

## Coastside Democrats Survey, Congressional District 16 Candidates

### Sam Liccardo

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 to represent Congressional District 16? \*

I am running because Congress needs to fight harder for our families on the issues that matter most. This past Congress has been one of the least productive Congresses in many decades – a “Do-Nothing Congress”. But at this vital moment, we need a “Do-Something Congress,” starting with bold action to address homelessness, housing, the cost of living and crime.

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

**Affordable housing:** Residents throughout the district express strong concerns about whether their children will ever be able to afford to live here.

**Infrastructure:** I have heard repeated frustrations about the lack of reliable and affordable telecommunications access, repeated storm outages, and similar issues.

**Homelessness:** More than a quarter of the unsheltered homeless population in the county lives on the coast.

**Environmental Protection:** Protecting hillsides and coastal communities from development is a critical priority for most residents, something I’ve dedicated a large amount of my career to addressing.

**High Cost of Living:** I’ve also heard a lot of complaints about the lack of affordable child care on the Coastside, the difficulties of getting affordable home insurance, and the high cost of groceries and other essentials.

I’ve laid out a series of plans to address these issues on my website at [samliccardo.com/plan](http://samliccardo.com/plan)

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

We need to get Congress working again and serving the people they represent. I will be a fierce advocate for our local communities because I understand the challenges we face from the ground up. We need bold action on homelessness, housing, crime, the punishing cost of living and climate change.

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

I served as the Mayor of San Jose for eight years and on the City Council for the eight years prior to my tenure as mayor.

I pioneered bold homelessness solutions, like quick-build communities built at a small fraction of the cost and time of traditional housing. As a result, in 2022, San Jose reduced the population of unsheltered residents by more than 10%.

I created a first-in-the-nation law to fund gun violence prevention measures through fees on gun owners. I also invested in additional officers and alternatives to police. By 2022, San Jose had the lowest homicide rate of any major U.S. city.

I fought to narrow the Valley's economic divide by creating high-wage jobs, raising our minimum wage, and expanding high-speed internet.

I fought PG&E to create a community choice energy utility to provide residents and businesses the ability to choose lower priced, 95% GHG-free electricity.

As Mayor, I knew that the buck stopped with me and I'll bring that accountability to Congress.

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 a successful candidate for the San Jose City Council in 2006 and 2010. In 2014, I was elected Mayor and was re-elected in 2018.

Ballot initiatives:

I brought transit boards from 3 counties together to pass Measure RR in 2020.

In 2018, I led a successful campaign to stop the building of luxury homes in our hillsides (Measure B), and passed a measure to prevent future developer land grabs (Measure C).

I worked to pass Measure F in 2016 which is now saving taxpayers \$3 million, and allowed us to add hundreds of police officers.

I led the effort to pass the largest bond measure in San Jose history, Measure T, to preserve open space and rebuild roads and infrastructure.

I led Measure E in 2020; which generated more than \$100 million to address homelessness and affordable housing in 2021.

I have also been very publicly associated with specific issues, including ratepayer advocacy, closing the digital divide and pushing ground-breaking legislation to reduce gun violence.

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