College Democrats at UCSC

Santa Cruz City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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| All questionnaires will be published publicly on the UCSCDems.com website  Must be completed and submitted by August 30th, 2020  Send completed, by email, to [BlueSlugs@gmail.com](mailto:BlueSlugs@gmail.com) |

1. **CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION** 
   * Elected Office You Seek: Santa Cruz City Council
   * Candidate Name: Kelsey Hill
   * Occupation/Profession: Social Media Specialist & Intern Program Director
   * Email address (this is our preferred manner of communication unless you specify otherwise): kelseyhill4council@gmail.com
   * Home/Office Phone: (831) 275-1292
   * Cell Phone: 909-633-1150
   * Incumbent: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes **x** No
   * Former campaigns for elected office, and their outcomes: N/A
   * Appointed offices currently/formerly appointed to: N/A
   * Organizations you are a member of:  
     - Santa Cruz for Bernie  
     - Democratic Socialists of America - Santa Cruz   
     - Romero Institute (staff)

- People for Public Banking

1. **DEMOCRATIC AFFILIATION**
   * Approximate number of years as a registered Democrat?   
     **5** in Santa Cruz County, **1** Elsewhere
   * Describe your involvement with the Democratic Party at the Local, State or National level over the last few years.

I became formally involved with the Democratic Party at the national level as a teenager, when I campaigned for Barack Obama as a young person in a conservative town in Southern California. In the time since, I’ve donated time and money to support various Democratic candidates on the national level whose policies align with my values on racial equity, climate justice, and action to mitigate economic inequality. I have not done much organizing for state Dems, but I have always voted for Democrats down ballot in every election. Here in Santa Cruz, I’ve voted for local candidates affiliated with the Democratic Party and supported coalition-building efforts around particular issues/ballot measures.

1. **INFORMATIONAL QUESTIONS**

**General Questions**

1. What are your main campaign priorities?

My campaign is predicated upon representing the average working person of Santa Cruz, caring for struggling community members, and implementing forward-thinking solutions to create a more holistic future in Santa Cruz policy. The pillars of my platform are as follows:

* **A just COVID-19 recovery:** ensuring that our economic recovery from the pandemic protects small businesses and vulnerable communities.
* **Climate justice:** pushing forward with climate solutions that transition away from fossil fuels and build resilience in frontline communities.
* **Affordable housing:** breaking ground on housing that is accessible to people at moderate, low, and very low income levels; negotiating with developers and colleagues to combat gentrification and preserve Santa Cruz for the working class.
* **Community safety:** moving away from bloated police budgeting and toward transformative models that create lasting foundations of safety in our communities.

I’m also committed to ensuring that we have a functional dais that works together to seek solutions to the problems at hand.

1. What specific policy changes will you prioritize should you be elected?

If elected, I would want to immediately motion to enact a **"Spend with Care"** resolution that triggers additional review of budgetary appropriations that are not in line with a set of guidelines adopted by the City and prevents agenda items that would appropriate funds in violation of those guidelines from being placed on the Consent Agenda. These guidelines should lay out the core priorities for the City, and could function as a foundation for both an equitable recovery from COVID-19 as well as reinvesting in community safety.

To ensure an **equitable recovery from COVID-19**, I’m supportive of extending the eviction moratorium farther down the road and would support rental freezes and other creative solutions to stabilize the situation for renters. I’d work together with colleagues and community partnerships to explore options to leverage local financial institutes to ease the burden to pay back rent.   
  
Because of our new forced reliance on digital tools to work and go to school, I want to partner with local broadband providers to increase internet access for low-income residents, including programs like financial assistance and a City-wide hardware donation program. Similarly, I will aim to utilize innovative ideas like permanent street closures to vehicle traffic to support safe, walkable streets that can be used as open-air market spaces and expanding street bike access and safety throughout the City to maximize opportunities for local businesses *as long as this recovery period requires.*

In regards to **affordable housing,** I want to bring teeth to the 20% inclusionary zoning requirement and push for deep affordability in projects brought to the Council. I will launch exploration into the possibility of establishing a community land trust on City property, which will allow community engagement on very-low income housing. In this time of crisis, it’s also more important than ever before to propel policies that shelter people as quickly as possible; I’m interested in City purchases of property for emergency shelter and moving toward innovative policies around transitional housing.

I will make headway on real **community safety** by pushing toward an alternative emergency response line and advocating for reallocation of funds from the police budget to programs that meet community needs. I’m also a proponent of ending criminalizing policies that have disproportionate impact on houseless community members.

