



Silicon Valley Stonewall Democrats

November 2020 - Candidate Questionnaire

PLEASE NOTE: *The Silicon Valley Stonewall Democrats believe strongly in transparency and accountability. As such, candidate questionnaires are NOT considered private or confidential. We may distribute all or excerpts from these questionnaires to our members and the public. Please assume that all information in this questionnaire will become public.*

Candidate Information

Name: Teresa O'Neill

Mailing Address: 2822 Sycamore Way, Santa Clara, CA 95051-5642

Phone: 408-219-9624

Email: teresa.oneillsc@gmail.com

Current Occupation & Employer: retired

Current Party Registration: Democratic Registration Date: July 1973
(we welcome questionnaires from non-Democrats, but note that we can only "support" but not "endorse" the campaign of a non-Democrat)

Previous elected or appointed offices held (if any): Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Education, City of Santa Clara Planning Commission, Valley Transportation Authority, Board Chair

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign Committee: Re-elect Teresa O'Neill Santa Clara City Council District 4 2020

FPPC ID: 1427848

Campaign Manager: Teresa O'Neill

Campaign Website: www.teresaoneill.org

Election Information

Office you are seeking: Santa Clara City Council District 4

Are you an incumbent? Yes

of seats available: 1

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Questionnaires must be received by August 14, 2020 to be considered at our Sept Endorsement Meeting
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Who are the other candidates in the race (to the best of your knowledge)? Kevin Park

Viability Check

Finances:

In order to win this race, how much money will you need to raise? \$20,000

To date, how much have you raised? Approximately \$5000.

Approximately, what is your average donation? And how many total donors do you have? About \$400. I have about 10 donors so far. I will be sending my donation requests out this weekend.

Previous Experience:

Please list *up to 6* previous public service positions you have held:

1. Board of Directors, AIDS Coalition Silicon Valley (including Chair and Treasurer positions)
2. President, Santa Clara County School Boards Association
3. President, Santa Clara Schools Foundation Board of Directors
4. Board of Directors, Triton Museum of Art
5. Chair, United Way Silicon Valley Health Needs Area Committee
6. Oversight Committee, St. Justin Community Ministry

Endorsements:

Please list *up to 10* of your most significant endorsements:

South Bay Labor Council

Santa Clara County Democratic Party

Santa Clara Firefighters Association

Santa Clara Police Officers Association

Teamsters Local 350

Assemblymember Kansen Chu

Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor

Former Santa Clara Council Member Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Santa Clara Council Member Debi Davis

Santa Clara Council Member Kathy Watanabe

Please list *up to 10* Democratic Clubs or members of the Democratic Central Committee who have endorsed you:

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Please list *any* LGBTQ individuals or organizations who have endorsed your campaign:
Former Santa Clara Council Member Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Long-Form Questions

Please answer the following questions in *no more than 250 words* based on the office which you are running to hold.

For ALL Candidates:

1. What connects you to the LGBTQ community and what have you accomplished for the LGBTQ community in the past?

I have had LGBTQ friends all my life. My parents had gay and lesbian friends, family, and colleagues so I think I had more awareness of the LGBTQ community than most of my contemporaries and grew up with more open and accepting values. I was involved with every Walk for AIDS Silicon Valley that was staged over a 20-year period. The last 10 years my involvement was as a board member for the AIDS Coalition Silicon Valley. We raised money for a wide range of organizations that had AIDS programs. I learned a lot more about the issues that various members of the LGBTQ community faced in all aspects of their lives, beyond how AIDS affected their day-to-day life. The Coalition also worked to raise awareness of and educate the broader community about AIDS and the people who were impacted by AIDS, many of whom were in the LGBTQ community.

2. In the wake of budget shortfalls created by COVID-19, what will be your budget priorities and how will you ensure that LGBTQ people are not disproportionately burdened by budget cuts?

My first priority during the COVID-19 pandemic is to do everything possible to be sure that the basic survival needs of everyone in my community are met. This especially includes the LGBTQ community, as they may be more vulnerable to losing employment and housing. The City Council already is redirecting various funds to provide a wide-range of assistance programs to our residents. We are shaping these programs so that they can serve a wide swath of our community. We also have a local non-discrimination ordinance that includes all LGBTQ persons.

2. How would you respond to an incident of discrimination against an LGBTQ person in your community?
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community? (e.g. a hate crime, homophobic vandalism, etc.)

I would respond in a similar way as we have responded to episodes of sexual harassment and threats to specific religious communities: 1. Condemn the incident, 2. Provide support to the victim, perhaps with the assistance of agencies with specialized services, 3. Request police protection (as appropriate) and investigation with the District Attorney's Office, and 4. Determine if a censure action from the City Council would be effective.

3. Police violence against Black and LGBTQ people has become a serious national problem. How would you respond to a police shooting/killing and how would you hold the police accountable?

I am currently part of a Council ad hoc committee led by our Mayor and Chief of Police with the participation of three young people representing different communities of color. We are initially following the Obama Foundation's Mayors' Initiative, but are putting in place a framework to address a range of human rights issues. This initial phase of work will be presented to the community at a council meeting in a few weeks and from there, we envision a community taskforce being formed to continue working on expanding the current review of police use of force policies to all police policies and also looking for other areas of concern in how the city government functions and provides services, especially to underserved communities. I have much hope that we will be able to drive meaningful change in how people interact with our police department and to ensure that our police have the best, most effective training so that they can be true community servants. While we aren't there yet to put this new framework in place, if there is an episode with inappropriate use of force by Santa Clara police happens in the near future, I will require the City Manager and Chief of Police to investigate the episode. As our Chief of Police is elected by the voters of Santa Clara, he has more direct accountability to the community. I would call on all the City Council to work with the Chief of Police to have an open determination of the events in question, including dialogue with the community.

(For County Supervisor Only) 5. Healthcare and health services are critical in this time of crisis, but too many still lack coverage or access to needed services. What will you do to ensure that all people, including LGBTQ people, have access to affordable, inclusive health services in your community?

(For City Council Only) 5. Our community is in the midst of a housing crisis. What will you do to make housing more affordable and accessible to *all* those who need it?

(For School Board Only) 5. How will you promote LGBTQ-inclusive education in your district?

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