

Joy Schendledecker joyforsantacruz@gmail.com

1. Elected office sought:

Mayor, City of Santa Cruz

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

11 years

3. Your occupation or avocation:

Operations Manager, Lead Shelter Monitor, People First Santa Cruz County

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

Democratic Socialists of America, UAW 4811, Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, Mutual Aid projects with Sanitation for the People and Santa Cruz Cares

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

Co-Chair, DSA SC 2023, Empty Homes Tax volunteer (signature gathering, canvassing); my own campaigns for mayor and city council district 3

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?

Economic justice, universal healthcare, labor rights, and public investment in housing and climate solutions. His Medicare for All proposal reflects a core principle I share—that healthcare is a human right, not a commodity.

I'm also deeply aligned with his emphasis on worker power and unionization, as well as taxing extreme wealth to reinvest in public systems.

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

At the local level, we implement these values by aligning budgets, policies, and public investments with people's actual needs.

Permanently affordable housing, public and nonprofit development, and tenant protections to prevent displacement.

Support worker organizing, strong labor standards and PLAs in city contracts, and investing in our public workforce.

Reduce reliance on policing, and improve access to services.

Public transit, electrification, and resilient infrastructure.

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

My key goals are to keep people housed, support workers, and strengthen public systems. I will expand permanently affordable housing, strengthen tenant protections, and pursue

progressive revenue like increased property transfer taxes and split roll taxes. I will invest in our public workforce, support union labor, and bring more work in-house. I'll align budgets with community needs, support expanded transit and climate resilience, and ensure residents have a real voice in decision-making.

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?

In my first year, I would establish funded, neighborhood-based precinct assemblies where residents—especially those most impacted by decisions—can shape priorities early and directly. This means stipends, childcare, and language access so participation is real, not symbolic. Rebuilding trust requires shifting from one-way outreach to shared decision-making and making sure community input actually influences 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?

I worked with community groups and UNITE HERE Local 19 to push for stronger community and labor concessions for the Cruz Hotel. The developer had support from the Council and Mayor, and the project was moving forward without adequate guarantees for workers or community benefit.

I spoke publicly, organized with others, and advocated for labor standards, accountability, worker housing, and affordable accommodations.

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

I'm running to bring Bernie's values—economic justice, worker power, housing as a human right, and real democracy—into local government. I've done the work on the ground: supporting organizing, running shelter programs, and building community-based solutions. I'm not backed by real estate or police interests, and I'm committed to shifting power and resources toward working people. I'll bring both values and implementation—so our policies actually improve people's lives.