Additionally, I want to pursue efforts that can boost our **Climate Action** Plan goals. This includes, but is not limited to, continuing the effort to move away from gas-powered vehicles, making headway on municipal composting, creating penalties for violations of waste management policy, and improving engagement to frontline communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. Given the current crisis with the CZU Lightning Complex fire, it’s a top priority for me to explore policy shifts that help to build disaster resilience in our community and get input from folks most impacted to better prepare for the next climate-related incident.

**Affordable Housing**

1. Scenario: As a council member, a housing development is being proposed that would create 100 new housing units. The development meets the minimum affordable housing requirement, but less than your desired number of affordable units.
   * Would you approve the housing development even if it does not meet your personal preference for the number of affordable units created? Please elaborate.

I am skeptical that any project with only the minimum inclusionary requirement could not be improved to add more affordable units. There’s a concerning trend in Santa Cruz that values market-rate development in the search of profit over the deep affordability that our housing crisis demands. As a leader, I’m committed to advocating and negotiating for the highest possible amount of affordable units in all new developments, especially those on City land. That being said, I’m still willing to work with my colleagues to break ground on developments that may not have 100% affordability but are environmentally sound and create an acceptable amount of access to housing from some moderate to very low income families.

1. What strategies and policies will you champion to increase affordable housing?

If elected, I will work to bring nonprofit developers into the conversation to create 100% affordable, deed-restricted affordable housing and build density near jobs and community resources. I’m also a proponent of the Community Land Trust model and believe that we can muster the political will to allow Santa Cruz to lead in bold housing policies that incentivize community engagement and deep affordability for middle, low, and very low-income families.

I’m also interested in championing resources that expand access to home ownership, such as Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Agreements (TOPAs). I’ve done some work for an elected official in Washington D.C. who’s explained to me the benefit of TOPAs as a tool to combat gentrification.

1. How will you balance approving new housing developments with maximizing affordable units?

Developments on City land should have the highest number of affordable units as possible, and I will push for 100% at every turn. I’m not very interested in pushing forth projects that serve to widen the gap between those with wealth and those without, and it would be my duty as an elected official to advocate for housing projects that allow the people who work and go to school here, to live here. Market-rate housing will only further drive up costs, and we must have leadership who will protect working class interests in Santa Cruz.

As stated above, I want to push for Santa Cruz to explore options that create deep affordability in our rental market. If a project crosses my desk that does not have adequate affordability, I will push for tougher negotiations with developers to ensure measurable access for low-income renters in new projects.

**Policing in Santa Cruz**

The College Democrats at UCSC has previously written in support of getting cops off UCSC’s campus as the COLA strikes occurred in the beginning of 2020. You can read our full statement at [UCSCDems.com](http://ucscdems.com). After UCSC’s Black Student Union released demands to the UCSC Administration, the College Democrats at UCSC voted unanimously in support. Their demands included abolishing the UC Police Department at UCSC.

1. Do you support or oppose reducing the Santa Cruz Police Department’s budget and redistributing the funds to other city services?

Check one: Support **X** Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

* + If yes, how much of a budget reduction and what departments would you prioritize in receiving increased funding?

I’m supportive of reallocating police funds, especially in the COVID-19 recovery period, and that concept is a core pillar in my campaign. Our current police budget is more than a third of our general fund, and that number is higher than some of America’s major cities. I’m determined to continue this national conversation in City Hall and believe adamantly that Santa Cruz can bring that budget down while still protecting the interest of public safety. As for the amount of budgetary reduction, I would first want to engage in substantial dialogue with the community—especially community members working on this issue or impacted by over-policing—in an official capacity to determine what level of reduction is suitable for the needs of our community. For one thing, I’m interested in cementing an early retirement program to reduce SCPD personnel costs in the long term. With a budget in excess of $30 million, though, I’m confident that with courageous leadership, we could push for a sizable reduction that could positively impact other city services without deeply hindering the essential functions of SCPD.

I would prioritize funds for community services that are specifically tailored for community needs: emergency and affordable housing, mental health crises first responder program, expanded grocery and gas assistance programs, and high-priority, emergency climate mitigation projects. As we navigate the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the economic recovery to follow, we cannot afford to suspend vital social services that help struggling community members. Reallocation of funds from the police budget could help us see through the years that this recovery will take.

* + If no, what other reforms would you like to see enacted in the Santa Cruz Police Department?

I’m critical of reforms that further bloat an already large police budget.

