



County Supervisor, 4th District

Terry Medina

1- Please tell us why you are interested in reaching out to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community.

I have long been a supporter of the GLBT community and supported a variety of initiatives and programs such as establishing the very first needle exchange program with John Laird and the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. I believe strongly in principles like equality, fairness and access to quality health care for all individuals. If elected I look forward to working with the LGBT Alliance on issues of importance to your members and I would be honored to have your endorsement.

2- Why do you want the endorsement of The GLBT Alliance, Santa Cruz County's grassroots progressive gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender political organization?

The GLBT Alliance is an important part of the progressive community in Santa Cruz County and I have great respect for the Alliance's work in raising awareness about the issues impacting the GLBT community. I recognize that there is much work yet to be done and if elected I would welcome the opportunity to work with the GLBT Alliance on a variety of issues. I would be honored to have the endorsement of the GLBT Alliance.

3- Please tell us about your history with the LGBT community, and your awareness of issues specific to our community.

a - Have you had any opportunities to address LGBT issues in the course of your community service or professional life to date (i.e., have you helped formulate corporate non-discrimination standards, worked on the board of a non-profit that developed a LGBT outreach program, etc.)?

Please tell us about this work.

I partnered with John Laird and the Santa Cruz AIDS project to install the first needle exchange program in Watsonville during my years as Chief of Police.

I was asked to be a judge in the first queer youth awards at the County Office of Education in order to help build relationships between local law enforcement and queer youth. I was honored to recently be asked to serve as a judge at the 2014 Queer Youth Leadership Awards.

b - The queer community is diverse, and we work to represent all elements of it. In support of that objective, we'd like to ask, specifically, whether you know any self-identified bisexual or transgender people, and if you are familiar, at any level, with the issues these specific communities face?

I do know bisexual and transgender individuals. I am familiar with some of the issues relating to these specific communities especially in the areas of discrimination and victimization. I dealt with these issues during my career in law enforcement. I would welcome the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing these individuals and what I can do as a County Supervisor to address these issues.

c - As documented in the The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute publication, "Bisexual health: An introduction and model practices for HIV/STI prevention programming" (2007), which is available for download at the URL below, in many cases bisexual people face even greater health risks and obstacles to accessing effective health care and health information than their peers in the queer community, including higher levels of self-harm, suicide attempts and thoughts of suicide. What specific steps would you take to address the issues raised in this report, and elsewhere, that are specific to bisexuals, including "biphobia" and lack of service provider awareness of bisexuality? http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/bi_health_5_07_b.pdf

A summary of the top ten health issues for the bisexual community, sourced from the above report, can be found here:

http://brown.edu/Student_Services/Health_Services/Health_Education/lgbtq_health/bisexual_health/health_concerns_for_bisexuals.php

As a County Supervisor I believe it is my responsibility to ensure equal access to quality and affordable health care for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation. If elected County Supervisor I will use my position to help ensure all individuals have access to quality and affordable health care. My door will always be open to the GLBT Alliance to ensure issues important to your organization and members are being addressed at the County level.

4 - Many adults, in and outside of the queer community, express their sexuality in a variety of ways, many of which are not well understood by the general public or the service provider community, and often subject to severe social stigma; this frequently leads to poor health outcomes for the individuals in question and / or complications when interacting with the legal system and social services providers.

What do you know about "alternative" sexualities aka Leather/BSDM/Fetish (often collectively referred to as "kink") and their associated communities? Are you willing to learn more about them and engage in dialogue with people from your community who express their sexuality in this manner, in order to ensure that these constituents are better served by the agencies and institutions that you will be overseeing?

The Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance, which "works to advance the recognition of sexual, gender, and family diversity" and "to affirm sexual freedom as a fundamental human right" addresses these issues as part of their larger agenda of supporting "sexual freedom". Their web site is at <http://www.woodhullalliance.org/> <<http://www.woodhullalliance.org/%E2%80%8E>>

The National Coalition for Sexual Freedom (NCSF) has an introduction to SM that outlines the governing principles followed by responsible individuals and organizations within these communities: <https://ncsfreedom.org/key-programs/education-outreach/education-outreach-program-page.html>

As a participant in the California Homicide Investigators Association I participated in training on these issues and am familiar with the subject mater. I am open to learning more about this subject and engage in dialogue. My goal is to ensure that all people are treated fairly and given equal protections under the law.

5 - Many adults, in and outside of the queer community, participate in relationships that do not fit the traditional two-partner model, and in doing so, are subject to discrimination in housing, insurance coverage and access to health care, immigration, custody and parental rights.

What do you know about these "alternative" relationship structures, often referred to by those participating in them as the practice of "polyamory" (defined as "the practice, desire, or acceptance of having more than one intimate relationship at a time with the knowledge and consent of everyone involved"), the people who participate in them, and the communities that have formed around them? Are you willing to learn more about how these types of relationship structures work, and engage in

dialogue with people who participate in them, in order to ensure that these constituents are better served by the agencies and institutions you will be overseeing?

You can find out more about the types of families, and the issues they face, on the Family Matters Project website (sponsored by the Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance) at <http://www.familymattersproject.org>, which is "dedicated to advancing, respecting and protecting the fundamental human right to family by eliminating discrimination based on family structure and relationship choices."

