

Justin Cummings cummings4supervisor@gmail.com

1. Elected office sought:

Third District County Supervisor

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

2007 - 2013; 2015 - present

3. Your occupation or avocation:

Third District County Supervisor

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

NAACP; Save Our Shores Board member; Community Action Board member; City Council (2019 - 2023); Mayor City of Santa Cruz (2020); Vice Mayor City of Santa Cruz (2019); Democratic Socialist of America, Democratic Women's Club, Democratic Party Delegate; Democratic Central Committee (2024-present); Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (2023-present); California Coastal Commission (2023-2025); multiple inter-agency Commission and Boards (ongoing).

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

Measure M/Rent Control Campaign (steering committee, signature gatherer, canvasser); NO on D (canvasser); Measure G (canvasser); Yes on K & L (canvasser); SaveMyCoast Coalition to fight offshore oil (lead); Measure K County Sales Tax (lead organizer); Measure L City of Santa Cruz sales tax (canvasser); Yes on 15 (2020, canvasser); Yes on Z (endorser and supporter); Yes on H (canvasser); Measure C (endorser and canvasser).

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?

The proposals I feel most strongly about are affordable housing, climate action, the green new deal, free college tuition, and economic justice for working people. Sanders' vision of housing as a human right resonates deeply with me. And his focus on protecting vulnerable communities from systemic inequality mirrors my own commitment to resisting efforts by the federal administration attacking immigrants, people of color, the poor, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

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

On housing, I support maximizing deed-restricted affordable housing in new developments. On climate, I've pushed for electric rail transit, countywide e-bike share programs, and separated bike lanes Santa Cruz Local to reduce car dependence. On economic justice, I've worked to expand tenant protections, homeless services, and mental health resources at the county level.

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

Ensuring developers help meet our affordable housing needs through requiring developers to build units that are designated for Section 8 voucher holders.

I have worked to reestablish the California Local Government OCS Coalition (SaveMyCoast.org) and to help lead a coordinated statewide response to oppose offshore drilling.

I will champion a budget that protects and expands our county's safety net, defends the rights and dignity of all community members, and ensures public dollars serve the common good.

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?

My goal has always been to make sure that when community members come together to raise an issue or propose a solution, their government engages, responds, and works with them to move those ideas forward. The community—not bureaucracy—should drive our priorities. During my second term, I will continue to work to ensure that the people genuinely feel that their voices matter and that they have real access to their government.

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

One clear example is my ongoing effort to take on the real estate and developer lobbies over affordable housing. I believe it's our responsibility to represent the people and not the developers. Working with Supervisor Koenig, we worked to cap our short term rental program in order to preserve existing housing and deter single family homes from being converted into unhosted vacation rentals. I also passed an ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products with Supervisor Koenig.

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

As an elected official, I have tried to use my position to support and champion the values shared with Bernie Sanders. I have a strong track record of supporting progressive policies and candidates and will work to ensure that those values are reflected in the policies we support and will help foster the next generation of progressive leaders in our community. I have been supported by Santa Cruz for Bernie in the last two elections and will continue to reflect the values of SC4B as an elected official moving forward.