

Please tell readers why they should vote for you. What specifically sets you apart from your competitors?

My core mission is about structurally changing the way we do local government in Santa Cruz so that the important decisions affecting District 4 are placed directly into resident hands, not into the hands of politicians (political parties) and special interest group "clingers" who have different agendas and different priorities than yours--priorities that inject negative byproducts into your neighborhoods and into your lives. Figuratively speaking, each district resident will be granted a key to city hall to map out our course without political "interference" circumventing your choices. This is called "a transfer of power" as we transition to a Semi-Autonomous Direct Democracy form of government, made possible through technology advances. By 2024-25, our district will have an operational, software-based, policy-making platform that piggybacks onto existing city government to capture your direct voices and channel them into policy decisions ... if you choose this path.

In the interim, policy will not take a back seat to my core mission. I shall base important policy decisions on five unique criteria per our district charter: (1) individualism over collectivism, (2) empowering the individual, (3) regrowing the middle class, (4) revitalizing family units and (5) preserving the rich history of Santa Cruz.

Please focus on the single most important issue facing your city and how, if elected, you will address it. Be as specific as space allows.

Our number one problem in Santa Cruz isn't housing, crime, health, drugs, poverty, cost-of-living, jobs, education, traffic, water, energy ... It's our lack of pluralism. Too many voices are being kept out of the dialogue. The problem is pervasive, one-sided and static. Individualism is losing out to Groupthink—so problems fester. Our participation ends at the ballot box where we relinquish our choices to politicians and special interests. We're losing our right to self-determination as government's grip tightens around us. With your support, I want to transform local government to re-empower each District 4 resident to have: (1) an equal voice in our vision, (2) greater access to the levers of decision-making power and (3) greater freedom of choice. How? Through a technology-driven, Semi-Autonomous Direct Democracy.

Until that time, our district can still wield greater power on day one. Our first test case will be California SB 35, the poster child for government over-encroachment that is driving the one-way, affordable housing "dialogue" in the direction of big-box housing projects dismantling decades of traditional Liberal devotion to the "Small Is Good" (E.F. Schumacher, 1973) philosophy. Schumacher expounded the idea that natural resources should be conserved. Concluding that bigness—in particular, large industries and large cities—would lead to the depletion of those resources. Santa Cruzan's of that era embraced Schumacher's ideas for decades, weaving them into the "fabric" of their city: a low-growth model of zoning and building restrictions, town layout, small business nurturing, preservation of wilderness, waterways and ocean, restoration of historic neighborhoods--each a reflection of "small is good" and each a component of the cultural fabric that still makes Santa Cruz so unique. If elected, I promise to restore Schumacher's principles and say "no" to Big.