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Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Yvette Brooks
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Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Capitola City Council

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!

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.

I am seeking office because I am committed to a sustainable, safe and family-friendly Capitola. As a second generation Mexican American woman that was first in my family to graduate from a four year college, I am eager to pave a path for my young daughter. I also hope to inspire others to pursue public service and get involved in our remarkable community. After graduating from UC Santa Cruz in 2006, I started my position at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, first working in human resources and then transitioning to my current capacity, serving the Special Education Department. My qualifications stem from my work in the field of education. They have driven my appreciation that quality education is an essential component in our society, contributing to success in life for all. As a result it has furthered my drive to expand my passion and skills and serve our community by volunteering on the Childhood Advisory Council, the Board of the Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery, and most recently graduating from the Capitola Leadership Academy. My central focus is to ensure Capitola is sustainable, safe, and family-friendly. My priority is to prepare Capitola for the future, while keeping its intimate small-town feel and coastal village charm. I will to bring community voices to the table, to collectively problem solve our very real challenges, including impeding pension costs and other budget shortfalls, without compromising what makes Capitola special. I've been endorsed by Capitola Mayor Michael Termini, Capitola City Councilmembers, Kristen Petersen, Ed Botorff and Stephanie Harlan, as well as County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty and Zach Friend, amongst many other business owners and community members. I've had the opportunity to meet with many stakeholders to better understand the issues, and possible solutions, as well as leadership qualities they seek for their council members.

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

I am seeking the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance because I want my community to know that I support civil rights and the rights of all. I stand behind the organizations mission in enhancing the rights of the LGBTIQ community through local advocacy and action. I would be honored to receive the GLBT Alliances endorsement.

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.

My past experiences supporting LGBTIQ issues include; creating my high schools first non-profit health education programs, Teens Teaching Teens (3Ts) while I was a student myself. This catapulted me into public service where I trained peers, attended conventions and took my program on City- and State-wide roadshows. The program focused on bullying, health, drugs, safe sex, gender identification and inclusivism. This experience has enabled me to be mindful and aware of the discrimination taking place currently.

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

While great progress has been made toward equality, there is still much more to be done. Our current Administration has reversed years of progress, by discriminating against the rights of those that are transgender in the military, refusing to recognize Pride Month, staffing those against civil rights and banning gender neutral bathrooms amongst many other things. This is a direct hit against the community and more than ever it is time to unite and come together as a community in support of one another.

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?

My philosophy is to work together. I am proud to say that the City of Capitola has adopted many policies in support of equality. I want to ensure City residents and those from minority communities are never discriminated against no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identification or sexual orientation. I will do my best to be accessible and welcoming to all.

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.

Working in education, I have noticed many schools lack the funds necessary for training, enforcement and implementation of policies to educate students on equality, and protect students from bullying. While many schools in our areas have clubs, not all do, and not all are able to. I would like to see City Officials collaborate with local school districts in helping create awareness for students and families locally.

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

If I were elected, I would use my position to ensure local leaders know of new and pending anti-discrimination policies. I will also continue to be an ally to the LGBTIQ community and advocate for its issues as they arise.

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!
