Judge</td>
<td>You’ll decide who rules over the superior court of Santa Cruz County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Supervisors</td>
<td>You’ll decide the supervisor for the county’s First District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot Measures</td>
<td>You’ll decide which measures are adopted for the county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz City Council</td>
<td>Voters in the City of Santa Cruz will decide who is on the City Council, which sets city policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education/School Districts</td>
<td>You’ll decide board members/trustees for various districts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Districts</td>
<td>You’ll decide board members for several water districts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*You may only be voting in some of the following races depending on where you live in Santa Cruz County.*
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Superior court judges oversee superior courts, also called “trial courts.” There are 58 superior courts in California, one in each county. Superior court judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot every six years. Superior courts handle all civil and criminal cases, small claims cases, and some appeals cases.

Nancy de la Peña

**Current Position:** Assistant County Counsel in the Santa Cruz County Superior Court working on child abuse cases and removal of firearms from those who pose a risk to themselves and others

**Experience:** Worked for the Santa Cruz County Public Defender’s Office in Santa Cruz County Superior Court for 33 years prior to accepting their current position as assistant county counsel.

Jack Gordon

**Current Position:** Practicing attorney specializing in criminal defense, civil, family law and immigration cases in both state and federal courts

**Experience:** Reserve police officer for San Jose and a deputy sheriff for Santa Cruz County for 15 years. Served on the Santa Cruz County Alcohol Advisory Board.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body for Santa Cruz County, including the incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas. The board is made up of five supervisors, each representing a district within the county. Most of the city of Santa Cruz is located in the third district, which is currently served by Ryan Coonerty who will not be up for reelection until 2022.

In the primaries, the incumbent candidates for the second and fifth districts secured their reelection by earning a majority vote. In the first district, the incumbent candidate only earned 45 percent of the primary vote, so the race proceeds to a run-off election on the November ballot between incumbent John Leopold and challenger Manu Koenig.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Position</th>
<th>Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Leopold</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st District</td>
<td>Secured position in primaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manu Koenig</td>
<td>Challenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd District</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Coonerty</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd District</td>
<td>Terms ends 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zach Friend</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd District</td>
<td>Secured position in primaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Caput</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th District</td>
<td>Term ends 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce McPherson</td>
<td>Incumbent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th District</td>
<td>Secured position in primaries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SANTA CRUZ BALLOT MEASURES**

**Measure A - Scotts Valley Unified School District Bond Measure**

55% vote needed to pass  
A “yes” vote would generate about $30.5 million in general obligations bonds, or $2 million per year through 2051-52.  
Goes toward improving quality of schools, including health and safety improvements, fixing roofs and plumbing, etc. Projects the money would go toward have been prioritized from the facilities master plan and spending is reviewed by a citizen oversight committee.  
Argument against Measure A call it a burden on taxpayers, pointing out that there are currently two other active bonds from 2013 and 2014, which are set to expire in 2024.

**Measure N - Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District Parcel Tax Measure**

¾ vote need to pass  
Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School are facing revenue loss and limited state funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A “yes” vote would authorize $30.5 million in bonds to go toward school facilities repairs. Projects would include improving student access to the internet and computers, increasing student safety and school security, and repairing classrooms and facilities, including wiring, plumbing and roofs. Measure N will not increase taxes, rather it extends a measure passed in 2013.

**Measure O - Aromas San Juan Unified School District Bond Measure**

55% vote needed to pass  
A “yes” vote would authorize $30.5 million in bonds to go toward school facilities repairs. Projects would include improving student access to the internet and computers, increasing student safety and school security, and repairing classrooms and facilities, including wiring, plumbing and roofs. Measure O would not raise taxes.

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**SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL**

The Santa Cruz City Council is made up of seven members — five council members, the vice mayor, and the mayor. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., which are currently being broadcasted live on Community Television.

The City Council is the primary legislative body for the City of Santa Cruz, setting city policy through ordinances and resolutions. A council member’s term lasts four years and they may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Each year, the Council will elect one of its members to serve as mayor for a one-year term.

This November, there are four open seats on the City Council, with the following nine candidates in the running.

