

Elias Gonzales gonzalesforsupervisor@gmail.com

1. Elected office sought:

Santa Cruz county supervisor district 4

2. Length of residence in the district you seek to represent:

46

3. Your occupation or avocation:

Assistant director at Youth Alliance

Chair - Santa Cruz county juvenile justice and delinquency commission

5. In what political campaigns, organizations, and movements have you been active, and what role did you play?

Canvassed and educational forums:

Prop 57 - yes

Prop 47 - yes

Prop 64 - yes

Prop 6 - yes

Prop 36 - no

Prop 13 - yes

6. If you were eligible, did you vote for Bernie Sanders in the Primary Election 2016 or 2020?

Yes in 2016, Yes in 2020

7. Which of Bernie Sanders' policy proposals are you most passionate about?

I am most passionate about addressing income inequality and ensuring that our economy works for working people. That means making corporations and the wealthiest pay their fair share, strengthening labor protections, and ensuring that the people who create the wealth can afford to live with dignity. These values are not abstract in District 4, they reflect the daily reality of families being priced out despite working hard.

8. How can these policies you care about be implemented at the local level?

At the local level, we can advance economic justice through targeted policies that generate revenue and reinvest in our communities. One example is exploring tax policies on second homes and vacation properties that are not primary residences, and directing those funds toward housing, social services, and community infrastructure. We can also expand affordable housing, protect renters, and invest in workforce development to ensure local families can stay and thrive.

9. What are your key goals and, if elected, how will you achieve them?

My key goals are housing stability, economic opportunity, and community rooted development. I will achieve this by advancing policies that increase housing supply while protecting residents, investing in workforce pipelines, and ensuring transparent and accountable use of public funds. Collaboration and community input will guide every step.

10. If elected, what is one concrete step you would take in your first year to rebuild trust with communities that feel ignored or excluded from local decision making?

I would establish consistent, community based forums and participatory processes where residents directly shape priorities and funding decisions. This includes bringing meetings into neighborhoods, ensuring language access, and creating real pathways for community input to influence policy outcomes.

11. Give an example of when you spoke truth to power. Who were the players, what were the stakes, and what did you do?

While working on the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Commission I regularly meet with law enforcement, including the Sheriff and Probation Dept. I continue to advocate for funding for diversion and social programs against the wishes of law enforcement who wanted to increase the size of juvenile hall.

12. Why should members of Santa Cruz for Bernie vote for you to be their elected representative?

I am a community candidate who shows up, listens, and follows through. My commitment to this work is not conditional. I bring both lived experience and a track record of delivering results for working families. I will advocate for policies that reflect our shared values of equity, accountability, and economic justice.