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Page 1: Questionnaire

Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Dr. Lupe Rivas
Email: ljrivas4@sncglobal.com
Phone: (831)247-2148
Website: None

Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Watsonville City Council-District 7

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

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ?

No, but I strive to be a LGBTIQ ally!
Is there anything else about your identity that you'd like us to know?:
Have relatives who are gay and have always felt sad that they couldn't live as openly gay for fear of being alienated by family(in Texas)

Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance?

No, but I'd like information on how I can become a member.

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.

My qualifications include over 35 yrs. of teaching and administrative experiences in public education and experiences serving on several boards: four years on Pajaro Valley School Board, five years on the CAB board, five years on Bay Village Board, presently member of CAI Retired Teachers Board and Currently President, Watsonville Senior Citizen Board and Friends of Watsonville Library Board and a long time member of PV Cesar Chavez Club and most importantly an activist in the community!

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

I am seeking this endorsement because I think this community represents many of our member in the community and as a teacher and community member, we need to support their efforts of inclusion and equal rights! Our LGBTIQ need to be recognized and appreciated for their uniqueness and positive contributions to our community!

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.

When I served as an administrator for Pajaro Valley School District I served on one of the first LGBT committees formed in 2000 to address how to deal with issues at the school sites! We were able to encourage high schools to allow school sites to create LGBT clubs to give students in high schools a sense of belonging and acceptance, plus provide trainings for personnel to deal with issues being raised at that time! As a board member I made sure that we dealt with students that were from the LGBT community to be given opportunities to be themselves in a safe environment! We also hired more mental health counselors at middle schools and high schools to work with students that had emotional problems identity issues! On a personal basis one of my peer cousins is gay and have always encouraged him to be

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

Well as an American of Hispanic descent, I always lived with issues of equity and civil rights and because I've lived with discrimination because of race and language I know how it feels to be discriminated against, so I empathize with my LGBT partners who are made to feel less for who they are! I attended schools in Texas and was punished for speaking spanish and have since have made sure children are not punished for not speaking English!

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?

Fortunately I'm very proud of being a member of a minority community and my philosophy is that all students can and will learn and that you must treat all people with respect! Foremost we are all people that can contribute to our community and with respect, education and the right resources all of us can contribute and be very valuable citizens to our communities! I came from a home where Spanish was our first language and out of seven of us siblings four became teachers, with that in mind I will champion all of our citizens, including LGBTIQ with respect and encourage their endeavors and highlight their talents so that they may become the best they can be!

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.

Not sure if all the programs but I do know of a few that depend on funding by the city: suicide prevention programs, mental health programs, and most importantly planned parent/hood! Programs are vital in providing resources for children, teens and young adults! All programs could use more funding and as an elected official I will work to insure we work with county, state and federal programs to insure we get maximum funding from these levels of government!

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

As an elected official I will work to insure resources are allocated to highlight achievements of the LGBTIQ community members including allocating resources to put on the annual Gay Pride yearly event! Attended today and disappointed we didn't have more community booths not associated with Gay community! Food booths would have been nice! More attendance by city would have been good!

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!