**Sandy Brown**  
**Current Position:** Incumbent candidate  
**Supports:** Affordable housing policies, policies that move the city toward zero carbon emissions, redirecting policing funds to community need, transparency in governance, including establishing mechanisms for community input and proposals  
Learn more at [sandybrownforcitycouncil.com](http://sandybrownforcitycouncil.com)

**Martine Watkins**  
**Current Position:** Incumbent candidate  
**Supports:** Programs to support early childhood education and development; unconscious bias trainings for law enforcement officers; policies to prevent homelessness, including rental assistance and safety net programs for foster youth aging out of the system  
Learn more at [martinewatkins.com](http://martinewatkins.com)
Sonja Brunner

**Experience:** Commissioner and board chair for Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County; steering committee member for Santa Cruz Chamber of Women in Business; Santa Cruz Police’s Citizen Academy participant

Learn more at [sonjabrunner.org](http://sonjabrunner.org)

Kelsey Hill

**Current Position:** Media/Intern director  
**Experience:** BA in History from UCSC, Editor of City on a Hill Press; internship director for college students with Romero Institute  
**Supports:** Comprehensive COVID-19 relief plan; supporting local businesses; affordable/low-income housing; extending eviction moratoriums; expanding climate action planning and implementation; reinvesting in community safety and justice

Learn more at [kelseyhill4council.com](http://kelseyhill4council.com)

Elizabeth Conlan

**Experience:** Scientist, Researcher at Driscoll’s in Watsonville  
**Supports:** New housing for all income levels; an outreach-focused approach to homelessness; safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists; more access to local businesses in a more sustainable way

Learn more at [conlanforcouncil.com](http://conlanforcouncil.com)

Maria Cadenas

**Current Position:** Economic Opportunity Director (Executive Director of Santa Cruz Community Ventures)  
**Experience:** Raised $2.7 million in COVID-19 relief aid, established Santa Cruz SEEDS to provide newborns with college savings accounts, worked to increase affordable housing, created internship programs for youth of color, launched a housing program for children aging out of foster care  
**Supports:** Supporting local and small businesses, affordable housing, living wage jobs, and strong public transit

Learn more at [votemaria2020.org](http://votemaria2020.org)

Alicia Kuhl

**Current Position:** Unhoused mother, President of the Santa Cruz Homeless Union  
**Experience:** Helped organize the Santa Cruz Homeless Union COVID-19 Relief Center, providing desperately needed food, clothing, masks, survival gear, and access to sanitization  
**Supports:** Affordable housing measures, Black Lives Matter Movement, defunding the police, boardwalk vendors, municipal efforts to save local businesses  
**Opposes:** The construction of a parking garage on the farmer’s market lot, the city’s towing of the vehicular homes of the unhoused and the confiscation of people’s tents and survival gear

Learn more at [@AliciaKuhlForCityCounil2020 on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AliciaKuhlForCityCounil2020)
Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson

Current Position: Runs consulting business
Experience: Bachelor’s degree in psychology and French from UC Santa Cruz, Master’s Degree in Social Work from San Jose State. Pajaro Valley Health Trust Board Chair; Central California Alliance for Health, Commissioner; United Way of Santa Cruz County Committee; Dignity Health Community Advisory Board.
Supports: Increasing affordable housing, Health In All Policies (integrating health, equity and sustainability considerations across sectors), supporting transition age youth (18-24), increasing rental assistance, Black Lives Matter Movement

Learn more at shebreh.org

Kayla Kumar

Current Position: Development Director of “Food, What?”, supporting youth in the Santa Cruz through food, farming, and community.
Experience: Santa Cruz Community Ventures board member; involved with Salud Para La Gente; serves on the county’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.
Supports: Affordable housing measures, prioritization of greener modes of transportation, stewarding green space in neighborhoods, redirecting public resources from policing to transformational approaches to justice, funding social services.
Opposes: Construction of a parking garage on the farmer’s market lot, UCSC hypergrowth

Learn more at kumarforcouncil.com

Sandra Nichols

Current Position: Incumbent
Experience: Representative on county board since 2012; 31 years teaching in public school and 20 years on local boards of education; master’s in education
Supports: Embracing diversity, alternatives in education, arts programs, environmental studies, advanced placement and career technical education, biliteracy programs
Opposes: Providing student data to military recruiters

Mike Kubo

Current Position: Incumbent
Experience: Research scientist, education outreach coordinator
Experience: President of Board of Directors at Coastal Community Preschool, former UCSC student
No statement filed

Alyssa Wall

Current Position: Educator/College Advisor
Experience: former teacher and college lecturer, taught in 5 countries, master’s in education, pursuing doctoral degree
Supports: Equal access to quality education regardless of zip code or skin color

Trustee Area 3
(Includes West Side, Bonny Doon, Davenport, etc.)

