

1. Please describe your qualifications for the position you seek (include your key issues, priorities if elected, and any key endorsements you'd like to share), plus anything else that you'd like our members to know about you and your candidacy.

Over my first term I've been fortunate to work on a number of my key issues: from bringing the Sheriff's Office back to full staffing for the first time since the beginning of the Great Recession to making the largest investments in parks in my district in over a generation - to significant improvements on affordable housing policy, community programs funding and economic vitality issues. If I have the privilege of being reelected I plan to build on these issues and focus even more on affordable housing needs, transportation improvements and the staggering rates of poverty (1 in 5) and child food insecurity (1 in 6) in our county.

I've been fortunate to be endorsed by a number of community members, elected officials and community groups.

Here is short list of my endorsements:

- Congressman Sam Farr
- Assemblymember Mark Stone
- Senator Bill Monning
- Sheriff Jim Hart
- The entire Watsonville and Capitola City Councils
- Santa Cruz County Democratic Party
- Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County
- Monterey Bay Central Labor Council

2. Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

It would be an honor to have the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance - in many ways, an endorsement from the GLBT Alliance is a statement to the community that my work as an elected official (and previously as Chair of the Santa Cruz

County Democratic Party) has been that of an ally for the LGBTQ community. I truly believe a lot of my work and actions reflect exactly that, but an endorsement from the GLBT Alliance helps showcase that to others.

3. Please tell us about any past or current experiences or involvement you've had addressing LGBTQ issues, or working to support the LGBTQ community.

I have been actively involved in LGBTQ issues for many years - from over twenty years ago serving with a community organization that provided groceries and dinners to homebound LGBTQ individuals to over the last decade participating in the Pride parade, being a judge and participant in the Queer Youth Leadership Awards and (since becoming County Supervisor) officiating in GLBT weddings. Recently, I was proud to stand with my colleagues as we voted on a County government travel ban to North Carolina and Mississippi in response to their recent discriminatory legislation. Additionally, I'm fortunate to have a strong relationship with the Diversity Center staff and Board.

4. What political or civil rights issues were you aware of, prior to reading the attached informational materials, regarding LGBTQ equality?

- Marriage Equality
- Trans equality and equal protections in the workplace. Although there has been movement on the state and national levels for providing protections of the lesbian and gay population for workplace protections, there has been less success in the arena of gender identity equality.
- We have unfortunately been seeing several "backlash bills" across the nation that attempt to turn back the clock on decades worth of hard fought civil rights for LGBTQ people.
- Genderqueer identity acceptance - Historically an often less visible part of the LGBTQ community, issues surrounding genderqueer identity have been brought into the public eye over the past few years. Public support has arisen from celebrities who have said they do not want to identify as being only male or female, but it is an issue that many struggle to understand. Gender neutral bathrooms and the need to provide a space beyond the

gender binary have pushed this topic to be part of the public dialogue.

5. 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 LGBTQ community?

While it may not be necessary to be a member of a minority community to be a strong advocate of their needs, I am keenly aware that my experiences will never directly parallel those that are - I think it's essential to truly listen, to maintain an open dialogue and build close (personal) relationships to be an effective voice. With these elements I can work to ensure my voice at the Board represents all voices - especially those that often find they are not heard as much in our processes.

6. Please describe any programs you know of that impact the LGBTQ community and that are governed by or funded through the elected office you are running for, and include any suggestions you may have for improvements.

Many programs the County funds impact the LGBTQ community as part of our greater community. In particular though, we know that unfortunately, LGBTQ youth are impacted in greater numbers by issues of homelessness, substance abuse and the need for mental health support. For these reasons, the funding that goes to address these issues through programs like the recent completion of the Behavior Health Center and the creation of a new Homeless Services Coordinator position at the county, directly benefit LGBT members of our community.

Along those same lines, LGBTQ seniors are often more isolated as they age and potentially face discrimination when looking for care. We aim to address obstacles faced by seniors through numerous programs funded by the county including Senior Network Services, Senior Legal Services, Meals on Wheels (among other programs).

Additionally, our community programs funding has provided funds for the Diversity Center for outreach - especially youth outreach.

7. If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTQ community?

If I'm fortunate enough to be reelected I intend to continue working with the LGBTQ community in many of the same ways - participating in the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, officiating at weddings, supporting funding for programs and being a voice, advocate and presence, at events and in the community.

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

Yes - absolutely.