

3rd and 4th District Supervisor Forum
May 25, 2022

- Outline at least one priority you plan to accomplish during your first term that will benefit Santa Cruz County's low-income residents.

Working to make sure that we keep our hospital operating in our community.

- Growing income inequality is placing a burden on the services that form Santa Cruz County's social "safety net?" How do you plan to strengthen those services to keep more families and individuals from "falling through the cracks" if elected?

By working with our non-profit community partners, like Community Bridges, to ensure programs are in place to address these needs.

- What will you do to promote and execute the development of Santa Cruz County's Local Playbook for California's Master Plan for Aging?

I will work with our community partners to make sure our plan is well thought out and includes all necessary points. We need to make sure that we have an age and disability friendly community.

- Community needs always seem to be competing for funding with one another. Organization's that serve various populations can often be caught in the middle. What will be your funding priorities and do you see any ways that funding might be expanded across vulnerable groups and needs?

I believe our community partners are the backbone to our Communities. I will work with the various organizations in helping to make sure they get their fair share of resources.

- Housing and transportation are frequently cited as two of Santa Cruz County's biggest challenges. The relationship between the two is obvious – communities that lack affordable housing contribute to traffic congestion by forcing more of their workforce to commute in. How will you address these two important challenges for Santa Cruz County?

South county has always been pulling most of the weight when it comes to building affordable housing. We need to work with other jurisdictions to help distribute housing throughout our county. With affordable housing built throughout the county we can address these two important issues. Also, as a Santa Cruz METRO board member I will continue to work to increase frequencies and routes, especially since so many residents in south county depend on our services to get to their jobs. We also need to work to create bus on shoulder as soon as possible.

- Nonprofit wages have reached a critical low. Many full-time non-profit employees, including those who have lived here for decades while serving their community, must

now depend on public assistance themselves in order to survive. What will you do to address the wage and retention crisis that is affecting the nonprofit agencies contracted by the county to provide services so that our community's nonprofits can continue to recruit and retain staffing to operate our services?

Advocate and support proposals for higher wages and incentives to maintain our employees.

- Nonprofit organizations are funded by many sources bringing in massive financial resources to the county and making up the 4th largest sector in the state and a primary employer. Yet nonprofits do not always have a seat at the table equivalent to county departments. Given their willingness to step up as first responders in times of crises, what role do you think they need to play in relation to the Board and how would you make this happen.

You will have a seat at the table when I am elected County Supervisor. We will work together as a team to meet the needs of our community.

Thank you,

Jimmy
www.jimmydutra.com