Trustee Area 5
(Includes Aptos, Corralitos, Seascape, etc.)
Brad Williams
Current Position: ER nurse, father
Experience: Member of CA Nurses Association
Supports: Reopening schools soon in a safe and effective manner

Trustee Area 6 (Includes Watsonville, Salsipuedes, and parts of Monterey County)

Ed Acosta
Current Position: Agricultural manager; City of Watsonville Planning Commissioner; Treasurer for Independence Square Board of Directors, a local nonprofit dedicated to housing the senior and disabled
Experience: Berry Industry, Food Safety Officer, Audit Oversight and Analyst, Good and Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices
Supports: Hands-on vocational trade school education, expand English/Spanish jobs for students

Dana M Sales
Current Position: Incumbent, real estate broker
No Statement Filed

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

CABRILLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD

Trustee Area 4
Diana Alfaro
Current Position: Affordable housing professional, trustee for Cabrillo College
Experience: Degree in politics and Latin America & Latino Studies from UCSC, took classes at Cabrillo in construction and energy management
Supports: Prop. 15

Rachael Spencer
Current Position: Incumbent, Cabrillo College trustee
Experience: Attended Cabrillo as a re-entry student, transferred to UCSC; Co-founded Women’s Education Successes (WES) program that makes immediate grants to Cabrillo students with emergency needs; experience as a small business owner; chair of scholarship committee
Supports: Supporting Cabrillo faculty and staff in developing and delivering quality online classes and services

Trustee Area 5
Felipe Hernandez
Current Position: Watsonville City Council member
Experience: Former combat medic during Persian Gulf War; attended Cabrillo and Gavilan Colleges, transferred to UCSC, degree in Community Studies; political organizer with United Farm Workers and Service Employees International Union; served as mayor of Watsonville, the vice mayor and council member for nine years.
Supports: Developing quality online classes for Cabrillo
Leticia Mendoza
Current Position: Incumbent
Experience: Bachelor’s in economics from UCSC, master’s in public administration and master’s in urban planning from Columbia University; visiting faculty and program assistant at UNAM and Duke University; executive director of nonprofit in Watsonville, managing state funded contracts since 2009
Supports: Providing an inviting, inclusive, and effective learning environment to help students pursue their goals

Edward Banks
Current Position: Incumbent since 2012
Experience: Attended Watsonville High School, Cabrillo College, and Sonoma State; reserve firefighter for 25 years for Watsonville; served on Cabrillo College Foundation, Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Watsonville (Past President).
No statement filed

Oscar Soto
Current Position: Safety inspector, father
Experience: Former supervisor of maintenance for Pajaro Valley Unified School District
Supports: Hiring, paying, and keeping qualified teachers in the district

Trustee Area 3
Amanda Hernandez
Current Position: Patient Care Technician
No statement filed

Trustee Area 7
Laird Trujillo
Current Position: Author and Educator
Experience: Ad hoc counselor at De Anza College 1997-1998; Santa Cruz City Board Council from 2010-2014; Bilingual teacher for 36 years; recognized as “Hero of the Community” by Diversity Center of Santa Cruz County;
No statement filed

Maria R. Orozco
Current Position: Incumbent, UCSC Financial Aid and Scholarship advisor
Experience: Degree from Santa Clara University in pre-law, political science and communication, and a master’s in governance from California School Board Association
Supports: Initiatives focusing on social-emotional support for students, college and career readiness, and special education; increasing parent involvement and mental health services
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Adam Bolaños Scow
Current Position: Environmental advocate
Experience: UC Berkeley graduate; CA director of Food and Water Watch, banned fracking in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties
Supports: Major reform with administration, including redirecting budget to classrooms; raising salaries for teachers and staff; stronger partnerships with Cabrillo and UCSC

