

Coastside Democrats, Half Moon Bay City Council Candidate Survey

Candidate Name *

Harvey Rarback

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

As a Club under the California Democratic Party, we only endorse fellow Democrats. If you do not wish to proceed further, please email blkdye@gmail.com.



Photo taken from <https://democrats.org>

56 years

Please complete this submission by Friday, September 13th. All Club members will vote on candidate endorsements September 20th. *

Please read and click the box below to proceed.

Click this box to certify that the information you provide in this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission are true and accurate.

Why are you running for this office? *

I want to continue the progressive policies of our current Council, especially in support of low-income housing.

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

Dealing With the City's fiscal crisis
Improving the lives of our most vulnerable residents
Enhancing public safety through compassionate policing
Protecting our Coastside environment
Bringing Urgent Care to the Coastside
Achieving reliable power, phone, and Internet service

What have been your most significant contributions to your community? *

Improving the lives of our essential workers (including farmworkers) by getting more low-income housing built, implementing realistic rent control, raising the minimum wage, and supporting the unhoused through Coasthouse and Abundant Grace.

Saving lives through supporting the CAREs program with appropriate non-lethal response to mental health crises.

Protecting open space at the West of Railroad Planned Unit Development and in the Wavecrest PUD.

The City is in debt and there will be a ½ cent city sales tax increase proposal appearing on the November ballot. The sales tax is projected to provide \$2 million in increased revenue per year. What are your thoughts about the sales tax? What other ideas do you have to reduce the City's debt or increase its revenue? *

I am fully in support of the sales tax increase which will not apply to food or drugs.

I am also in support of the effort of the Chamber (through our allocating a \$2/night hotel stay charge) to increase mid-week tourism by advertising and getting the word out to travel writers and publications about the benefits of staying in HMB.

A longer term fix to increase our revenue is through support of the new Opportunity Center of the Coastside, including its incubator program to assist green tech startups. They already are working with five startups!

The County recently proposed the repeal of California Constitution Article 34, which requires that cities get voter approval before they build “low-rent housing” funded with public dollars. What are your thoughts on repealing or maintaining Article 34? If you favor maintaining Article 34, what is your plan to increase housing for low-income and unhoused community members in the Coastside? *

The county's proposal was not to repeal Article 34 which can only be done by statewide vote of the people. Their proposal was to use Article 34 in a clever way to help cities build more low-income housing. Unfortunately that proposal went nowhere as did the statewide effort to repeal Article 34 through a ballot measure.

How should the City balance the pressure to build additional housing with the concerns of residents who are worried about congestion, limited infrastructure, aesthetics, and potential impacts to private property? *

We already have Measure D in place, which was adopted to deal with our limited infrastructure. As long as we respect Measure D, we can live with the effects listed in the question. I think we need to triage the needs of our most vulnerable first by building additional low-income housing first. The RHNA requirements for building all levels of affordability can be accomplished even with Measure D constraints.

What do you consider to be the greatest environmental concern in HMB and, if elected, what are your plans to deal with it? *

There are many environmental concerns including flooding, erosion, sea level rise effects, and greenhouse gas emissions. If I had to pick the greatest concern, I would pick preserving our open space from encroaching development.

How will you work with, lead, motivate, and support your City’s employees and leadership? *

Our City Manager already motivates and leads our staff and I will work with him to keep the morale as high as it currently is.

Is there anything in you background which, if you receive the Club's endorsement, could cause *
embarrassment to the club? If so, please provide the details.

I'm not aware of anything.