1. What specific changes would you like to see enacted for the Santa Cruz Police Department?

Along with a budget reduction, I’d like to see specific tasks that police are asked to deal with offloaded to community resources better equipped to deal with them. This includes mental health crisis intervention, houseless-related issues, and substance abuse cases. A huge number of our police calls are directed at the houseless population, with only 15% coming in for substantiated crimes. Moving forward with a CAHOOTS-like model could help divert 911 calls about nonviolent issues to case managers and relieve police officers of tasks that they’re not properly equipped to handle on a routine basis. While I can understand that our current status quo relies on policing for the prevention and investigation of certain violent crimes, many of the day-to-day functions of police officers would be better handled by personnel specifically trained for these deeply nuanced societal issues.

Also, in acknowledgement of the recent treatment of protesters on the national stage, I’d like to see the Police Dept. take preventative action to ban the use of teargas, rubber bullets, and the LRAD. I’m also interested in the sale of the BearCAT.

1. Do you support or oppose abolishing the Santa Cruz Police Department, in a way similar to Minneapolis? **Please elaborate.**

Check one: Support **X**  Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

As I have deep-seated concerns about the institutions of policing as a whole and the efficacy of reforms. In the coming years and decades, I believe that US cities and towns will have to reckon with the white supremacist history of the police and must take a more holistic approach to keeping the peace within our community. I’m supportive of the concept of abolition with replacement of public offices aimed at peacekeeping and holistic efforts toward community safety. While I’m cognizant of the need for certain police functions, such as the investigation of violent offenses, I’m critical of the need for mass-patrolling and militarization to keep Santa Cruz safe.

In a similar vein to Minneapolis, I realize that there will be staunch public opposition to such a move, or any move that aims to dismantle any police power; in my view, the job of an elected leader is to listen to the community, make concessions and compromises where necessary, and push forward for policy shifts that respond to the needs of the community while charting a course for a more just future.

1. What do you envision for the future of our justice system?

We need to move away from a system that responds to individual crises with militarized and mass policing, and toward one that better meets community needs. This means ending the criminalization of the houseless community and funneling resources to programs that better respond to the crises that result in citations, arrests, and jail time. I’m interested in creating systems of safety on our streets that keep the justice system clear for violent offenders and traffic infractions. As a “progressive” community, we can lead on how we define safety and justice by centering the humanity of the people being pushed in the system.

The momentum to shift from the carceral model of criminal justice is present in our community here in Santa Cruz; we need elected leaders who have the courage and the ability to mobilize the political will to make headway in making change in the way we handle criminal justice.

**COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. Do you support or oppose extending the eviction moratorium until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended? **Please elaborate.**

Check one: Support **X**  Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

Yes! We’re staring down an eviction crisis unseen since the days of Herbert Hoover, and I’m supportive of any measures that seek to keep people housed through the duration of this crisis.

While some industries have made progress on continuing business amid shelter-in-place and COVID-19 precautions, the future is uncertain and the economic burden remains for many people in our community. Given the inadequate federal response to this public health emergency, we cannot foresee at this current time how long the outbreak will last and need to do everything we can to protect our local community while the virus runs its course.

1. Do you support or oppose erasing compounded rent debt accumulated through the COVID-19 pandemic? **Please elaborate.**

Check one: Support **X**  Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

I’m supportive of the concept and will serve as a watchdog to ensure that struggling tenants are not taken advantage of following the close of the pandemic.

1. Do you support or oppose canceling rent during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic? **Please elaborate.**

Check one: Support **X** Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

At the current moment, I’m unsure of the pathways the Council has to cancel rent, but I support the general notion. I’ve had and will continue to have conversations about the role of the City and State in crafting rent relief policy. On Council, I’d be interested in exploring rent relief through partnerships with our community’s smaller landlords and homeowners.

1. What specific COVID relief policies/packages to students are you in support of?

I’m concerned with the ability for students to stay housed at this time, and so I’m supportive of housing policy that prevents students from being evicted or forced out of Santa Cruz. As this pandemic goes on, I would be interested in forming a working group that explores the specific needs of students in this unprecedented time. I’m also interested in ways in which the City could aid in and partner with resources in meeting the bread and butter concerns of students who may not be able to work as they typically would to support themselves through the duration of the school year during the virus.

1. What policies and assistance do you support to expand our healthcare capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic?

