

Questionnaire for Candidates for Alameda County Supervisor District 3

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot: Harold Lowe
2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number) Alameda County Supervisor, District 3
3. What is your current occupation or elected office? Financial Planner
4. Are you the incumbent? Yes No. There is no incumbent in this race.
5. How long have you resided in this district and city? Lifelong resident, born in the county hospital in 1968.

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:	Harold Lowe
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FPPC#	

OUR ISSUES

Please answer the first six questions in 250 words or less

1. The national impasse in healthcare reform continues as Alameda County residents seek basic services to help them. How important is healthcare to you and is it a priority of your campaign? How would you use your office to work towards making health insurance available to more people in Alameda County?
 2. Young adults entering the workforce need stable jobs with fair pay and benefits. How will you use your office to create good jobs for Alameda County's young adults (especially at-risk youth) and ensure a living wage? Would you fight for Alameda County to pass a living wage ordinance?
 3. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has seats at several County and regional transportation and housing agencies, including MTC, ABAG, CMA, and ACTIA. Would you be interested in serving on any of these boards? What do you think Alameda County's priorities should be on these boards?
 4. Young adults are skeptical about the integrity of the democratic process, especially given the recent Supreme Court decision regarding campaign finance. How will you work to ensure that elections in Alameda County are secure, inclusive, and fair? We are especially interested in public financing of elections, maximizing voter turnout, and instant-runoff voting. Would you support public financing for supervisorial elections or stricter limits on campaign finance contributions and reporting requirements?
 5. Transparency and openness are vital for citizens to inform themselves about the actions of their government and elected leaders. If you were elected, would you post your official schedule and calendar on your county website? Would you also support broadcasting county hearings live on public television?
 6. Have you collaborated with young adults in your community work in the past (list specific examples)? How are young adults involved in your campaign? How will you continue to involve young activists in your work after you are elected? Please be specific.
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1. As a financial planner, I understand the human impact of healthcare and insurance on the lives of the average citizen. Many times I have encouraged struggling clients to keep their jobs instead of moving on because of the challenge of being uninsured. Insurance and benefits is worth about 30-40% of a person's employment package, and 44% of people have lost their homes in years past due to disability alone. My wife and I are both self employed, and the costs of healthcare are very real to us. More than any other issue, access to healthcare best measures the quality of life for citizens. With 90,000 county residents without healthcare, we have do more to educate people to utilize existing options such as the California Healthy Families or Medi-Cal programs. With our budget constraints, it will be difficult to implement the financial stop-gap recommendations from the Alameda County Children's and Families Health Insurance Task force, which call for minimums of \$4.4 million to a comprehensive measure that costs roughly \$75 million. But I want to be an active participant there, and better understand how the new federal healthcare legislation is going to help fill in the shortfalls. Although we've heard that the state may receive hundreds of millions of dollars, it is important for Alameda County leadership to stay vigilant to push for our fair share.
 2. Everyone should have a job that pays them fairly, not just the youth. I will fight for that. It is very tough to promise young people work; they are faced with the realization that everyone wants work also. Alameda County has 11% unemployment; in the African

- American male young adult segment, unemployment hovers between 40-50%. Jobs that pay best are positions that require the most training, and young adults find themselves untrained and unmarketable for these highly competitive positions: criminal backgrounds, limited education, not being socialized into the business community. We cannot assume that we can simply 'place' these folk into the construction industries, particularly since those 65,000 jobs in the area have been the largest non government employers. We have to change the way we look at our county, and we need to actively promote ourselves and provide incentives for small business, the nonprofit and religious sectors to help fill this need. We have county property that should be used to subsidize our partners who employ our youth. I advocate creating an emphasis on our tourism sector. We may also advocate support for our small businesses, which will do most of the hiring; and I would like to help incubate start-up enterprises. Acceptance to training programs where people are paid should include a component of non-compensation (volunteer) work with community based organizations. By serving the community, this service can refute the arguments of a lack of experience and job proficiency.
3. Board participation by Alameda County Supervisors is imperative; it is symbolic, as it indicates that there is an overall goal in regional development, crossing the traditional boundaries of the city. It is also substantive; I will be working in three cities and three unincorporated areas with a population that is greater than half the population of the state of Alaska. A supervisor must have a big picture prospective. From a financial perspective, I believe it to be imperative. The way that we bring in more tax revenues and to positively affect our quality of life is to bring in more planning to our region. That involves a collaboration that speaks beyond city boundaries or a city's limited vision. This is the area where I plan to be significantly different from the previous supervisors in my district. I want to actively participate in ABAG, and to leverage relationships to do things like take the State's tourism marketing dollars and invest those here. I want to participate in MTC and ACTIA, because we have the 2nd largest number of BART locations of any County Supervisor in the Bay Area in our district, yet San Leandro residents commute on average 31 minutes each way to work every morning. Our transportation issues are strangling development, and placing us at great risk for natural disasters.
 4. I am the youngest adult running in this race, and a non-government employed candidate. I am the reason why youth need to engage the system. I am an average citizen campaigning from behind, and I clearly see the challenge to fairness and inclusion. The system is not designed for challengers, and certainly not wealthy ones. To ask me if I believe in campaign reforms is like asking me do I believe if we should have clean air. Absolutely! I share the levels of concern that one person's action to gain entry into this system of governance is daunting. We have no campaign contribution limits, from person or business entity. This limits competition to insiders, extremists, or to people who cannot sleep with the prospects of having either of the former two. I am running to fight this status quo, and I think society must preserve the rights of the average citizen to bring something to the table.
 5. I fully support allowing the public to view public conversations, whether that is on live television or by other means. The county meetings present a challenge for the average citizen, since his or she does not have the ability to engage with daytime meetings when trying to work or manage families. I would like to have 2-3 days worth of dedicated county business days; ie. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and posting that to the county site. I do also believe from my financial planners' sense, that I don't want to post meetings with the citizens; anyone should have an opportunity to speak with me over issues affecting them and not feeling that they are going to be scrutinized for doing so. It sets a poor political message to citizens that someone will post that you are speaking with the County Supervisor, and I won't support that.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Please describe in detail at least two of your accomplishments that have improved the lives of young adults. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities that apply to the office you

are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

EXPERIENCE

Please list or describe your current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life. Please explain how your experience would make you an effective advocate for young adults as an office holder. You may list endorsements here.