

MEDIA RELEASE

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Candidate for Santa Cruz City Council District 5
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Joe Thompson to Announce Candidacy for Santa Cruz City Council

Santa Cruz, CA: Today, July 17th 2023, Former Starbucks Union Organizer, Joe Thompson announces their candidacy for the Santa Cruz City Council, District 5. Their official campaign launch party will take place at Harvey West Park, on Saturday, September 9th from 2pm to 4pm.



"I love Santa Cruz and I plan to spend my life, build my family and home here. I'm running for Santa Cruz City Council District 5 to make our community more beautiful for generations to come. To me, that means making our streets safer, creating more affordable housing, protecting our precious coast/environment, and supporting our local businesses, over corporations" Joe said. "Workers not only need a voice, they deserve a voice and I plan to give them one."

Joe is an active community member and leader, leading the first Starbucks in California to unionize at Ocean and Water. They now serve on the Executive Committee of Sierra Club and are a delegate to the California Democratic Party and an alternate delegate to the Santa Cruz County Democratic Party.

Joe also serves on the Santa Cruz County Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) Commission where they are advocating for increased awareness among fentanyl and xylazine overdoses and how we can prepare our county for an uptick in the opioid epidemic, including exploring an emergency declaration to address this rapid increase in fentanyl and xylazine.

Joe is eager to bring their energy, experience, and integrity to the Santa Cruz City Council. They are committed to listening to and valuing opinions different from their own, serving as an authentic and transparent leader, and working to make Santa Cruz the best place it can be.

When Joe isn't fighting for workers, they are biking, taking care of their plants or going to the beach. Joe also loves going to weekly trivia nights with friends supporting local small businesses.

Learn more about Joe's platform at VoteJoeThompson.com.

Many fellow leaders have already voiced their support for Joe. They have received **early** endorsements from over 50 individuals including the following:

SMART Local 0023

UCSC College Democrats

Congressman Ro Khanna, 17th Congressional District

Sally Lieber, State Board of Equalization Member

Mark Stone, Former Assemblymember, District 29

Adam Spickler, Cabrillo College Trustee, Area 2

Bruce Van Allen, Mike Rotkin, Don Lane, Tim Fitzmaurice, Chris Krohn & Katherine Beiers, Former Mayors of Santa Cruz

Sandy Brown, Santa Cruz City Councilmember and Incumbent for District 5

Lowell Hurst, Former Mayor and Councilmember of Watsonville

Kristen Brown, Vice Mayor of Capitola

Alexander Pedersen, Capitola City Councilmember

Kyle Kelley, Santa Cruz City Schools Board Member, Area 2

Jayme Ackemann, San Lorenzo Valley Water District Director

See a full list of endorsements at VoteJoeThompson.com/endorsements

Community members who are interested in attending the launch can email Joe at Joe@votejoethompson.com for more information.

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Information:

For more information, please visit the campaign website: VoteJoeThompson.com

You can find more high resolution photos and images of Joe Thompson [here](#).

For additional information and questions please contact joe@votejoethompson.com

To speak directly with Joe, please call their personal phone at (831) 346-2898

*Note: Joe identifies as gay and non-binary, if elected Joe would be the first openly non-binary councilmember in Santa Cruz history and one of first elected in California.