

Coastside Democrats Survey, Central Committee Candidates

April Vargas

Please state how long you have been registered to vote as a Democrat. *

- Always been a registered Democrat
- Have been a registered Democrat for the last ten years
- Have been a registered Democrat for the last five years
- Just registered as a Democrat this election cycle

Why are you running for the Democratic Party County Central Committee representing our 3rd District? *

It is increasingly important to elect Central Committee members who are engaged, active and willing to do the work required to build our party, educate voters, recruit Democratic candidates and win elections on all levels of government. As the county changes, we need to elect people who embrace these changes and advocate for the policy innovations we need to truly support justice, access and equity for all residents. My work as Co-chair of the SMCo Democratic Central Committee's Farmworker Affairs Committee and as an active member of the SMCo Democratic Central Committee's Endorsements Committee are examples of my commitment to these Democratic values.

What do you see as the major issues on the Coastside? *

1. Addressing the affects of climate change by strengthening the emergency response system. 2. Improving the energy grid so it is less susceptible to outages from extreme weather and seasonal increases in demand,. 3. Addressing chronic flooding, 4. Upgrading Coastside internet connectivity including in mountain areas like La Honda and Skyline, 5. Resolving current and minimizing future disputes among members of Sewer Authority Midcoastside so that necessary repairs and upgrades to our waste water treatment system can proceed, 6. Providing housing that is affordable for residents at all income levels, 7. Changing the education funding formula so school districts can give teachers the salary increases they deserve while providing necessary services to families as well as students, 8. Raising the wage limits for eligibility for the ACE program (Access to Healthcare for Everyone) so that those who make too much to qualify but still cannot afford private health insurance can get coverage.

What will your top priorities be if you are elected? *

1.Continued outreach and engagement with voters and residents on the Coastside including historically marginalized and under served communities. 2.Strengthen relationships with our legislators on all levels and their staff members to keep them informed of local conditions and issues of concern and assist them in addressing our communities' challenges with creative solutions, effective legislation, necessary funding and opportunities for local residents to play an active role in developing the policies and programs that affect our lives. 3.Encourage people from diverse backgrounds to run for office and provide mentoring for those who do 4. Provide opportunities for local Democrats to conveniently join efforts to elect Democrats on the local, state and national levels.5.Remain engaged, approachable and willing to listen to varying points of view.

Please explain how your background and experience have prepared you for the office you are seeking. *

I have been involved with the SM Co Democratic Party since 1996 in various capacities, being elected at least 3 times and serving on the Executive Committee as Controller. I have been a grassroots organizer since my time in college and locally was successful in getting the county to 1. pave streets in my neighborhood, 2. stop a well meaning but ill-conceived plan to reopen the HMB Drag Strip each month at the airport in Moss Beach, 3. stop a freeway bypass and build a tunnel at Devil's Slide, 4. protect open space and agricultural land by expanding the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to the Coastside, 5. develop more uniform planning and construction standards and incentivize green building practices on the Midcoast. I can work with people of differing points of view and cooperatively find practical solutions.

Have you ever run for political office, served on a political committee, or been identified publicly with a political organization, candidate, ballot measure or issue? If so, please provide the details of your involvement. *

I was elected to the Midcoast Community Council in 1999 and served one 4 year term, I served on the SM Co Agricultural Advisory Committee for 6 years, I served on the SM Co Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee for 4 years, I signed the ballot argument in favor of an overwhelmingly successful local tax measure to fund the purchase of Montara's water system from a international corporation, I ran for San Mateo Co Supervisor in 2010, getting 43% of the vote against the former sheriff who outspent me 4 to 1. See Devil's Slide Tunnel -- Measure T and MROSD - Measure F campaigns referenced in the previous question.