

## **Linda Kerner Candidate Statement**

*Current Democratic Central Committee (DCC) Member & Affordable Housing Advocate  
2017 Santa Cruz County Democrat of the Year*

I am a life-long Democrat and have been involved in local Democratic activities since moving to Santa Cruz County in 1983. As a long-time member of both the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley communities and a **current member of the DCC** representing the Fifth District, **I have an understanding of the issues related to living in the Santa Cruz mountains as well as issues of concern to residents of the City of Scotts Valley.** In 2013, I **worked to reestablish a local Democratic club for North County** and have **served on its Executive Board** since the club was chartered in 2013. In **2017**, I was honored to be named **Democrat of the Year for Santa Cruz County.**

I am a **founding member of Affordable Housing NOW (AHN)** and a **member of Housing Santa Cruz County.** For the past nine years I have been **actively working to increase the supply of affordable housing** for residents of Santa Cruz County. AHN works with the Board of Supervisors and City Councils and Planning Commissions throughout the County to support affordable housing projects – especially those with very low and low-income housing units. I have taken the lead on **organizing Affordable Housing Month events and other community forums to educate community members** about affordable housing issues, including the benefits of building **housing near transit centers to address the impacts of climate change.**

In my professional life, I **was a Senior Analyst with Santa Cruz County's Human Services Department** and I was proud of the work we did as a Department to help lift individuals and families out of poverty. I also **served as the Department's Public Information Officer**, and in that role, I **developed communication materials** to provide the public with information about assistance programs and promote access to safety net services for county residents in need of assistance. I believed in the work I did with the Department to help make a difference in the lives of the people we served.

With a **Masters Degree in Public Health**, I **care about equal access to health care services.** I believe that health care for all will make our communities stronger and improve the quality of life for all members of our community. I am **deeply concerned that women's reproductive rights and the rights of members of the LGBTQ community are being denied** in other parts of our country and I think it's critically important to fight to preserve these rights. I also consider the **lack of affordable housing a public health issue** because the lack of safe, stable housing can lead to deteriorating health conditions as well as mental health issues. I believe that housing is a basic human right and that **everyone deserves a place to call home!**

As a **current member of the DCC**, I have served on the **Budget Committee** as well as the **Social Activities and Events Committee.** I believe there has never been a more critical election year and I am committed to working hard to get candidates elected who will serve with integrity and protect the values of the Democratic Party – and our country's Democracy!

I would be honored to receive your vote for a second term on the DCC.

*Vote for Hardworking Women!  
Vote for Linda Kerner*