

Name: Mark Muir

Age: 60

Occupation: Encinitas Council member - Incumbent

Education: Refer to attached Resume

Previous Government experience: Refer to attached Resume

Why are you running for your respective office?

My strong public service experience, fiscal record, and community representation make me the most qualified candidate to fight for a balanced budget, prioritize spending, and protect our local quality of life. I want to complete some very important projects and also push my open space preservation and procurement program that I brought forward to the council.

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?

Top Three Issues:

1. Housing Element

Approve a certified Housing Element that meets the City's strategy to preserve and enhance the community's character, and expands and preserves housing opportunities as required by the state and that meets community acceptance. This Housing Element should be a reflection of a Community based vision which includes homeowners, neighborhoods and community participation. We should preserve and protect our small beach town identity.

2. Traffic Circulation Element

Create a Traffic Circulation Element that provides for the safe and efficient movement of multi-mode transportation. This includes traffic synchronization, correcting existing network deficiencies, improving road maintenance. This means that every transportation project will make the street network better and safer for drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists—making our town even a better place to live, work and play.

3. Open Space, Recreational Trails and Community Preservation

Open Space, Recreational Trails and Community Preservation are being threatened by urban expansion. I have brought the acquirement of open space and recreational trails up during our planning and budgetary meetings and recently had the council support a financial and operational action plan to preserve and increase the procurement of our open space and recreational trails within our communities. We need to follow-up on this new policy in order to pro-actively preserve and acquire open space, trails, and natural areas, by tasking our Parks and Recreation Commission to explore, identify, evaluate and prioritizing the potential funding of open space and recreational trails sites.

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?

While focusing on maintaining and improving my district services and assets, I'll also provide for decisional balance and compromise. When Encinitas wins, so does my district!

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.

Yes, after much community collaboration. I agreed with the plan that had the fewer housing units, had the best chance of success and was able to meet the state's legal requirements.

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?

No, although I believe improvements in this area need to be done. I don't believe spending 30+ million dollars on a project that reduces traffic lanes from 4 to 2 and includes 6 roundabouts is worth the investment and traffic challenges. I would support a less expensive project that would allow for other community projects to be built in the city (e.g. underground Birmingham Dr., additional road improvements, underground railroad crossings, etc.), while maintaining the 4 lanes. This new project would include walkable sidewalks, plenty of tree canopy, clear bike paths, increased and enhanced parking, etc...

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 under-crossings, or should it pursue trenching as a long term solution?

Although I would prefer trenching as a long term solution, the 300+ million price tag is not affordable without outside grants that are not available, so it is unrealistic to consider at this time. Based on cost and specific needs, both at-grade and under crossing should be prioritized. We do have a community task force who has participated in the development of this comprehensive plan.

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'm personally opposed to the commercial growing or selling of cannabis within our city. However, I clearly understand and accept the results of Prop. 65. I also understand and support the medical benefits that cannabis provide those in need. I'll clearly support the vote of the citizens in 2020. The entire council has taken a wait-and-see position with the state on delivery bills being proposed at the state level.

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

My focus and guiding principles on this project are based on 4 fundamental needs; Safety, Access to Beach, Community's Design Acceptance and State's Coastal Commission's approval.

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?

As one of the first council members to lead in this review, I still believe our best efforts should be made to find the cheapest and cleanest reliable energy, while carefully evaluating the risks.

Currently, an independent study is being conducted, so we need to wait for the report. Our Climate Action Plan, which has been labeled as a gold standard within the county and is also be an important part of our clean energy implementation plans.