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Q1 Candidate Information

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| Candidate Name: | Jimmy Panetta |
| Email: | rivasr@gmail.com |
| Phone: | 415-515-4261 |
| Website: | www.jimmypanettaforcongress.com |
| Do you identify as LGBTIQ? | Ally |
| Office you seek to be elected to: | Congressional District 20 |

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

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.

I was first elected to serve the 20th District in Congress in 2016. I previously served as a prosecutor in Monterey County. I began my legal career in 1996, as a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in Oakland. I received my law degree from Santa Clara University and undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of California at Davis. In between college and law school, I worked on missile and chemical weapons nonproliferation issues for the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. and at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. During that period, I also worked as an Outreach Coordinator for Legal Services for Seniors in Monterey and as an Ordinary Seaman assisting with hydrographic research aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship off the coast of Alaska. In 2003, I was commissioned as an Officer with the United States Navy Reserve. In 2007, I was mobilized to active duty with a Special Operations task force and deployed to Afghanistan.

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

I am a strong supporter of LGBTIQ rights and equality and the support of the GLBT Alliance would mean a great deal to my re-election campaign.

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 have many friends and colleagues in the LGBT community and consider myself a strong ally. I have maintained a close connection to the local LGBT community during my first two years of service in Congress. In addition, I have supported pro-LGBT legislation during my first term in Congress, including the Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act and the Equality Act.

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

I am aware of the many issues that face LGBT Americans. California really has served as the model when it comes to protections and equality for the LGBT community. The rest of the country still has more work to do and I am committed to pushing for full equality at the national level.

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 running for office to represent ALL the people in the 20th Congressional District - not just some of them. I will fight for everyone, whether it is issues affecting the LGBT community, gender equality, the disparity in income which is one of the biggest issues we are facing as a nation - for me, it is an issue of equality, and I support full equality.

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.

There are many programs that impact the LGBTQ community that are funded by the federal government. I am committed to ensuring that the federally funded programs continue to be funded, so that our local and state agencies can continue doing the great work of serving the LGBTQ community.

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

I will continue to be an ally and advocate for the LGBTQ community. You can count on me to attend rallies, support legislation, and advocate for full equality in California and throughout the country. I am proud to represent you and to be working on your behalf in Congress.

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!
