

Joy Schendledecker
Shelter Operations Manager

Joy is an organizer, educator, artist, and service provider working on the front lines of Santa Cruz's housing and public service systems. She works as an Operations Manager and Lead Monitor for local shelter programs, where she oversees clients, staff, safety, and daily operations.

In previous campaigns Joy earned endorsements from SEIU 521, the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, IBEW Local 234, and the California Nurses Association.

Her public service includes co-founding Santa Cruz Cares and Sanitation for the People, grassroots initiatives focused on compassionate, practical responses to homelessness and community health. She is a certified Community Mediator through the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County.

Joy is running for Mayor to focus City Hall on the basics: keeping people housed, supporting good local jobs, protecting public services, and ensuring that Santa Cruz is affordable for the people who have roots here through family, community, and work.

She supports housing stability, responsible public investment, strong labor standards, and transparent, accountable local government that listens to residents and workers alike.

Joy believes everyone deserves a place at the table of democracy. From the bottom up, she's working to build a more inclusive, livable Santa Cruz — with more joy for everyone.