I am familiar with polyamory and would be open to learning more. If elected I will always use my position to ensure fight discrimination in areas such as housing, insurance coverage and access to health care, immigration, custody and parental rights.

6 - Have there been any LGBT people who've had a significant impact on your life as role models, inspirations, mentors, friends, etc.?
If so, please tell us a little bit about how they've influenced you.

I have always admired John Laird and worked proactively with him on a number of issues over the years including establishing the first needle exchange program in the City of Watsonville. I have great respect for Dr. Stan Haiduk and will continue working with him in order to understand policy implications to the LGBT community.

7- Please describe your philosophy for working with under-represented communities of which you are not a member and, specifically, how this will manifest itself in your tenure in office.

I believe strongly in working with under-represented communities and believe my tenure as Chief of Police in the City of Watsonville reflects this. I worked hard to ensure that the local police force reflects the community and I worked proactively to recruit Latino officers and bilingual officers. If elected I will continue to apply these principles to my role as County Supervisor to ensure that all individuals have access to important items such as quality housing and affordable health care.

8 - Please tell us what you know about current County-operated or funded programs which impact the LGBT community, and what suggestions, if any, you have for improvements.

I am very grateful for the diverse and important non-profit, NGO, and local government programs that provide essential social services to those in need. Organization such as Salud Para La Gente, Planned Parenthood and Santa Cruz AIDS projects are vital to ensuring we have a healthy community. I recognize that the County plays an integral role in supporting these organizations and if elected I will work proactively to support them in a variety of ways.

9 - Local non-profits that serve the LGBT community, along with other non-profits, have experienced considerable cuts in funding from all sources over the past couple of years.
As a County Supervisor, where would you place funding for health and human services on your priority list?

I believe one of the most important roles of a County Supervisor is to provide quality and affordable health care to all individuals, especially those in need. If elected I will work proactively to support local non-profits that serve the LGBT community and those who need assistance. In order to thrive our community must provide assistance to those in need and I will work hard to ensure we do what we can.

10 - Will you insist that the County not associate with organizations - such as the Boy Scouts and The Salvation Army - that have clearly stated their intent to discriminate against LGBT people, supporting, instead, such inclusive organizations as Girl Scouts or Big Brothers/Big Sisters or Goodwill?

I do not believe the County should affiliate with any organizations or individuals that openly discriminate against LGBT individuals.

11 - Will you ensure that medical insurance for County employees covers complete health care for gender reassignment surgery and medical care for transgender employees and family?

Yes

12 – If elected, do you intend to take a leadership role with respect to LGBT youth in Santa Cruz, working to ensure that all schools are safe for all students? If yes, please cite a concrete example of how you would do so.

In particular, do you support AB 1266, which guarantees equal access to all school programs and facilities for students in accordance with their expressed gender identity?

Yes, I will take a leadership role with respect to LGBT youth in Santa Cruz. I have always supported LGBT youth including serving as a judge at the first queer youth awards in order to help build relationships between local law enforcement and queer youth.

I support AB 1266. Equal access to all school programs and facilities for students is essential. I was glad to see efforts to repeal AB 1266 fail.

13 – If elected, do you intend to take a leadership role with respect to rights and services for LGBT elders in Santa Cruz? If yes, please cite a concrete example of how you would do so.

Yes. I would ask my staff to examine ways we can expand services for LGBT elders in Santa Cruz.

14 - What would you do to support HIV education and services for at-risk communities in Santa Cruz County?

Specifically, do you support syringe exchange in an effort to stop the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases and will you work to keep the program based on best practices and evidence-based research?

I would work proactively to support HIV education and services for at-risk communities in SC County. Yes, I support responsibly managed syringe exchange programs and believe they are essential to reducing the spread of disease. I will work to keep the program based on best practices and evidence-based research.

15 - Do you support marriage equality? Are you aware of a nation-wide movement to create "religious exemptions" to marriage equality and other nondiscrimination laws (e.g.: AB 2237 - text here:

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_2201-](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_2201-2250/ab_2237_bill_20140221_introduced.html)

[2250/ab_2237_bill_20140221_introduced.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_2201-2250/ab_2237_bill_20140221_introduced.html))? Do you have a position on such exemptions?

I 100% support marriage equality and I do not support exemptions or reductions in marriage equality.

16 – Have you taken a public position on marriage equality? If so, what is it?

Yes, I have always supported marriage equality.

17 - Have you in the past, and will you in the future, attend lgbt events, such as LGBT Pride, Queer Youth Leadership Awards, or the BAYMEC dinner?

If you have not attended, why not?

I have attended events such as those listed and would be honored to continue attending in the future. I will be attending the annual BAYMEC dinner in 2014 as well as the Queer Youth Awards

18 - If you receive The GLBT Alliance's endorsement, will you display it in your campaign literature?

Absolutely. I would be honored to do so.

19 - Have you received endorsements which you think might be of interest to the LGBT community?

I have a wide cross section of endorsements. They can be found at medinaforsupervisor.com

20 - Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

I would be deeply honored to have the support of the LGBT Alliance. I believe in equality for all people. If elected my door will always be open to the LGBT Alliance and I welcome the opportunity to work with you on issue impacting your members.

It is also worth noting that I am a terrible golfer.