SAN LORENZO VALLEY DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD

Trustee Area 3

Grace Pollak
Current Position: Parent, small business owner
Experience: Bachelor’s in sociology, minor in education; master’s in teaching and bilingual elementary teaching credential, taught early elementary school for six years before staying at home with three children
No statement filed

Laura Dolson
Current Position: Incumbent
Experience: Served on Board of Trustees for 10 years
Supports: Maintaining high standards of education amidst pandemic and looming budget cuts; program that promote social-emotional health and college and career readiness; supporting of teachers

ELEME NTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION GOVERNING BOARD

Erin Asheghian
Current Position: Community volunteer
Experience: Helped raise and manage over $1,000,000 supporting music, art, STEM programs as Treasurer of Loam Public Education Fund; served on Building Blocks Preschool Steering Committee; Helped lead passage of Measure R, brought over $10,000,000 to improve school site; background includes blending sociology; nonprofit management, and community health
Supports: Making schools educationally and fiscally strong

Alexandra Hall
Current Position: Appointed incumbent, career in aerospace
Experience: Supports: Creating a safe, innovative, flexible and caring learning environment for students, teachers, and staff; integrating non-parent community members and groups; as an autistic woman, she values diversity and inclusion

Stacy Kissney
Current Position: Educator, parent
Experience: 25 years of experience working with youth; bachelor’s in communications and master’s in counselor education and student personnel; holds a Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Counseling; Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist; Served as COO for nonprofit serving at-risk youth
Supports: Excelling in core education mission, meeting students’ needs and preparing them for high school
COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS
Santa Cruz has four types of special districts—fire, water, port and recreation. This year, the only active races are in water districts.

The Water District Board of Directors hold four year terms and are responsible for policy decisions, which govern the water operations of the district.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, DIRECTOR

Lew Faris
Incumbent
“I enjoy giving back to the community, and look forward to assisting the District achieve excellence in the future.”

Beth Thomas
“My interest in serving on the SLVWD Board began during the 2018 election and subsequently led me to participate actively in the district... Real progress has been made since 2018 and I will support that progress by moving it forward.”

Tina Marie To
Marine environmental scientist
No statement filed

Gali Mahood
Retired geology professor
“If elected to the Board, I will bring scientific expertise and leadership skills I developed during 40 years as a Professor of Geology at Stanford University...I hope to apply these skills and my knowledge of the geologic structure, geohydrology, and natural hazards of the District’s watershed to fulfilling the Board’s responsibility to ensure a reliable supply of high-quality water for the future, and to representing the District’s interests in the development of the state-mandated sustainability plan for the Santa Margarita groundwater basin.”

PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DIRECTOR DIVISION B

Stephen G. Rider
Regulatory manager
No statement filed

John Kegebein
Retired CEO
No statement filed

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT, DIRECTOR

Bruce Daniels
Incumbent, water scientist
“As a climate scientist specializing in coastal water resources, I’ve worked for decades to bring our resource-threatened community a new drought-proof, safe, sustainable water supply. Other efforts have failed while our rivers dry. With climate change predicting mega-droughts, this is truly our last chance to prevent saltwater intrusion and maintain highest water quality...The pandemic has made us more aware of water’s place in our health, but affordability is critical now, too. I thank you for your community spirit and beg for your support to conquer a problem that’s still fixable.”

Corrie Kates
Retired businessman
“A vote for me to lead Soquel Creek Water District will ensure more transparent leadership to represent you.”

Maria Marsillo
Human resources director
“My goal, if I am elected to the Board, is to bring demonstrated leadership in building collaborative and productive relationships in order to find viable, research based, scientifically data driven, environmentally sound, cost effective solutions that have been tried and true to the District.”

Tom LaHue
Incumbent, veterinary surgeon
“I am dedicated to protecting our groundwater and accomplishing our goal of having a sustainable, clean, safe, reliable, high-quality water supply for both current and future members of our community.”
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SOURCES

Information regarding candidates’ views and experience was collected from their campaign sites, which are linked in their respective sections, or from the Santa Cruz County Elections Office website, votescount.us.

Information regarding measures and propositions was taken from ballotpedia.org, the nonprofit, nonpartisan encyclopedia of American politics and elections.

Courtesy photos were provided by the candidates or found on campaign sites.

All art was created by Kora Fortun.
Happy Voting!