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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1: Questionnaire

**Q1 Candidate Information**

**Candidate Name:** Carolyn Freedman  
**Email:** carolynforschoolboard@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 831-431-0586

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**Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?**

Soquel Union Elementary School District Board Member

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**Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy:** **Open Seat**

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**Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ?** **No, but I strive to be a LGBTIQ ally!**

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**Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance?** **No, but I'd like information on how I can become a member.**

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**Q6** 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 believe that all of our children deserve an education that will prepare them to be lifelong learners and achieve their goals. If elected, I will work to ensure that all students have access to the tools they need to succeed and that all students are academically challenged and engaged. I also believe that our schools should be sufficiently and responsibly funded to keep and recruit excellent teachers and to meet the needs of our students. I am the mother of three children who go to school in our district. Over the past six years, I have taken on many roles and have worked hard to support students and teachers at my children's school. When my oldest child entered Kindergarten in 2012, I started volunteering in his classroom. Since then, I have taken on many roles as a volunteer at my children's school. These include: providing mindfulness instruction in several classrooms (including lessons on tolerance, anti-bullying, and anti-prejudice), putting together and leading a mindfulness instruction course for the teachers and staff, translating teacher newsletters into Spanish, leading a school-wide monthly art program, organizing after-school enrichment classes, providing administrative support for 5th grade science camp, organizing the school variety show, supporting fundraising activities, and being a reliable member of the Home & School Club. My education and training was in clinical psychology. I graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Denver. I have worked with children, homeless youth, pediatric cancer patients, veterans, and a diverse group of individuals and families in English and Spanish. Thus far, I have been endorsed by the Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County, Adam Spickler (Trustee Area 2 – Cabrillo Community College Governing Board\*), Bruce Van Allen (President, Santa Cruz County Board of Education\*), Ryan Coonerty (Third District Supervisor for Santa Cruz County\*), Cynthia Mathews (Santa Cruz City Councilmember\*), Sue Roth (Trustee, Santa Cruz County Board of Education\*), Kim de Serpa (Trustee, Pajaro Valley Unified School District\*), and Deb Tracy-Proulx (Trustee, Santa Cruz City Schools\*), Amanda Jackson Miller (Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*), Sandra Wallace (Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*), Ted Donnelly (Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*), Phil Rodriguez (Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*), Tory Del Favero (Former Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*), and Lou Tuosto (Former Trustee, Soquel Union Elementary School District\*). \*Organizational names listed for identification purposes only.

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**Q7** Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance. I support the LGBTIQ community and feel strongly that LGBTIQ students deserve an opportunity to achieve their goals and pursue their dreams in a safe and welcoming educational environment.

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**Q8** 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.

I worked at a shelter for homeless youth, many of whom identified as LGBTIQ. In that capacity, I assessed their mental health status and needs, identified appropriate social services, and provided individual therapy services. I have become passionate about public education and creating a positive school experience as demonstrated by my implementation of a school mindfulness program that includes strong anti-bullying and tolerance components.

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**Q9** What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

I am aware of the historical struggle of the LGBTIQ community and the continued challenges faced by your community. There is a long history of discrimination against members of the LGBTIQ community that needs to be recognized and considered as we lead our public schools.

**Q10** 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?

As a Jewish, Latina woman, I am sensitive to issues of inequality, underrepresentation, discrimination, and persecution. I feel strong solidarity with the LGBTIQ community, and I am eager to work with individuals of minority communities in which I am not a member.

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**Q11** 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.

New Brighton Middle School, the middle school in my district, has a Queer Straight Alliance that is active and supported by the school administration. The Safe School Project is a program that could be more widely implemented in my district.

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**Q12** If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

If elected, I will make myself available and accessible to the LGBTIQ community. I will support programs that are helpful to LGBTIQ students in the district.

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**Q13** 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!**

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