

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 *

Jim Irizarry

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... *

2023

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 am running for office to continue serving San Mateo County with the experience and leadership needed to protect the integrity of our property assessment and elections systems while improving service for residents. For 13 years, I have served as Assistant Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Assistant Chief Elections Officer, helping manage 35 elections, close 13 assessment rolls, and implement a modern Property Assessment System.

If elected, I will uphold Proposition 13 while supporting thoughtful reforms to improve housing affordability for seniors and younger residents. I will ensure assessments are fair, accurate, and transparent, maintain responsive service for taxpayers, protect our vote-by-mail system, expand voter access, strengthen cybersecurity, invest in our workforce, and responsibly use technology to improve efficiency, while upholding integrity, independence, and transparency.

What will your top priorities be if elected? *

1) Uphold the office's longstanding commitment to integrity, independence, and transparency in the administration of elections, property tax assessments, and the maintenance of accurate public records relating to people and property.

2) Protect San Mateo County's vote-by-mail system and defending our constitutional right to determine the time, place and manner of our local elections. Continue expanding voter access and education through diversity, equity and inclusion partnerships with underrepresented communities.

3) Lead the office through ongoing technological transformation by modernizing service delivery, investing in workforce training and development, and responsibly expanding the use of technology and artificial intelligence while protecting jobs.

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

As Assessor, Coastside priorities center on fairness, transparency, and accessibility. I will ensure accurate, data-driven assessments across rural, agricultural, and coastal properties while upholding Proposition 13.

Housing affordability and tax stability are critical. I will support existing relief programs for seniors, long-time homeowners, and others, while ensuring residents understand their benefits.

The Williamson Act preserves farmland by assessing land based on use, not market value. I will expand outreach and education so farmers understand requirements, timelines, and financial impacts through workshops and accessible resources.

I will prioritize disaster response with timely reassessments and tax relief after wildfires, landslides, or erosion. To improve access, I will bring services directly to the Coastside through mobile assistance, partnerships, and online tools, while investing in technology, transparency, and customer service.

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? *

The Genetech settlement resolves long-standing disputes over valuing complex business personal property under California Revenue and Taxation Code, spanning nearly 30 years and multiple County Assessors. It covers tax years 2000–2005 and results in about \$19.9 million in refunds, finalized through the Assessment Appeals Board.

I support clarity, consistency, and predictability in the property tax system. Valuing specialized biotech equipment is complex, and clearer standards reduce disputes and improve stability for taxpayers and public agencies.

The settlement redistributes property tax revenues countywide. Cities, schools, and special districts receive proportional adjustments based on their tax base share. This does not raise property taxes for individuals but affects local agency revenues and budgeting.

Long term, it reduces volatility and improves transparency. Additional claims for 2006–2024 remain pending, requiring continued planning and communication.

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? *

San Mateo County has been a leader in vote-by-mail, and protecting that system is essential to ensuring access, security, and public trust in elections. While federal proposals may seek changes, election administration in California remains grounded in state law and the California Constitution, with strong local control.

My priority is secure, accessible, and transparent elections. That includes protecting vote-by-mail, maintaining chain-of-custody safeguards, strengthening cybersecurity, and ensuring every eligible voter has convenient access to the ballot.

San Mateo County helped pioneer vote-by-mail in California, and I support defending the County's authority to conduct elections consistent with state law. If challenged, it should be addressed through appropriate legal and judicial review.

I will also continue improving the system through modernization, voter education, and process enhancements that increase efficiency and public confidence.

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

Through the responsible use of technology and strong public service, we can further improve transparency in the Recorder-Assessor-County Clerk Office. Technology should make information easier to access and understand. Artificial intelligence tools can help explain basic property tax concepts in plain language, and online chat services can improve real-time public assistance.

Transparency also depends on people and process. Independence and integrity are strengthened when the public can clearly see how decisions are made. In elections, our Elections Division already supports transparency through a robust elections observer program during voting and processing.

We should continue expanding digital access to records and services, improving user-friendly online tools, and increasing public engagement. The goal is to combine modern technology with open, accountable processes so residents can better understand and trust the work of the office.

Is there anything else about you we should know? *

I am a lifelong proud San Mateo County resident that truly believes that San Mateo County is the crown jewel of all California counties. To serve the public is one of my fundamental core values. Public service is the most noble of professions. I serve with passion and am dedicated to improving the quality for all people of San Mateo 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://coastsidedems.org>

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