

## John Laird Ballot Statement

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Four years ago, I pledged to tackle climate change, work for affordable housing and universal health insurance, and improve public education – using my experience as Mayor, Councilmember, Transit Director, Transportation Commissioner, Nonprofit Director, Community College Trustee, State Assemblymember, and Cabinet Secretary.

As Senator, I have done just that – authoring 46 bills signed into law – including strengthening climate goals; improving fire prevention efforts; increasing sea level rise planning; and requiring more efficient state buildings. And when the children of local fallen officers did not get the same survivor benefits as others, I authored a law to fix that.

As Education Budget Subcommittee Chair, a substantial increase in public education funding was approved. I fought for higher education student housing, resulting in 624 units for the district. I achieved restoration of UC's Cooperative Agriculture Extension – helping small farmers with needed science and technical help.

I was a leader in saving Watsonville Hospital. I helped get Santa Cruz support that contributed to a reduction in unhoused people. I negotiated the future footprint of the Coastal Trail through Big Sur, and created a path to preserve Diablo Canyon lands. When atmospheric rivers hit the Central Coast, I secured support for communities in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as for evacuated residents who needed help.

There is much more to do. I want to continue to contribute my experience, drive, and commitment to Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz Counties to serve our local communities. I respectfully ask for your vote.