



Democrats Unite



Candidate Name *

Ray Mueller

As a Club under the California Democratic Party, we only endorse fellow Democrats. *

If you do not wish to proceed further, please let us know you decline by emailing president@coastsideDemocrats.com

Click this box to confirm you are registered to vote as a Democrat.

Please state how long you have been registered to vote as a Democrat. *

- I have always been a registered Democrat
- I have been a registered Democrat for the last ten years
- I recently registered to vote as a Democrat after 2020 when the current President came into office
- Other: I have been a registered Democrat longer than ten years.

If this form is filled out by someone other than the Candidate, please provide the Staffer's name

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Statement Questionnaire

Answers are limited to 1000 characters. Your answers below will be shared with all members and publicly broadcast at <https://coastsidedems.org/election2022>

Why are you running for County Supervisor? *

My guiding principle is to protect and enhance our quality of life. We are fortunate to live in a spectacular place – I want to keep it that way and improve the lives of those in need. I believe in hard work, practical decision making, and collaborative problem solving.

What will your top priorities be if elected? *

Preserving Parks, Beaches, Open Spaces;
Addressing Climate Change;
Supporting Students and Schools;
Infrastructure Investment;
Quality County Healthcare - expanded to the Coast;
Wildfire, Disaster Preparedness / Insurance Availability;
Reducing Traffic;
Affordable Housing Near Transit;
Highest Quality Fire Services, Police;
Drought Resilience;
Supporting our Farmworkers, Farms, Ranches and Coastal Economy

Please explain how your background and experience have prepared you to be a County Supervisor. *

I possess the personal and professional life experience to be effective as Supervisor. When I was young, my father became disabled. I was one of 7 children. Mom went to night school and worked full time to support the family. I saw her take jobs where she wasn't treated well. I have spent my life since then dedicated to public service and helping families. At UC Berkeley, I graduated from the College of Natural Resources. At Hastings, I interned for the Public Law Research Institute and also for the Legislative Counsel's Office in Sacramento. After law school, I worked as a litigator, representing individuals and families against big companies. I have served ten years as a Menlo Park City Councilmember, elected in 2012, 2016 and 2020, and have served twice as Mayor. I also have worked as Chief of Staff to a County Supervisor. In this campaign, I have been endorsed by Congresswoman Eshoo and over 60 current/former District 3 City Councilmembers. www.raymuellerforsupervisor.com

What would you like to do to address the Coastside's vexing traffic issues? *

Knockdown obstacles to workforce housing in city centers, allowing people to live where they work.

The creation of a coastal buses/shuttles.

Separated bike trails along highway 1, and traveling to the coast.

I am also am unafraid to explore out of the box solutions, such as a gondola cable car system that would bring visitors over the 92 and down onto the coast where the coastal shuttle could pick them up and move them up and down the coast. The views from such a system would be breathtaking and I believe take many daytime visitors out of their cars.

But to be clear I am not committed to this idea, I am just unafraid to explore such ideas with stakeholders and the community.

Housing on the Coastside is especially expensive; how do you see the County helping with affordable housing? *

Providing County land.

Providing funding.

Making certain there is adequate and essential County services and transportation options supporting residents in the affordable housing sites.

Many Coastside residents value the lower density, rural character of this area; how would you balance that with a need for more housing? *

To preserve the rural character of the Coast, workforce housing is needed to support the rural economy of the Coast. Presently farms, ranches, and small businesses are suffering from labor shortages. The Coast needs workers, and workers need affordable housing. Without affordable housing and the workers it supports, small business come under pressure and fold. Farms fold when the next generation finds it too difficult to work the land. This is happening now on the Coast. In both circumstances, vacant land is reevaluated for highest and best use, and pressure is created to redevelop the land. The best way to preserve the rural character of the coast is to provide adequate housing at all levels to create a healthy economic ecosystem. Ideally workforce housing is located near city centers, jobs, and services. You need affordable housing to save the Coast.

The effects of climate change, especially increase shoreline erosion, are being seen along the Coastside. How can the County help mitigate these effects? *

Invest in repairing the seawalls, but also work with the state to create funding to buyout owners when it no longer becomes economically feasible or possible to maintain seawalls.

The County must also create a County supported Coastal Infrastructure Strategic Plan, that identifies infrastructure threatened by sea level rise, identifies available funding sources and puts forth a plan with the cooperation of local jurisdictions, to use with state and federal authorities in crafting a legislation to address said issues.

Does the County need to do more to ensure Coastsider safety in the face of more frequent wildfire and tidal events? *

Yes. Pre-positioning of wildfire fighting resources that stay in San Mateo County, that Cal Fire and other agencies would have access to in the event of wildfire. Funding and Grant writing for mitigation efforts to identify appropriate areas for eucalyptus thinning and removal. Development of dedicated evacuation routes for wildfire and tidal events. The coast needs an emergency room to aid residents who may be injured in such events.

What would you do to better connect, communicate, and represent the interests of the farmworker communities of the Coastside? *

Hire a staff member who is trusted and a part of the farmworker community. Be present, on an ongoing basis to the farmwork community, but holding office hours with them in the fields. Create identifiable metrics to show progress in serving their needs. Create a metric baseline with them upon entering office, that measures the quality of services, such as healthcare, education, housing, childcare, public safety, on day one and then hold my office and myself accountable to implementing programs that result in measurable gains in all of these areas.

How do you view the efficacy of Coast House and other efforts to address homelessness on the Coastside? *

Underresourced. Recent counts by the County showed there at least 230 people living homeless on the Coast. There are so many more people who need help. Fortunately there are many non-profits trying to help. I served on the Board of Lifemoves for a number of years, which now operates the Coast House for the County. Combating homelessness effectively requires differentiating between the needs of the chornically homeless (there may be complex health issues), the acute homeless (people displaced by domestic abuse or recently life event), versus workforce homeless (those commute into an area for employment.) All have different needs and require specialized wrap around services to get them off the street into stable housing. The type of homelessness being addressed often times can be taken into consideration in selecting the location of housing and services.

Have you ever run for political office, served on a political committee, or been identified publicly with a political organization, candidate, ballot measure, or issue? If so, please provide the details of your involvement. *

2012 Menlo Park City Council (successful, lead vote getter)

2016 Menlo Park City Council (successful, lead vote getter)

2020 Menlo Park City Council (successful, unopposed)

Menlo Park Mayor 2014, 2019

I have served as an alternate to the San Mateo County DCC off and on for close to a decade.

I have served as an elected delegate to the State of California Democratic Party.

Is there anything in your background which, if you receive the Club's endorsement, could cause embarrassment to the Club? If so, please provide the details. *

N/A

Thank you

Click Back to return to a previous question. Toggle the option below to request a copy of your responses. Click Submit when you are done.

Feel free to contact president@coastsidedemocrats.com if you have any questions.

Final results will be posted on <https://coastsidedems.org/election2022>

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