

Candidate and Campaign Information

Candidate Name: <b>Bill Monning</b>	
Campaign Address: <b>PO Box 1385, Monterey CA 93942</b>	Phone: <b>831-471-5302</b>
Campaign Website: <b>www.billmonning.org</b>	Email: <b>info@billmonning.org</b> _____
Campaign Manager Name/Email/Phone: <b>Bruce Van Allen, bva@cruzio.com, 831-429-1688</b>	
Office you seek to be elected to: <b>CA State Senate</b>	District Number: <b>17</b>
Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: Challenger Incumbent Open Seat  INCUMBENT, Senate Majority Leader	
Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance? If so, when did you first join?  Not sure about membership, but have been sponsor of events since 2008.	
Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ community? If not, do you identify as an LGBTQ ally?  I strongly and proudly identify as an LGBTQ Ally!	

Questionnaire (please answer questions directly and keep responses succinct and brief)

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. I am finishing my first term in Senate and currently serve as Majority Leader. I was first elected to the Assembly in 2008. I have enjoyed the support of the LBGT community, the civil rights community, environmental, and labor communities. I have been endorsed by the California State Democratic Party, the California Labor Federation, and the California League of Conservation Voters.
2. Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance? Because of my great respect for the work of the GLBT Alliance, its inclusive approach to the community, and its intentional and positive engagement in the political process.
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. My voting record is the best evidence of my support for conforming California law(s) to reflect equality marriage, transgender rights, and acceptance and support for the full array of human and civil rights in housing, employment, healthcare, education, etc.
4. What political or civil rights issues were you aware of, prior to reading the attached informational materials, regarding LGBTQ equality? I consider myself to be a strong LGBTQ ally and I have demonstrated that in my leadership in the Assembly and Senate and as a member of the judiciary committees in both houses during the past 7.5 years. While we have enjoyed tremendous progress in the past decade including the U.S> Supreme Court's recognition of equality marriage, we face continued challenges in combatting ignorance and bias on many fronts.
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? I have devoted my entire adult life and professional career to the empowerment of disenfranchised individuals and communities as a labor, civil rights, immigration, and personal injury attorney; as an educator; as a political activist; and as an elected

representative.

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. In California, we have moved ahead of the nation in paving the way for LGBTQ rights including full access to healthcare, employment, and marriage for gay and transgendered individuals. We must still fight to make sure that guaranteed rights are indeed protected in the daily lives of all individuals. California can continue to lead the nation in education, and legal enforcement. Just this session, we voted to remove antiquated references to “husband and wife” from California’s civil codes.
7. If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTQ community?  
By maintaining a close connection with the community, an open door policy, and a readiness and commitment to fight where discrimination appears and to take pride in articulating respect for the LGBTQ community with any audience, forum, or community.
8. If you receive the GLBT Alliance’s endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature? YES, proudly.