

## John Laird Ballot Statement – Santa Cruz County

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As a long time Santa Cruz County resident, I have been able to bring my local experience as a Mayor, Councilmember, Transit Director, Transportation Commissioner, Nonprofit Director and Community College Trustee to get things done at the state level for Santa Cruz County.

During my first term as Senator, I was a leader in saving Watsonville Hospital, authoring legislation that passed in record time to create a public hospital district – and secured major state funding.

I authored legislation for the state to fund the local share of the Pajaro Levee Project and, with our federal partners, achieved a fully funded project – before Mother Nature stepped in.

When the disastrous atmospheric rivers hit, I helped secure state money for residents in Capitola, Santa Cruz, Pajaro and others to deal with storm impacts.

I worked to deliver a large grant for Cabrillo College and UCSC to provide 624 units of much needed housing, and secured funding for the City of Santa Cruz to provide short-term shelter for unhoused residents and help connect them with services and long-term housing.

And when the children of local fallen officers did not get the same survivor benefits as others, I authored a law to fix that.

I was instrumental in the restoration of UC's Cooperative Agriculture Extension funding, bolstering 4-H programs and helping small farmers with needed technical help.

There is much more to do on the critical issues of our time - climate change, healthcare, housing and more. I'm energized and ready to continue contributing my experience, drive and commitment to serve our community. I respectfully ask for your vote.