

# Coastside Democrats Candidate Survey

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

Email \*

robert.b.brownstone@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in applying for the endorsement of the Coastside Democrats. Please complete this submission by **Friday, September 4, 2026**. All Club members will vote on candidate endorsements.



## Half Moon Bay (HMB) City Council

The HMB City Council sets priorities and policies, makes final decisions on all major City matters, adopts ordinances and resolutions, appoints the City Manager and City Attorney, and approves the annual budget.

The City of Half Moon Bay holds district-based elections for its five city council seats to staggered four-year terms. There are three districts up for election in 2026: Districts 1 (Brownstone), 4 (Ruddock), and 5 (Penrose).

### 1. Candidate Name \*

Robert Brownstone

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

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

## Statement Questionnaire

### 4. Why are you running for this office? \*

I running for a third term to continue working on the priorities and initiatives that I and the City Counsel have identified as key to serving the health, safety and welfare of our community. I am also running to ensure that there is a consistent balance and representation of all voices in Half Moon Bay; including the voices of those who often have little of no agency. I believe effective leadership begins with listening listening to all the individuals and organizations that make our city strong -- and understanding their hopes and dreams for our community.

### 5. What will be your top priorities if elected? \*

My top three priorities include:

- 1) Expanding access to urgent and emergency healthcare resources.
- 2) Proactively strengthening our emergency response plans and infrastructure with                      regards to mitigating fire and flood risks.
- 3) Thoughtfully advancing balanced housing solutions that reflect our unique small-town needs and character.

\*\*Practicing sound fiscal stewardship through balancing budgets and retaining strong reserves ensures success of the above three priorities.

### 6. Please explain how your background and experience have prepared you for this office. \*

I have been a resident of Half Moon Bay for fifteen years and have served on our City Council for over 7 years. I have an extensive private and public sector background in organizational development, team-building, conflict facilitation, leadership development, employment law, and business ethics. I have worked with a range of organizations including high tech, retail and government; serving both domestic and global clients.

My City Council experience, including two terms as Mayor, has allowed me to work on multiple key initiatives and priorities and to collaborate with multiple Federal, State, and County officials and agencies. My legal background allows me to work well with our legal team, staff and fellow council members to assess our choices and reach consensus in closed sessions.

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-brownstone-jd-b633283?  
utm\\_source=share\\_via&utm\\_content=profile&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/in/robert-brownstone-jd-b633283?utm_source=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=member_ios)

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

1. Although significantly reduced over the last three years, we still carry a budget deficit. We need to balance providing quality services while maintaining our reserves and enhancing our revenue streams.
2. Protecting our residents and infrastructure from flooding, wildfires, sea level rise.
3. Providing accessible and reliable urgent and emergency healthcare services on the coast.
4. Addressing congestion during peak traffic hours weekends and major events.
5. Providing affordable and balanced housing solutions that both meet state mandates as well as reflect our unique small-town needs and character.

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

No

**9. Who is supporting your campaign at this stage (e.g., endorsements, donors), and are there any potential conflicts of interest we should know about? \***

Congressman Sam Liccardo  
Senator Josh Becker  
Assemblyman Marc Berman  
Supervisor Ray Mueller  
Supervisor Noelia Corzo  
Councilmember Deborah Penrose  
Planning Commissioner Rick Hernandez  
Lennie Mendonca

No potential conflicts of interest

**Specific Questions for Your Office**

10. For which District are you running? \*

- ☒ District 1
- ☐ District 4
- ☐ District 5

11. Is the city in a financially stable position and, if not, how do you propose making it financially secure? \*

The City is still carrying a \$2 million dollar budget deficit (down from a \$ 4million deficit two years ago) I will continue to support preserving our fully restored reserve funds and reducing remaining debt by carefully prioritizing CIP budgets and operationalizing recommendations from our Matrix restructuring study currently underway.

12. What is your position on the use of Flock cameras in our community? \*

I am committed to re-examining our current contractual Flock agreements to ensure data collected is only used and shared with agreed upon third parties and only for the purposes outlined in our contract. We are currently benchmarking with other jurisdictions to assess similar privacy concerns. My understanding is that data collected is stored and distributed through Palantir platforms and I support staff efforts to explore possible alternative vendors.

13. What is your plan to protect our farmworker community from ICE harassment? \*

My plan is to continue supporting the early warning systems in place through our non-profit groups such as ALAS and Coastside Faith in Action and working with our Sheriff's department to ensure that Sheriff are not assisting ICE in arrests and detentions. I am also an advocate for providing continuing education to affected workers and their families regarding their legal rights when confronted by ICE agents in public places and the privacy of their homes.

14. How do you think HMB should address the healthcare needs of coastal residents? Do you support an Urgent Care facility on the Coastsides? A Healthcare District? \*

Yes, I support the both Urgent Care and Emergency care resources on the Coastsides as well as establishing a Healthcare District. Both these initiatives involve collaboration with the County and I have already reached out to the Board of Supervisors to confirm their support for advocating the creation of a Healthcare District with ABAG.

With the regard to exploring Urgent Care resources, County support is essential since the services would be available to the entire Coastsides. I will continue to explore options that are a good fit for our community needs as well as individual providers' business models.

15. Homeless encampments and long-term parking of RVs/campers are difficult issues. How do you think the city should address these problems? \*

With the advent of more homeless services provided through organizations such as Coast House, Abundant Grace, and County Health Services, the number of encampments, as well as the number of individuals included in regularly scheduled county homeless counts in Half Moon Bay has actually decreased.

In addition, the Care Court process and recent court decisions allow law enforcement to cite individuals and inform them of available shelter services. These solutions are not perfect inasmuch there are not always enough beds to shelter individuals and since some individuals will refuse assistance. I would support the City to continue collaborating with the County to explore a mix of short-term RV/Camper sites and a citation system that allows for the towing of vehicles that have ignored multiple citations and warnings.

16. Given the statewide push for more housing construction, and the need on the Coastsides for more housing (both market rate and low income), what is your position on the city's housing element and mandates from the state? \*

Here on the Coastsides we do need more workforce housing for teachers, farmworkers, retirees, etc. I believe that the City has made good faith efforts to comply with HCD's requirements; especially regarding the upgrading of our zoning laws to allow more density housing in designated areas. HCD has granted the City "conditional approval" of its Housing Element pending completion of these zoning adjustments. Once our housing element is fully approved, it remains in place for eight years and protects the city from so-called "builders-remedy" development that allows builders to bypass local zoning laws. I support the City's efforts to continue the upgrade of our zoning laws per HCD's requirements so as to secure HCD's full approval of our housing element and to avoid future litigation.

17. What is your position on the 555 Kelly affordable housing project for senior farm workers \* including the "Let the Voters Decide" referendum related to it?

I have been a consistent supporter of the 555 Kelly affordable housing project for senior farm workers. I have heard and understood the concerns regarding the building's height, adequate parking, and added traffic congestion. Many of these concerns have been addressed in the FAQ and endorsement sections of the following site:

<https://voteyeson555kelly.com/>

I support the 555 Kelly project because it reflects the values we cherish most as a community. In Half Moon Bay we are proud to take care of our own 555 Kelly will shine as a beacon of compassion, safety, and dignity.

Submit When Finished

Click Back to return to a previous question. Click Submit when you are done.

Feel free to contact [demclubcoastside@gmail.com](mailto:demclubcoastside@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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

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