

Ami Chen Mills

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I am the daughter of an immigrant, a mother, journalist, and lecturer who has called Santa Cruz home for 30 years. I have a track record of making our city better, having served on the Westlake School Site Council and City Homelessness Committee, and as a longtime advocate for the environment and civil rights.

As Mayor, I will protect Santa Cruz's unique character and human-scale neighborhoods, while prioritizing affordable housing for residents. I will bring transparency, fairness, and open dialogue about development plans and all city matters to my constituents.

We face both a housing crisis and ecological crisis. I will fight for environmental protections wherever possible, as I did for re-wilding the Benchlands.

We must build resiliency during uncertain times. We need infrastructure: neighborhood hubs for off-grid power and communications. And we need human connection—neighborhood networks to build collaboration and democratic participation.

I successfully organized to get our city to cancel our invasive automatic license plate reader contract. We must protect residents from data theft, unlawful deportation and Constitutional violations. I do not accept donations from real estate, nor Big Tech.

I'm ready to bring collaborative, transparent, grassroots leadership to Santa Cruz. I'd be honored to have your support.