

Declaration of Candidacy
Elias Gonzales, Community Organizer

Candidate Statement

Elias Gonzales

Community Organizer

Phone 831-288-8347; email: gonzalesforsupervisor@gmail.com; website:
gonzalesforsupervisor.com

I was born and raised in Watsonville. I believe securing our future is essential because today's families and the next generation deserve the opportunity to live and thrive in Santa Cruz County.

My career has focused on strengthening communities and expanding opportunities for youth and working families. Through my work with community-based organizations in partnership with city and county governments, I have managed public funds, built lasting cross-agency partnerships, and delivered measurable results for our community.

In my current role, I help lead cross-department initiatives that strengthen youth and parent organizing, align communications to elevate community priorities, and advance narrative change. I also represent the organization in regional and statewide coalitions, building relationships to support policy and capacity-building efforts.

Rising costs are putting pressure on District 4 families, and when families struggle, community safety is at risk. As Supervisor, I will focus on community-driven solutions by addressing affordability, expanding workforce and apprenticeship opportunities, investing in infrastructure, stabilizing housing, and ensuring transparent use of county funds, because safety is built when people have opportunity and stability.

I am committed to collaboration, transparency, and securing our future so working families can live, work, and thrive in the community we build together.