

Coastside Democrats County Assessor, Clerk-Recorder Candidate Survey

An email address is required to ensure integrity. Please note this form in its entirety will be posted for Public Review.

Thank you for your interest in applying for the endorsement of the Coastside Democrats. Please complete this submission by Saturday, May 2nd 2026. All Club members will vote on candidate endorsements. A question with a red asterisk requires a response to proceed.



Candidate Name *

David Canepa

As a Club under the California Democratic Party, we only endorse fellow Democrats. *

If you do not wish to proceed further, please email demclubcoastside@gmail.com

Click this box to confirm you are registered to vote as a Democrat.

I am a registered Democrat and have been since... *

Since I've been able to vote.

I certify the information provided on this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission is true and correct. *

Yes

No

If this form is filled out by someone other than the Candidate, please provide the Staffer's name

Tony Bayudan

Statement Questionnaire

Answers are limited to 1000 characters. Your answers below will be shared with all members and publicly broadcast.

Why are you running for this office?* *

When the Trump administration undermines our elections, slashes our healthcare, and threatens our communities, we need leaders who can stand up and fight. As Assessor and Chief Elections Officer, I will secure our elections from federal interference, making sure every vote in San Mateo County is counted and our voices are heard. I will always stand up to attacks on our communities and fight for our democracy.

What will your top priorities be if elected? *

Right now, the office is struggling — a 27% vacancy rate, a \$70 million software system that slowed work instead of improving it, and a backlog that has already cost taxpayers millions in lost revenue. We also saw a \$20 million settlement with Genentech that underscores the need for stronger oversight.

As Chief Elections Officer, I will ensure elections are secure, efficient, and accessible to eligible voters. Protecting the integrity of our democratic process requires professionalism, accuracy, and transparency while embracing modern tools that safeguard every ballot and strengthen public trust.

As Assessor, I will ensure fair property tax administration, reduce backlogs, and ensure homeowners, especially seniors, receive the exemptions they deserve. By improving efficiency and fairness, we can protect revenue that supports our schools, public safety, roads, and essential services. This office requires steady leadership and commitment to improvement.

What do you see as the major issues on the Coastside that your office will address? *

The Coastside is experiencing some of the most immediate climate-driven impacts in our county, from coastal erosion to sea-level rise and storm-related damage.

Transportation challenges continue to shape daily life on the Coastside. With Highway 1 and 92 serving as the only major routes, congestion affects everything from emergency response to economic stability.

Housing affordability and access to essential services remain deeply interconnected issues. Coastside residents deserve reliable health and emergency services, and the people who work in these communities—teachers, first responders, farmworkers, and service workers—should be able to live here. Strengthening these systems is critical to maintaining a thriving, equitable Coastside.

Specific Questions

What is your position on the County's settlement with Genetech for approximately \$20M and how it will impact property owners in the County? *

This issue will have a significant impact on our school districts, special districts, and cities. The Genetech settlement only covers the years 2001 through 2005, and it does not address the outstanding years from 2006 through 2026. That means a substantial portion of the dispute remains unresolved, and the financial implications for our local agencies are still ahead of us.

My plan is straightforward: I intend to work closely with our Assessor's Office and with Genetech to resolve these remaining charges as quickly and fairly as possible. Our schools and local governments rely on accurate and timely property tax revenue, and it's essential that we bring clarity and closure to this issue so our communities can move forward with the resources they need.

With Federal efforts underway to modify or curtail voting by mail, how can you protect current practices in San Mateo County and do you have any concerns or suggested improvements to the process we use? *

As we face federal efforts to restrict voting by mail, my position is unwavering: every eligible voter in San Mateo County must be able to vote – by mail or in person – without interference or intimidation.

I will defend our vote-by-mail system from Trump's attacks and ensure no outside political pressure undermines our secure, accessible elections. And let me be clear: I will never allow ICE or any federal agency near our ballot boxes or polling places. No voter should ever fear harassment when exercising their rights.

Protecting our votes in California means strengthening what already works – expanding voter education, increasing ballot-drop locations, and ensuring seniors, rural residents, and multilingual communities have full access. Transparency matters too: public equipment testing, clear ballot-tracking tools, and open communication.

Do you have ideas about how to improve transparency in the Recorder-Assessor-County Clerk office? *

Improving transparency in the Recorder-Assessor-County Clerk's office starts with being honest about where things stand today. The office has been through multiple employee lawsuits, morale has been at an all-time low, and as recently as November the vacancy rate was nearly 30%. On top of that, key departments don't have deputy managers in place. When you have that level of turnover and that little oversight, the taxpayer and the resident are simply not being served the way they deserve.

For me, this isn't just a management issue — it's a people issue. When staff feel unsupported, when they're stretched thin, when they don't have leadership in the room to guide them, the entire system suffers. I want to rebuild this office from the inside out: stabilizing the workforce, filling vacancies, restoring morale, and putting strong deputy managers in place so employees have the support they need to do their jobs well.

Is there anything else about you we should know? *

I bring a proven record of public service in San Mateo County and a strong commitment to fairness, transparency, and collaboration. If elected to lead the Assessor-Clerk-Recorder and Elections Office, I will ensure accurate and equitable property assessments, protect the integrity and accessibility of our elections and maintain reliable clerk and recorder services for the public. I am committed to working closely with labor, employees and the community to modernize the office responsibly while respecting and supporting the workforce that delivers these essential services.

Click Back to return to a previous question. Toggle the option below to request a copy of your responses. Click Submit when you are done.

Feel free to contact demclubcoastside@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Final results will be posted on <https://coastside Dems.org>

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