When speaking to community members, I’ve encountered many questions about access to testing and PPE, which leads me to advocate for more streamlined access to resources about COVID-19, specifically tailored for frontline communities most impacted by the pandemic and marginalized from mainstream services.

Because of the woefully inadequate response to this public health crisis on the federal level, we’re having to rely heavily on local response. With federal dollars, I’m supportive of efforts to bolster our testing capacity and inform more of the populous about said capacity. Due to the current large-scale evacuation from the wildfire, I’m supportive of the County’s move to test at evacuation centers. In the coming weeks, I believe this expansion of testing will prove critical in preventing another surge in cases.

1. How will you support community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent budget austerity?

It goes without being said that we need to navigate these troubling times with compassionate leadership. I will do so by centering my work in the needs of the community, and supporting those needs by uplifting the organizations doing the work to keep people safe, fed, and housed during this pandemic.

Because the City is facing a budgetary deficit, I’m aware that certain cuts will have to be made. With that being said, all cuts are not equal. As an elected leader, I won’t support cuts that disproportionately impact the average working person and the most vulnerable members of our community, especially if cuts to budget bloat have not already occurred. In times of historic, overlapping crises, we will need our social safety net more than ever before. We need to first tackle the deficit by removing line items that add to bloat, such as high salaries and heavy consulting fees. We’re going to deepen our social inequities if we allow austerity to cut the already-limited social services we already have. I will lend my voice on Council to ensure that there is someone fighting to chop from the top, and not from programs that are protecting community members during the course of this crisis.

**Homelessness**

1. What specific policy changes will you pursue to protect unhoused folks, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I’m committed to expanding resources that provide shelter to unhoused communities, and will lean into the network of support spurred by COVID and the CZU fire to care for folks throughout the duration of this pandemic, as well as through the economic recovery period. Similarly, on Council, I will support and prioritize input from the Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness on all policies relating to houselessness.

With the continued uncertainty of how long the COVID pandemic and subsequent recession is going to last, I want to open the door for bolder, more housing-first initiatives that can support our unhoused community in the long term. In terms of creative, supportive transitional housing or resources, there’s no time like the present to make progress. I want to explore partnerships with local or national nonprofits to implement innovative solutions to get a roof over the heads of people living on our streets. There’s inspiring models utilized in other parts of the country that we could look to for leadership. For example, the Chico Housing Action Team is leveraging partnerships and donations to house homeless folks and people displaced by the Camp Fire; so far, they’re housing over 160 people at 60 locations and working on starting a Tiny House Village. With adequate political will and elected champions, we could gain City backing to similarly innovative solutions.

I want to be clear, as well, about one thing in particular: we need to stop over-policing houseless communities during a pandemic under the guise of public safety concerns. I’ve heard legitimate worry from community members about unnecessary sweeps and confiscation of items needed to shelter from the spread of COVID-19. While we must do our best to avoid congregating in public spaces, we must also allow people to access community resources and shelter where they are. Citing unhoused folks for existing does nothing to improve the lives of struggling people or our community’s safety during a pandemic.

1. How will you work towards eliminating homelessness in Santa Cruz? What are previous examples of supporting our unhoused population?

My platform centers the following policy paths:  
1) I will advocate and work toward truly affordable housing that is accessible to people experiencing or on the verge of housing insecurity.   
2) I will similarly push for housing-first approaches that utilize innovative models to house folks.

3) I will leverage resources at our disposal, as well as revitalize or bring in new partnerships to create a protective, supportive framework for our unhoused community in the search of jobs, resources, or shelter.

4) I will push to end the criminalization and cultural stigmatization of houseless folks by calling for an end to mass policing of houseless communities for existing in public spaces, and call for the implementation of alternative first response that can properly meet the needs of people experiencing crises that lead to or deepen housing insecurity.

As someone who has been unhoused for long periods of time, I’m cognizant of the constant and debilitating stress housing insecurity causes. I come to this campaign from a place that understands houselessness from a place of lived experience and believe that this housing is not just a City issue, but as a human rights issue. Our community is not thriving as long as we have people without a place to call home; it is a top priority of mine to meet our community’s needs from a place that eases suffering and provides a longer term vision to care for people who are marginalized by profit-driven policy.

While I have not done much work through an institutional lens, I’ve given time and money to grassroots causes that feed, clothe, or otherwise support our unhoused population. I’m extremely supportive of the rapid mobilization efforts we’ve witnessed to get people PPE and tents to shelter from COVID/the fires, and, as an elected leader, I would 100% use my voice and platform to draw attention to the hard work of our residents to support the most disenfranchised among us. I’m fully aware that the work toward eliminating houselessness comes not only from the top down, but also bottom-up, and I’m appreciative of the core of our community that works to handle this systemic issue with compassion and dignity.

