



Heather Schmidt for Oxnard Harbor District: Downloadable Media Kit

Biography

Heather has over 20 years of experience working with the public in a variety of capacities, including as a community organizer, community educator, a policy advisor, and a political analyst. She couples this frontline experience with an education built upon strategies proven to solve community problems.

Heather holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Philosophy and Political Science from California Lutheran University, and holds a **Masters of Public Administration** from Grand Canyon University. She has published and worked on numerous papers in public policy, ethical governance, and strategies to address homelessness, climate, public cybersecurity, community safety and policing, fiscal management, and regional economic growth, and currently works as a freelance **Public Policy Advisor**. She also has additional professional certifications in **Cybersecurity Analyst, Data Analytics**, organizational leadership, and ADA compliance. Finally, she has over a decade of working as a freelance technical writer, with clients focused primarily in Human Resources and Organizational Leadership and Management.

In 2023, Heather cofounded an organization called VC Voter Edge, whose mission is centered on voters rights, voter education and registration, and Know Your Rights education for immigrant families in the region. Today, she is **President of this organization**. In 2024, Heather expanded her consulting business to offer pro bono services to Ventura County residents

and small businesses through an initiative called **Let's Get Local**. Through this initiative she has helped over 100 Ventura County residents – primarily focused in Oxnard and Port Hueneme – get connected with resources, solve neighborhood and community problems, understand ways to get more involved, answer questions on issues important to them, and more.

In addition to her education and current experience, she has worked in the past as a **Community Organizer** for the AFL-CIO, an **Organizer** for Ventura County Working People's Alliance, and on numerous campaigns for public office in the roles of **Chief Fundraiser, Field Director, Campaign Coordinator, and Policy Advisor**.

Candidate Headshot



Landscape



Vote

Heather Schmidt

For Oxnard Harbor District

Vertical



Talking Points

Economic Opportunity: The Port of Hueneme is the ideal location for further development of economic opportunity for Ventura County residents. Investing in expanded training and apprenticeship programs and seeking ways to lower the costs of doing business for port clients offers locals the opportunity to advance in their careers while strengthening the financial stability of the Port.

Environmental Sustainability: Through the implementation of evidence-based strategies in attacking climate change, the Port is primed for being a county's center for strategic climate resilience, including by leading the way through emissions reductions in Port activities.

Youth Investment: Expanding programming for STEM and logistics jobs creation for the greater Oxnard area's youth will be key to the Port's role in securing a better future for all of Ventura County.

Modernized Infrastructure: Strengthening Port relationships with the City of Oxnard, City of Port Hueneme, and County of Ventura to act as partners in the modernization of the region's infrastructure is a primary strategy to create jobs and support the working class, including out vital trucking and freight community.

FAQ

Q: How does the vote in this race work?

A: At-Large elections are mostly multi-seat contests. This one has 3 seats up for grabs. All of the seats are contested at-large. Voters elect several candidates at once to the same office. Under the standard plurality rules used in multi-seat elections, voters are allotted as many votes as there are seats. The top finishers need only a plurality, not a majority of votes cast, to win. The voter may only use one of his or her allotted votes for each candidate. Voters will get to select 3 candidates this time around.

Q: Who gets to vote and how many people will?

A: The Harbor District encompasses areas of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, El Rio,

and Nyland Acres, as well as residences in the naval base. In the last Gubernatorial midterm election, Ventura County had a 48% voter turnout of all eligible voters. However, Oxnard saw a significantly lower voter turnout at the local level. Turnout that year, which will be comparable to this year, was ~30%. Port Hueneme turnout at the last Gubernatorial midterm was nearly 100%.

Q: What is the purpose of the Oxnard Harbor District?

A: The Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor District was established to develop, improve, operate and maintain the deep-water harbor at Port Hueneme. The Port of Hueneme is the only deep water harbor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area and is the US Port of Entry for California's central coast region. It serves international businesses and ocean carriers from the Pacific Rim and Europe.

Q: What does the Oxnard Harbor District do?

A: The Oxnard Harbor District is an elected body of 5 people who govern the Port of Hueneme and protect the coastal waters in the Oxnard and Port Hueneme regions. Commissions approve funding for infrastructure projects, road repairs, port activities, as well as grants for job and youth development and climate resilience.

Q: Who are Heather's opponents?

A: Everyone is vying for three seats up for election this fall. At this time, only one commissioner has indicated interest in running again.

Q: What are key issues impacting this election cycle?

A: Affordability, cost of living, cost of housing, jobs and economic opportunity, environmental concerns, climate change (low confidence), anti-corruption.

Q: How can people get involved?

A: Go to Heather4Harbor.com and click contact for the various ways to get involved (host a meet and greet, precinct walk, donate, post a yard sign, etc.).

Contact Information

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