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Page 1: Questionnaire

### Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: **Jimmy Dutra**

Email:

Phone:

Do you identify as LGBTIQ? **Yes. I am gay.**

Are you a GLBT Alliance member? **No**

Office you seek to be elected to: **Santa Cruz County Supervisor**

Q2 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: **Challenger**

Q3 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.

Jimmy Dutra is the Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Watsonville, Immediate Past Chairman of the Board for Santa Cruz Metro, President of the Board for the Pajaro Valley Shelter Services and small business owner running for Santa Cruz County District 4 Supervisor. Jimmy is a third generation Watsonville native. He is a product of local schools and holds a Political Science Degree from Santa Clara University. Jimmy currently attends the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy where he is earning his Master in Executive Leadership. He graduates May 2018. In addition, he currently owns and operates his own small business, Jimmy's Pumpkins, on East Lake Avenue in Watsonville. Jimmy has been actively involved with the community throughout his whole life and is extremely aware of the needs of South County. As Supervisor he will continue to work on specific projects aimed at making his community a better place to live. Priority issues he will address include homelessness, fixing the infrastructure, housing, cleaning up the garbage and graffiti throughout the district and building a better relationship between the city and the county. Through Jimmy's community service over the years he has worked with Santa Cruz Metro, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Pajaro Valley Shelter Services, Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Foundation, California League of Cities, California League of Cities LGBTQ Caucus, Police Activities League (PAL), Second Harvest Food Bank, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Jacob's Heart, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Santa Cruz County Diversity Center and many other community partners. Jimmy strives to help make the lives of those around him better. Jimmy has been endorsed by Assembly Member Anna Caballero, City Council Member Rebecca Garcia and Pajaro Valley Unified School District President Leslie DeRose, along with over 500 local endorsements of other elected officials, commissioners, residents and business owners.

**Q4** Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

As the only Openly gay person elected to office in Santa Cruz County, I have found it imperative to represent our community in the most OUT and OPEN way possible. To be endorsed by the LGBTQ community through the Alliance would validate all the hard work I have been putting in representing our community in our county, state and country.

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**Q5** 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 came out as a gay man at the age of 25. Since then I have strongly advocated for LGBTQ rights. I took to the streets in 2008 when Proposition 8 was placed on the California ballot to deny gay men and women the right to marry. Since then I have participated with events put on by the Human Rights Campaign, Victory Fund, Equality California, Baymec, Santa Cruz Diversity Center and other LGBTQ organizations. I have been the chair for Santa Cruz Pride as well as held other positions with SC Pride over the years. In 2016 I helped local LGBTQ leaders get Pajaro Valley Pride in Watsonville off the ground. I was named Grand Marshall for the very first PV Pride. Since then I have helped raise money and develop this annual celebration. This past year we were able to award \$1,000 scholarship to a college bound LGBTQ youth. In 2014 I was elected as the first openly LGBTQ person to the city council in the City of Watsonville (California). I am currently the ONLY gay elected in the county in any elected position. Since being on the board I have been instrumental with the banning of travel to North Carolina for their transgender bathroom bill, worked with the city to award their first grant ever to a LGBTQ organization, enhanced our contracts and legal documentation to include LGBTQ protective language, brought presentations to the city council that are LGBTQ related, attended GSA and other LGBTQ youth meetings and events, and supported the local shelter aimed at LGBTQ homeless youth. I am actively involved with the Santa Cruz Diversity Center and have been their emcee for their annual gala for the past three years. This past year I was asked to be in a public service announcement (PSA) for the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, which are put on by the county's GSA programs. I am honored to have recently been elected to the League of California Cities Board for the LGBTQ Caucus. I am an active voice in local, state and national levels for the LGBTQ community and am proud to be an out gay representative in Santa Cruz County.

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**Q6** What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

WE the LGBTQ community have come a long way. From the days of Stonewall to Marriage Equality, the LGBTQ community has been non-stop fighting for our rights. We have seen adoption, rental and workforce employment laws be fought for and won and lost in many states. In 2015 in Obergefell v. Hodges we saw the Supreme allow same sex couples to adopt nationwide. We have seen Don't Ask Don't Tell be struck down and service people allowed to serve openly. We have also seen the service of Transgender people challenged under the Trump administration. In addition we have witnessed bathroom bills denying transgender people the right to use their identifying restroom and bakers having the ability to deny loving couples service because of their religious views. We have come a long way, but there is still a long way to go.

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**Q7** 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?

I am a gay latino and represent two minority groups. However, here are a few examples of my interactions with other minority groups. I am currently the President of the Pajaro Valley Shelter Services. We are a transitional and emergency shelter aimed mainly for women and children. We offer the tools needed in order for these clients to get back on their feet and back out into society. I am thoughtful and mindful when dealing with this vulnerable subject and the lives I come across while at the shelter. In addition, I am the immediate past Chairman of the Board for Santa Cruz Metro. I was the youngest and first openly LGBTQ person elected last year to run the entire metro and paratransit board. It is important to me that I be a voice for our disadvantaged communities and the people who depend on this service every day.

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**Q8** 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.

If elected I would be a huge advocate for funding our local non-profits who interact with the LGBTQ community. Having someone on the board who makes the LGBTQ a priority will be invaluable. I can ensure the maximum amount of support will come our way. I have been a great supporter of the Diversity Center and all their programs, especially the ones in South County. I have had the opportunity to speak and interact with the kids in south county and there will be no better representative than me to get us the funding necessary to keep our programming strong. We are lucky to live in a community and county that is accepting to our movement.

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**Q9** If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

I will be a strong voice. I will be a an advocate for all of us!

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**Q10** 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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