

Catherine Blakespear

1. Why are you running for your respective office?

There is a lot to do in the City of Encinitas and I'm eager to do it! We've made tremendous progress in the last two years since I've been serving as mayor. We adopted a "gold standard" climate action plan; a new housing plan for the voters to consider; road, bike and trails improvements; more sand on the beaches and planned improvements to the rail corridor.

I am an energetic mayor, speaking on panels, travelling to Sacramento to advocate for our city's interests and contributing to regional decisions about transportation and other infrastructure improvements.

I would be honored to have your vote to continue serving as Encinitas Mayor.

2. What do you feel are the three biggest priorities for the next city council, and how as a council member would you help the council achieve those objectives?

The biggest priorities are: 1) planning for the state-required housing that will be assigned to us in 2019; 2) improving the circulation of our city's roads; 3) pursuing climate action initiatives to make the city an even stronger steward of the environment. I will help lead the City Council toward consensus on these issues.

3. This year marks the first year that Encinitas will elect representatives by districts. If elected, how would you balance your responsibilities to your constituents in your district with those to the community at large?

N/A

4. Do you support Measure U, the City's current Housing Element Update proposal? Please explain your position. If you do not support Measure U, please provide your alternative plan to address the state and regional housing needs allocation.

I support Measure U and wholeheartedly hope the voters pass it.

5. Do you support the proposed Leucadia Streetscape in its current configuration? What, if anything, would you propose changing if elected to your respective office?

Yes. Leucadia deserves to have its main artery improved after 70 years. The project will build wider, continuous sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, a renewed tree canopy, organized parking in the rail corridor and continuous travel through roundabouts.

6. How do you propose solving the issue of safety around the rail corridor? In your opinion, should the city pursue a series of at-grade or undercrossings, or should it pursue trenching as a long term solution?

We should pursue all types of railroad crossings. People deserve more safe crossings across the rail road tracks throughout the corridor.

7. Citizens will have an opportunity to voice their opinions on cannabis delivery, retail sales and manufacturing in 2020. What is your personal stance on cannabis activities in Encinitas and how would you be prepared to uphold the will of the people if they vote in favor of the ballot initiative?

I believe legally operating, regulated marijuana shops should be able to deliver marijuana products to those who need it for medical purposes inside the city boundaries. Regarding retail storefronts in the city, I will support the will of the people as expressed in their 2020 vote.

8. If elected, how would you address the issue of access at Beacon's Beach?

Residents deserve safe access to the beach at Beacon's. I support maintaining the trail and building a staircase so that when natural erosion results in the trail sloughing and becoming unsafe there is another way for people to access the beach.

9. What is your opinion on the city's pursuit of community choice energy as a green initiative and how would you support or oppose those efforts if elected?

I believe Encinitas residents should be able to get their power sourced from clean, renewable sources like solar and wind, instead of from non-renewable, extractive fossil fuels. Community Choice Energy will give residents this option.