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Page 1: Questionnaire

Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: **Steve Pleich**

Email:

Phone:

Website: **pleichforsupervisor.com**

Do you identify as LGBTIQ? **no**

Are you a GLBT Alliance member? **no**

Office you seek to be elected to: **3rd District Supervisor Santa Cruz County**

Q2 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: **Challenger**

Q3 Please describe your qualifications for the elected position you seek. Include your main issues, priorities if elected, key endorsements, plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

I am a 20-year resident of Santa Cruz County and have lived in the 3rd District for the last several years. I hold both Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Science of Laws degrees and worked professionally as a Legal Research Assistant with a Santa Clara County criminal law firm. In 2011, I was elected to the ACLU Santa Cruz County Board of Directors. I have served as a Steering Committee Member of the Santa Cruz County Community Coalition to Overcome Racism since 2013 and in 2015 I was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for the Mental Health Client Action Network. MHCAN is the only peer owned and peer staffed provider of behavioral health services and support in Santa Cruz County. This year, I was appointed to the Chief's Advisory Committee which consults and advises Chief Mills on matters of policy and procedure. I believe these current positions provide me with both a broad overview of county issues and a more focused knowledge of issues that affect my home district. I will be proud to serve as your representative on the Board of Supervisors and ask for your support and your vote. My main campaign issues are comprehensive health care, increased access to behavioral health services and support and rent control.

Q4 Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

I have been engaged in grassroots movements, notably desal and rent control, and understand the power of a movement of the people.

Q5 Please tell us about any past or current experiences or involvement you've had addressing LGBTIQ issues or work you've done to support the LGBTIQ community.

Personally and as a board member of the ACLU of Santa Cruz County, I have worked for LBGTIQ rights on many levels. We have proudly marched in both the Santa Cruz and Pajaro Valley Pride parades and continue to support LGBTIQ rights and equality. As board chair for MHCAN, our agency has historically provided services and support for the LBGTIQ community and particularly the transgender community. We are proud to continue that work.

Q6 What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

Marriage Equality and the continuing struggle for transgender rights and equality.

Q7 What is your philosophy about working with minority communities of which you are not a member, and how will this manifest in your future work with the LGBTIQ community?

My personal and political philosophy has always been to work with minority communities and I believe my engagement in this respect in our community is well known. I am very proud of this. My future work will include advocating for the creation of a county LGBTIQ Commission and Office of LBGTIQ Legal Affairs. This will provide a voice for that community and a direct line of communication to the supervisors.

Q8 Please describe any programs you know of that impact the LGBTIQ community and that are governed by or funded through the elected office you are running for? Include any suggestions you may have for improving these programs.

Programs for Queer Youth, and particularly outreach to LBGTIQ middle school and high school students must receive greater support and funding. Of course, the commission and office of legal affairs mentioned above must be given our full and continuing support.

Q9 If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

Simply by continuing my personal and historic support and by establishing the commission and legal affairs office to highlight the importance of LBGTIQ rights and equality to our community. It must be firmly established as a recognized and honored community value.

Q10 If you receive the GLBT Alliance's endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature?

Yes, please send me the GLBT Alliance's logo (jpg file) so I can proudly announce the endorsement on my campaign literature, social media and website!