

**JOY SCHENDLEDECKER**

**Mayor  
City of Santa Cruz**

Occupation: Mom, Artist, Community Organizer      Age: 47

I am a mom, artist, and community organizer. I'm a member of the Working Families Party and Democratic Socialists of America, as well as the organizing committees of Sanitation for the People and Santa Cruz Cares, working to reduce the harms of neglect and inequality for the city's most marginalized residents.

Raising a family and organizing with diverse communities for over 20 years has taught me numerous essential skills for serving Santa Cruz as mayor. Making art, managing artistic and community projects, and motherhood all demand responsibility, frugality, communication, and empathy. They also require balancing understanding and decisiveness with receptivity. Through dedication, attention to details, creativity, careful management, and commitment to fairness and cooperation, I have nurtured my family, artwork, and community.

Not only does my experience qualify me to serve Santa Cruz as mayor, it also inspires my conviction for social justice, participatory democracy, collective care, and ecological stewardship. Helping Santa Cruz enact our values and achieve our goals requires valuing the experience of people too often excluded from politics. By electing a mayor who stands with - not above - Santa Cruz's overworked and underpaid working class, we can take care of one another and thrive.

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