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Q1 Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Rebecca Garcia
Email: rebeccaforcitycouncil47@gmail.com
Phone: 831-728-0387

Q2 What office do you seek to be elected to?

Watsonville City Council

Q3 Please choose the option best describing your candidacy: Incumbent

Q4 Do you identify as LGBTIQ? No, but I strive to be a LGBTIQ ally!

Q5 Are you a member of the GLBT Alliance? No, but I'd like information on how I can become a member.

Q6 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.

In the last four years I have provided leadership at the District 5 level and at the city-at-large. At the district level I have had district meetings on Traffic and Youth Violence Prevention. In October I will be having a District meeting on learning about the three Affordable Housing Programs Watsonville has. For city issues I have brought to the Council for discussion or action issues of Human Trafficking, Climate Change, Flavored Tobacco, Predatory Lending, and Reaffirming our Sanctuary Status. Issues that remain to be addressed is Homelessness, Housing Affordability, and Sustaining our Budget with Pension Increases. The issues I address apply to all members of our community including GLBT.

Q7 Why are you seeking the endorsement of Santa Cruz County's grassroots LGBTIQ political organization, the GLBT Alliance?

As a Chicana/Latina born and raised in Watsonville I have had to overcome many barriers, obstacles and discrimination. LGBTIQ individuals have also have had to overcome barriers, obstacles, and discrimination. We need to work together to attain social justice for all of us.

Q8 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.

My first experience with LGBTIQ issues was when I was Principal of Rolling Hills Middle School in the 1990's. I had a young student who was bullied because she publicly declared she was gay. I had discussions with her to have her hold her head up high and of course gave consequences to those who bullied her. Most recently my only ally on the City Council is Jimmy Dutra. Jimmy has often shared with me the issues with which he has to deal. I support the Pajaro Valley Pride by attending their annual celebration and last year contributed to their scholarship fund.

Q9 What historic political or civil rights struggles are you familiar with that impact LGBTIQ equality?

There are so many, but the one that stands out for me is the struggle to marry the person you love.

Q10 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?

As I previously mentioned social justice has to be fought by all of us together. LBGTIQ is an oppressed group. As a Chicana I've have had to fight that oppression all my life.

Q11 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.

In the city of Watsonville there is no program that I know that directly impacts the LGBTIQ community. However, from my perspective any program that exists must also support LGBTIQ.

Q12 If elected, how would you use your position to help further issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community?

To support issues of importance to the LGBTIQ community I must sit down and listen to what issues are a priority to address. Together we must problem-solve to see how we address those issues. And when issues are not resolved we continue fighting for them and do not give up.

Q13 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!
