



## Encinitas 4 Equality | 2020 Candidate Questionnaire & Responses

---

### Responses of **Kellie Hinze**, candidate for **Encinitas City Council**, **District 2 ('Old Encinitas')**

1. What policies, goals, or priorities do you support related to housing in Encinitas? What housing policies have you seen enacted elsewhere in California or the US that you would like to replicate here?

**Kellie Hinze:** *I voted to approve our City's first state-compliant Housing Element. With this adopted housing element, Encinitas finally became compliant with the state's affordable housing laws for the first time in our city's history.*

*Encinitas was one of the last cities in the state of California to become compliant. This was detrimental because we lost out on grant funding from the state and we paid over \$2 million dollars in lawsuits related to our non-compliance. Furthermore, for every year we lapsed in adopting the element, state law became more severe with more rigorous standards.*

*My principal housing goal as a Councilmember is to keep my city in compliance with state laws on affordable housing. Staying focused on incremental additions to our affordable housing stock will help us move out of our dysfunctional past and avoid the same backlog that accumulated prior to 2019.*

*ADU's (Affordable Dwelling Units) are very popular in Encinitas and help us move closer to our affordable housing targets. The more we can incentivize ADU's the more likely we are to see actual units built. ADU's face less controversy than large-scale apartment buildings so development can occur quickly.*

*I support a city-provided loan for homeowners who wish to build ADU's on their property and will agree to rent it to someone qualifying as 'low income' for a period of time.*

*In future housing element cycles, I support re-zoning commercial corridors along El Camino Real for increased residential density. Big Box retail is unlikely to continue being profitable in the next 10-15 years and as these*

*leases term out, the city should allow property owners to invest in re-envisioning these commercial centers as mixed use commercial and residential.*

*Commercial corridors are ideal to add density because they are served by buses that connect with transit. Our climate, transportation and social equity goals can be supported by creation of new, appropriately located housing for middle and low income levels.*

2. What is your stance on affirmative action in California? Do you support Proposition 16 and the attempt to repeal the ban on affirmative action in California?

***Kellie Hinze:*** *I support Prop 16 and the effort to remove the ban on affirmative action in California. We need to make sure our institutions and agencies are creating opportunities for all Californians, not just those who benefit from generational wealth and systemic privilege due to the color their skin.*

*California is just one of 9 states in the nation with a ban on affirmative action. This is contrary to our progressive values that aim to bring women and people of color to equal standing in wages, access to education and high quality jobs with white male counterparts.*

*Under the pandemic, we are seeing a shocking regression for women and people of color who are facing higher levels of unemployment, exposure to illness and disproportionate load of childcare responsibility. Prop 16 will aid in dismantling structural racism and increase opportunity for all Californians.*

3. The United States Commission on Civil Rights issued a memo on November 15, 2008 that stated “The best available evidence reflects high rates of use of force nationally, and increased likelihood of police use of force against People of Color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, people with mental health concerns, people with low incomes, and those at the intersections of these groups.” Do you believe that police use of force, specifically when interacting with People of Color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, people with mental health concerns, and people with low incomes, is an issue that needs to be

addressed by the local government in Encinitas? If not, why not? If so, what reforms would you propose?

**Kellie Hinze:** *Yes I do believe that its my city's responsibility to address police use of force used disproportionately when interacting with people of color, those with disability, LGBT people, those with low incomes and with underlying medical conditions.*

*Many of these interactions occur because members of these groups are more likely to experience homelessness which has long been dealt with by law enforcement responses. However, in April of 2019, a ruling by 9th Circuit Court (Martin v. Boise) changed the way cities and their law enforcement departments are able to address homelessness. No longer can homelessness be treated as a crime and it is now up to cities to better leverage the state and county resources to prevent homelessness and re-house those residents of our city experiencing homelessness. For the first time, California must build solutions at the local level that treat the root of the problems like mental illness, addiction and discrimination rather than the symptoms.*

*Supervisor Fletcher's leadership at the county is bringing forward mobile crisis response units that provide mental health support to those struggling. Here at the City level, we worked to create HOPE (Homeless Outreach Program for Empowerment) that matches a social worker with a law enforcement agent so that people experiencing homelessness can be connected to support, housing navigation and transportation to doctors appointments and services. Both programs reflect an improvement in the care homeless residents receive.*

*I would like to see more done by my city and our partners to reduce negative interactions between law enforcement and protected classes. On the campaign trail I've connected with many residents who are professional experts in mental health care, public health and disability advocacy. I do believe the City of Encinitas should have a new Commission focused specifically on public health to map the challenges our residents face and identify strategies to better serve their needs.*

4. According to the California Department of Education, 62% of San Diego County public school teachers are White while more than 70% of the County's students identify as People of Color. Do you believe it is important to hire teachers, administrators, and counselors that reflect the demographics of the student body they serve? If not, why not? If so, what reforms would you support to promote the hiring of qualified People of Color as administrators, teachers, and counselors?

**Kellie Hinze:** *Yes, I definitely support hiring teachers, administrators and counselors that reflect the demographic of the student body they serve. Representation matters deeply, especially in our public education institutions. Teachers are leaders to thousands of students and it's important that our schools hire a diversity of experience, background and skin color.*

*We've seen here locally that some teachers deny or even stay unaware of the challenges faced by their students of color and that is troubling. For teachers to advocate on behalf of students of color, there needs to be a true depth of insight into the structural and systemic hurdles that obstruct many students of color at school.*

*Appropriate representation of the students in our schools should be a stated goal.*

5. San Diego Unified and Los Angeles Unified School Districts acknowledged that school closures, online learning, and incomplete access to technology are believed to have caused massive learning losses for many students, particularly low-income students. In light of the recent surge of COVID-19 cases and cancellation of in person classes, what are your proposals to help youth who struggle with absent parents, no internet, lack of meals, and lost job opportunities?

**Kellie Hinze:** *Under COVID-19 circumstances, I've worked closely with the local school districts to find ways for the city to support their students and families. Through our discussions, district leaders needed the city to do all we could to keep COVID case counts low so students could get back to in-person learning. We passed out masks at popular beach access points to prevent*

community spread. A total of 21,300 masks were passed out to beachgoers by 60 volunteers contributing 200 hours to this effort.

Council approved a pilot project to educate and enforce the mask requirements in our downtown area. Deputies were given extra masks to pass out to anyone without a facial covering. While I struggled to expend more funds for law enforcement, I felt it was worthwhile to do for the 3 months when we were united in the goal of getting students back into schools.

I voted to offer rental and utility stipends to our families in need. To date we expect to issue a total of 42 stipends to assist low-income residents. Utility costs including internet fees were eligible for these stipends. This will help families struggling to keep internet access in-tact for distance learning.

Many of our local families are small business owners and the city issued 192 small business relief grants to help make ends meet. Many of our local restaurants partnered up with Nourish North County, the grassroots effort to assist EUSD and other working families put food on the table by redistributing food that would have gone to waste as restaurant excess.

We stand ready to support the districts with use of our facilities, parks, and recreational space. The city continues to provide some virtual and socially distanced programming for youth. We partner with Encinitas Friends of the Arts to host the annual Dia de Los Muertos celebration. This event reaches many of our Spanish speaking and Latino families with fun activities and free cultural arts and programming.