1. Scenario: As a council member, there is a proposal to designate an overnight parking location for unhoused folks living in their vehicles. The location is close to a school and near residential zones, but does not violate any regulations. Some local residents meet with you and oppose the designation.
   * What do you tell them?

First and foremost, I would hear their concerns and empathize with them. Concerns over children’s safety and sanitation are very legitimate worries for people of all walks of life, and those are anxieties I do not take lightly. Moreover, I would ask if their concerns were coming from a place of experience with these issues, and if there were steps that could be taken to make them feel more at ease with the designated parking spot.

And while speaking to them from a place of empathy, I would hope to bring together the perspectives of folks living in their vehicles to bring about more understanding between these potential neighbors. There were times in my life where a vehicle was the only barrier keeping my family from being on the street, so I have a deep understanding of the importance of safe sleeping sites and the role they can play in preventing further housing insecurity related problems.

* + Would you support or oppose the designation? What other factors might you consider? Please elaborate.

If the designation proved to be the best possible scenario with the resources and locations at hand, I would support it. There is, after all, a lack of shelter resources for the amount of people in the City and County experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

I would, however, do everything in my power to try to mitigate the contention of the nearby residents to help them feel safe. As mentioned, I understand both sides of this issue, having dealt with housing insecurity in my own life. I feel strongly that people need a place they can exist when living in their cars, especially now amid shelter in place orders and economic instability, and it’s the role of an elected leader to advocate for space in our community for struggling people.

As a general aside, I believe there’s an undercurrent of misinformation and wrongful assumptions circulating in our community about unhoused people and the root causes of their displacement. As an elected leader, I would like to facilitate more in depth conversations with the community to bridge divides in communications so that moving forward, we can work from a place of mutual respect and understanding. We can no longer tolerate policies that widen the existing gap between the underserved and those who have what they need to succeed.

1. Do you support or oppose a housing-first approach to address homelessness? **Please elaborate.**

Check one: Support **X** Oppose \_\_\_\_\_\_

I do support the housing-first model, and I’ve read the case-studies that evidence that a housing-first approach is both more affordable and effective than handling houselessness with policing and short-term solutions.

**UCSC-Centered Issues**

The College Democrats at UCSC has previously heard from a County representative regarding the potential negative impacts of UCSC’s Long-Range Development Plan on the Santa Cruz community and housing. The plan includes preparing to increase enrollment up to 28,000 students by 2040.

1. Do you support or oppose UCSC’s long-range development plan (LRDP)?

As it stands, I do not support the LRDP. I did not support it as a student, and I am unsupportive of many of its facets while running for elected office. I am particularly concerned about the burden of housing being placed on the City in the increased enrollment plan, as well as the amount of water used by the University, which is already a scarce resource in Santa Cruz.

* + If you do not, what actions or strategy would you take as a city council member to prevent the growth?

I’m not unsupportive of University growth entirely. As someone who greatly benefited from acceptance to UCSC, I’m aware and appreciative of the opportunities presented by a world-class university expanding enrollment. However, I’m concerned that this level of growth is not sustainable for the City the University resides in. I am in conversation with the County Task Force on UCSC Growth and supportive of their team and calls to action over the issue; if elected, I would use my voice and platform to continue to draw public scrutiny toward the University on issues of housing, environmental impacts, and water usage.

Similarly, while the City’s avenues to keep the University accountable to its growth are limited, I plan to use every tool available. When the Draft EIR is released, I plan to pore over it with a keen eye and if elected, work with my colleagues to make sure the document is compliant to federal requirements.

1. If city council elections must transition to district elections, how would you redistrict the UCSC campus? What considerations will you take into account in preparing for this possible future?

I’m concerned that the impact of districted elections could prove to silo the student vote, which has historically pushed forward progressive policy in Santa Cruz. If elected to the City Council, I would exhaust every avenue that exists for public input on the endeavor, and watchdog that the district lines are drawn as fairly as possible as to protect marginalized voters’ voices and the general spirit of democracy.

**Social Justice**

1. What policies will you fight for in order to achieve greater racial justice in Santa Cruz? This issue spans across many issues we have asked about before, so we hope your answer is deep and nuanced as well.

