

Coastside Democrats County Superintendent of Schools 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 *

Héctor Camacho

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... *

1998

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

.....

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?* *

I'm running for San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools because our public schools sit at the center of a strong and healthy community, and every child deserves access to opportunity, no matter where they live. I grew up in San Mateo County, attended our public schools, and today my own children do the same. This work is both professional and deeply personal.

Over 27 years as a teacher, counselor, school and university administrator, and county education leader, I've worked directly with students and families and led systems that deliver results. I've built programs, supported educators, and managed complex budgets.

This role requires someone who understands both the classroom and the system, someone who can partner with districts while also meeting the legal responsibilities of the office. I'm running to ensure every student is supported, challenged, and prepared for what comes next—and that we deliver measurable results for students and families across the county.

What will your top priorities be if elected? *

My priorities are focused on ensuring every student has the foundation and support they need to succeed.

Early learning and literacy. We must ensure all students are reading at or above grade level by third grade, because literacy opens the door to every other subject and future opportunity.

Strong and supportive schools. That means addressing student well-being, reducing chronic absenteeism, and ensuring safe, inclusive learning environments where students feel connected and ready to learn.

Recruiting, supporting and retaining great educators. We need to strengthen the pipeline, provide meaningful professional learning, and address workforce challenges like housing, childcare, and working conditions.

Community partnership. The county office works best when it brings together districts, families, business, labor partners, philanthropy, and local governments to align resources, expand opportunity, and deliver results for students.

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

The Coastside reflects both the strengths and challenges we see across the county, with unique local realities. Geographic distance shapes much of that experience. It can limit access to services, enrichment, and attendance. The county office can help bring resources closer to students and families, including expanded access to CTE pathways like agriculture and green tech.

At the same time, staffing remains a challenge. Recruiting and retaining educators in high-cost, harder-to-access areas requires creative solutions and partnerships. And as in many communities, student mental health needs continue to grow, requiring coordinated support so students feel safe, connected, and ready to learn.

My role is to support Coastside districts with targeted services, data, and partnerships so that students, regardless of zip code, have access to high-quality opportunities and we see real gains in literacy, attendance, and graduation.

Specific Questions

Coastside parents feel the Cabrillo Unified School District is underfunded, with our schools needing more resources. What will you do to help support our local school district? *

I hear the concern around funding, and it reflects a real challenge. School funding in California is overly complex, and differences between districts create real pressure on local schools. My role is not to take resources from one district to give to another, but to advocate for bringing more resources into our public education system and ensuring they are used effectively.

The county office can support Cabrillo Unified by providing high-quality services, helping the district access grants and additional funding streams, and partnering to strengthen programs in areas like early literacy, student support, and career pathways. We can also use data and technical assistance to help maximize existing resources.

Just as important, I will be a strong advocate at the state and regional level to elevate the needs of Coastside schools so they are not overlooked. Every community deserves the resources necessary to support its students.

What are your views on teacher and school workforce housing? Where do you stand on using district resources to build teacher/staff housing? *

I strongly support exploring educator workforce housing as part of a broader strategy to recruit and retain great teachers and staff. In high-cost areas like the Coastside, housing is a real barrier to building a stable, diverse workforce, and that ultimately impacts students.

Decisions about using district resources to build housing must be made locally, with community input and a clear understanding of tradeoffs. These are complex, long-term investments that need to be financially sound and aligned to a district's core mission.

The county office can play an important role by sharing best practices, providing technical assistance, and helping districts navigate partnerships with local governments, developers, and community organizations.

There is no single solution, but if we are serious about supporting educators, we have to be willing to consider housing alongside other strategies like compensation, childcare, and working conditions.

How will you work with, lead, motivate, and support the School District's officers and employees? *

Strong schools are built by strong teams, and leadership starts with trust. I believe in being clear about goals, consistent in expectations, and present in the work. That means listening to educators and staff, valuing their expertise, and creating the conditions where they can do their best work.

My approach is to set a clear direction, align resources, and support people with meaningful professional learning and collaboration. I also believe in shared accountability, where we track progress, use data to improve, and stay focused on results for students.

The county office does not supervise district employees, but it can support district leaders by providing high-quality services, technical assistance, and partnership. My role is to help create coherence across the system so district teams feel supported, not managed, and have what they need to succeed.

How would you support CUSD and Coastside communities to develop MOUs for sharing/providing recreational resources (such as swimming pool facilities, tennis courts, etc.) with the public? *

Shared use agreements are a smart way to maximize public investment and strengthen community connection to schools. I support expanding these partnerships where they are feasible and aligned with district priorities, and I believe these decisions are best made locally in partnership with the community.

The county office can support districts like Cabrillo by providing templates, legal guidance, and best practices, and by helping convene partners when needed. Successful agreements require clarity and trust. My role is to support that process so districts can open facilities in ways that are safe, sustainable, and do not take away from students' access during the school day.

When done well, these partnerships expand opportunities for students and families and help schools serve as true community hubs.

Is there anything else about you we should know? *

I've spent my life in San Mateo County public schools, first as a student, then as an educator, and now as a parent. I've seen how much our classrooms have evolved, with students bringing an incredible diversity of backgrounds, languages, and experiences. That perspective shapes how I approach this work, with both urgency and a deep sense of responsibility.

I've worked at every level of our system, from the classroom to county leadership, and I understand how decisions impact students and families day to day. I also know that progress requires partnership, persistence, and a willingness to stay focused on results, and ensuring every student feels seen and supported.

This campaign has been built by a broad coalition of educators, families, and community members who believe in what our schools can be. I'm committed to leading with integrity, listening to our communities, and delivering outcomes that matter for students across the county.

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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