

BOB LEE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: [Jeff Rosell](#), (831) 454-2400

Letter from District Attorney Bob Lee to the Community

Dear Citizens of Santa Cruz County:

In recent months, I have been battling the acute ravages of an invasive and persistent cancer. I wish there was more encouraging news to report. Unfortunately, for every step forward in the last several months, there have been one or more steps backwards. I have won many battles but, quite frankly, seem to be losing the war.

Despite every effort on the medical front and my fervent desire for a different outcome, I have concluded that my health challenges will not permit me to commence my fourth term this coming January as your District Attorney. Every ounce of my strength and energy will be required to fight this insidious disease.

There are no words capable of expressing my heartache at not being able to serve my fourth term. The greatest privilege of my life has been to serve with my staff, and with so many members of the community, to make Santa Cruz County as safe and healthy as possible.

As a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz County, I wanted to become the District Attorney in order to effect a dramatic change in our local criminal justice system and to give back to the community that had given me so much. I wanted to make sure that victims were properly treated and that perpetrators of violent crimes were being brought to justice effectively.

I feel very proud that my staff and I have achieved those goals. I take great pride in the progress and the positive changes that we've accomplished over the past twelve years.

During my battle with cancer, I have done my best to make sure that the District Attorney's office has remained stable and effective.

Continuity in leadership is what I wish most for the office and the community as I confront the pressing medical challenges before me. I urge the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to appoint Chief Deputy District Attorney Jeff Rosell as my successor. No one inside or outside of the office has a better grasp of how far we've come and what will be required to continue moving towards a safer Santa Cruz County. Jeff has earned my complete trust and support, and I know he will be a phenomenal District Attorney.

As I prepare to leave the greatest job that any person could ever have, the inevitable sadness will be softened by the timeless memories of the personal relationships that my wife Barbara and I have developed with so many of you in our community. Nothing could hold greater value for me.

It has been the great honor and privilege of my life to have served as District Attorney of Santa Cruz County. I thank you for having given me that opportunity.

God bless you all.