This is indeed an expansive topic and I appreciate the question. As has been made clear in the recent Black Lives Matter uprising and especially in the COVID-19 pandemic, racial disparities touch every part of life in the United States, and that is certainly true in Santa Cruz — a predominantly white City with a dubious past in race relations. I’d like to see City leaders take less symbolic action and take more concrete action that impacts the day-to-day life of Santa Cruz residents of color.

My policies and core values are grounded in anti-racism, and I will view everything through that lens when on the dais and conducting Council duties. Just as fiscal impact is weighed in every voting issue, I believe that the City should view racial impact in every decision it makes. Policy-wise, I will fight for policies that aim to mitigate racial inequity in Santa Cruz, as well as advocate for culture shifts that will make this community a safer place for the people of color who live here, or move here to work or go to school.

Seeing as over-policing has a disproportionate impact on communities of color, reallocating police budget funds away from patrolling can ease the impact of policing on our Black and Brown neighbors. Moreover, policies that seek to stop the criminalization of houseless communities and treat them with compassion are acts of racial justice, as people of color are overrepresented in our unhoused and housing insecure population. In our recovery period, we need to be directing funds to Black and Brown businesses via programs like the Santa Cruz Resilience Microloan Program, as well exploring other pathways to spur new business and thereby build wealth in BIPOC communities.

I’m interested in continuing the discourse as a City on historical justice. During my time at UCSC, I majored in History, and while I didn’t learn much about local history, I’m invested in the use of education about the past to help ground racial justice in the present. I’ve since educated myself and learned from others about the history of racism, xenophobia, and Indigenous genocide to occur on this land. I’m supportive of initiatives that seek to acknowledge (and where possible, reparate) these histories and believe they are fundamental in the discourse around racial justice in our City.

1. What policy changes do you support that directly help transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming folks in Santa Cruz? How will you ensure your campaign is inclusive of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming folks?

I’m interested in any policies at the City level that make government functions or our community as a whole a safer, more inclusive place for anyone living outside the gender binary. I have trans/non-binary folks on my campaign team, and we’ve been careful to include pronoun sensitivity in our dialogue and communications plan. As a candidate, I’m taking steps to remove gendered language from my speech and hold space for different gender identities in my policies. But because there’s always room to go, I’m open to feedback from my team or the community at large on any additional steps I could take to ensure a safe space for folks at any point along the gender spectrum.

1. What policies will you pursue locally to protect our climate? What work have you been involved with previously to protect our environment?

I’ve been a very vocal supporter of climate justice and environmental protection. I’ve organized nationally and locally for climate solutions. I was at Standing Rock in 2016-17 standing against the Dakota Access pipeline, and I’ve attended countless webinars and conferences on a just transition, fossil free infrastructure, and divestment. I have divested my personal finances out of oil and gas and routinely help others do the same. I live in a one-car household with my partner, and have no plans to change that; I frequently rely on a bus and electric scooter to get around without a car. In all things I do, I try to walk the climate talk. As an elected leader, I would use a climate framework in every policy decision I make. Our time is running out to take bolder strides to protect our community, and as we can see in the current wildfire scenario, climate crisis is already at our front door. I’m interested in the following policies around climate:

* Establish mandatory municipal composting service by partnering with existing private service Hard Core Compost to offer to all City residents; Work with Waste Management to phase in penalties for City residents that routinely violate recycling and composting standards.
* Ensure access to clean water for city residents and visitors in a similar vein to San Luis Obsipo, by adding additional water fountains/hydration stations in high traffic and residential areas, prioritizing areas with low-income or vulnerable populations.
* Support local, locally-controlled buildout of clean energy solutions; continue to be an informed and passionate leading voice within MBCP/CCCE to drive local benefits beyond marginal energy bill savings.
* Continue progress on the Slow Streets program and explore all possible avenues to expand bus ridership and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
* Reduce “red tape” around renewable, energy storage, energy efficiency, and microgrid development. Support and expand climate action planning and implementation
* Re-prioritize meeting City climate action milestones & GHG inventory updates and support regional collaborations in support of these efforts.
* Increase funding to Climate Action Program (total current budget of $186K/year).
* Begin an honest conversation around a managed retreat planning process for the Beach Flats area with local input, prioritizing community continuity and needs and incorporating negotiations with the Seaside Company.
* Prioritize the protection of green and blue spaces with high-carbon capture impact potential; Partner with local experts and research institutions to identify vulnerable ecosystems and implement appropriate conservation methods.

Kelsey Hill 8/29/2020

Candidate Name Date