

Felipe Hernandez voteforfelipe@gmail.com

1. Elected office sought:

Santa Cruz County Supervisor District 4

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

53 years

3. Your occupation or avocation:

Santa Cruz County Supervisor District 4

4. Significant memberships and affiliations (political, labor union, public service, etc.)

I've been active in the Democratic Party at local, state, and national levels as Co-Chair and member of the PV Dems. For 13 years, I served as an alternate on the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee for Luis Alejo and later Speaker Robert Rivas, and have been a CADEM delegate for 10 years, now representing Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. My public service includes nine years on the Watsonville City Council, two years as a Cabrillo College Trustee, and as Santa Cruz County Supervisor.

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

I'm exploring a sales tax measure to support those affected by HR1 cuts and loss of coverage, aligning with the Health Care for All policy. I also plan to work with state legislators on a State-sponsored Single Payer system. On the Green New Deal, my focus is actionable steps—protecting our coast through the Save My Coast coalition and reducing greenhouse gases through electrification and solarization efforts that drive local sustainability.

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?

Health Care for All and the Green New Deal

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

With Health Care for All, I'm considering a sales tax measure to support people impacted by HR1 cuts and losing coverage. I also want to explore a state-sponsored single-payer system with our local legislators. The Green New Deal guides daily choices—protecting our coast with the Save My Coast coalition, reducing greenhouse gases through electrification, solarization, and other sustainability efforts.

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

We must preserve and support our workforce during current budget constraints while protecting our community from the impacts of HR1 and ICE. Upholding our County's Sanctuary status and collaborating with Bay Area counties will strengthen these efforts. We

must also fund legal defense for those facing family separation or deportation and adopt policies that further our mission to safeguard and defend our community.

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?

More meetings in South County. Having more open public budget sessions or participatory budgeting, that enables residents to directly influence, review, and allocate public funds, enhancing transparency and alignment with community priorities. And most important, to continue to let equity-based decisions guide us as elected officers.

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

In 2017, as Watsonville Mayor, I strengthened our Sanctuary Resolution into an ordinance despite opposition from the City Manager and Legal Counsel. When the Trump administration listed Watsonville for defunding, we joined Santa Clara County in filing an Amicus Brief. In retaliation, the DOJ cut our police body camera funding. The Bay Area cities ultimately won the case, and we regained the DOJ funds.

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

I believe in a society where everyone has a real voice in their workplaces and neighborhoods, and our economy serves human needs, empowering all to share in our collective success. When we show up for one another, opportunity grows, trust deepens, and democracy works for all. Yet many still fight for stability and dignity. We're not here to preserve the status quo—we're here to build something better, where everyone belongs and has a real chance to thrive.