

Campaign Website: <https://electlou.us>

Also Listed At: <https://progressivesc.org/voter-guide-2024>

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My name is Lou Chiaramonte, Jr. I'm running to represent District 5 on the *Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee (SCCDCC)*.

My campaign is straight-forward. I believe that **everyone** is important, and that **everyone** should be considered. ***I believe the Democratic Party is its Membership. I REJECT corporate interests, special interests, and insider politics.*** I believe the SCCDCC is currently too disconnected from the majority of Democrats in Santa Cruz County. If elected, I will have a website dedicated to allowing residents of District 5 to reach out to me directly, regarding any issue of concern. My goal is to assess issues analytically, not ideologically.

I've resided in **Zayante** (about 3.5 miles north of Felton) for 17 years. I was born in San Jose, and my family has lived in the region for over 130 years. I am 42 years old. I identify as he/him. My ethnicity is mixed, and could generally be categorised as European, North African, West Asian, West African, Ashkenazi, and Amerindian. In 2019, I organised the grassroots organisation, *South Bay Indigenous Solidarity*, which supports human-rights efforts of Ohlone/Costanoan and other Tribes.

Having worked in the fields of archaeology and historic preservation, I have a deep understanding of the history of Santa Cruz County. I'm also very familiar with contemporary issues. My house is located in the redwoods, and I've experienced road closures, disconnection from the power grid for days on end, trees falling, and water lines breaking. I have friends who are currently homeless or who lack medical access, cell phones, or electricity. I have met too many people who are unaware of what government benefit programs are currently available.

I currently serve as an elected *Assembly District delegate (ADEM)*, representing *Assembly District 28* within the *California Democratic Party*. I've also served as an *Alternate Member* on the *Santa Cruz County DCC* for about 2 years. I'm currently the *Alternate* for my spouse, Gwen, who is not running to retain her *SCCDCC Member* seat this election cycle.

I have attended 3 *California Democratic Party (CADEM)* Conventions (once as a proxy delegate, twice as an elected delegate). I have introduced Resolutions which have passed at several regional *Democratic Central Committees*, and I spearheaded a Resolution that passed at the *California Democratic Party (Resolution 20-11.25)*. I also drafted and introduced two Proclamations that were passed by the *Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors*.

I consistently voted *Democrat*, but I was officially *No Party Preference* until 2019. I joined the *Democratic Party* after the death of my paternal grandmother, Anne, who was a life-long *Democrat*. She credited *New Deal* programs for allowing her family to reunite and to have the food necessary to survive during the Great Depression.

The current boundaries of BoS District 5 include the *City of Scotts Valley*, a portion of the *City of Santa Cruz*, a small portion of *UCSC*, and the Census Designated Places of *Lompico*, *Zayante*, *Mount Hermon*, *Pasatiempo*, *Paradise Park*, most of *Boulder Creek*, most of *Brookdale*, most of *Ben Lomond*, and most of *Felton*. To determine which BoS Supervisor District you live in, please use the interactive GIS map at <https://gis.santacruzcountyca.gov/gisweb/> (on the 'Layer List', open the 'Jurisdictional, Elections, Census' menu, and select 'Supervisorial Districts').