

1. Motivation—Why did you choose to run for the office of Auditor or Treasurer?

I was born and raised in Alameda and graduated from Alameda Public schools. I grew up in Alameda Parks and I have enjoyed the many benefits the City has to offer. I am a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with a local practice. My experience as a CPA and my love of the City and greater community makes the roll as Auditor in our local government a good match.

2. Program and Priorities—Elected office provides the opportunity to proactively lead by placing new ideas on the agenda for consideration and development. What are some specific ideas you intend to pursue if elected? What do you believe are the main priorities for the Auditor or Treasurer?

The Auditor is not a policy making role in Alameda. It is an independent position that is responsible for the audit of the City and also provides analysis of financial matters at the request of City staff and the City Council. I have been the Auditor since 1991 and during this time I have worked hard to provide an independent view of the City's various financial issues including but not limited to the rising costs of healthcare and pensions. If reelected, I will continue to work hard to provide the citizens of Alameda an independent view and analysis of the City's finances.

3. Qualifications—Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of Auditor or Treasurer. If you are not an incumbent, what specifically in your background do you believe qualifies you for the position? If you are an incumbent, what issues can you point to in your time as an incumbent that have had a positive impact? As an incumbent what can you point to in your time as an incumbent that have had a positive impact? As an incumbent what can you tell us about your service in your current position, and share with us decisions you have made in this capacity that you believe made a difference for the City. In addition, you have never faced a competitor in your previous campaigns. Why do you believe this is now the case in the current election?

I have served as the Auditor for over 25 years and I have been a Certified Public Accountant, since 1989. During my time as Auditor the City has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Association for 24 consecutive years. I have made a positive impact on the financial well-being of the City by bringing to the public forum information and analysis regarding many financial issues. In conjunction with the City Treasurer our concern regarding the City's telecom business which was initially met with heavy criticism, ultimately resulted in the City leaving the telecom business before additional financial damage was incurred. The City Treasurer and I also spoke to the City staff and City Council about the need to do a budget study regarding the forecasting of long term revenue sources and expenditures. This led to the City Council requesting myself and the City Treasurer to co-chair the Fiscal Sustainability Committee, which was a year-long in-

depth study of City finances and long-term trends. This resulted in a comprehensive report which educated both City Council and the community on how City finances operated and identified specific areas where attention should be focused. Additionally, we were members of the Pension Task Force- a City formed task force that studied the issue of escalating pension and medical costs.

In regards to facing a competitor for the first time in this current election, I believe local elections are perhaps no longer local. If you review the contributions to other candidates for all positions it becomes obvious which ones are supported by outside special interest groups trying to influence our local election.

4. What do you believe is Alameda's most important financial issue? What suggestions or policy changes would you offer?

Currently, most cities throughout the state of CA are facing the financial uncertainty due to the rapidly rising cost of retiree benefits. The magnitudes of these unfunded liabilities are in excess of \$200 million in the City of Alameda. The annual General Fund budget for the City is approximately \$80 million. Consequently this leads to funding potentially being cut from other City services the greater community relies on – including, public park maintenance, infrastructure, libraries and other publically funded programs. During my time as Auditor I have encouraged collaboration across multiple stakeholders, from City staff and City Council members, to employee union representatives and local citizen groups. If reelected I will continue my efforts and assist City policy makers to resolve this important issue.

5. Accountability- Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself accountable to the voters who elect you? How can the voters participate in holding you accountable if you are elected?

I have always been and will continue to be available to the citizens of Alameda. I have never nor will I ever accept campaign contributions from special interest groups. My only political aspiration is to continue to serve the citizens of Alameda as their City Auditor.

6. Campaign Funding—How much money do you currently have for this race? How much money do you plan to raise? Where will the money come from? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any)

I am running a joint campaign with the City Treasurer, Kevin Kennedy. Presently, we have jointly raised less than \$5,000, and we anticipate our grassroots campaign will need less than \$15,000 in total. Contributions will either come from us or from supportive citizens of Alameda. We are refusing any contributions from any special interest groups (developers, unions, etc.)

7. Endorsements—Who has endorsed you thus far?

We just launched our campaign! Currently our endorsements come from prominent members of the community, including: Adrienne Chaix-Alexander, Lil Arnerich, Marilyn Appezzato, Michael Boli, Horst Breuer, Eric Cross, Victoria Henley, Bill Leitz, Burney Matthews, Bill Sonneman, Dan Tuazon,

and many other community members.

8. Anything Else—Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I want to thank the citizens of Alameda for their past support and trust as their City Auditor. The apolitical, unbiased, and accurate information myself and the City Treasurer present to City policy makers is vital to ensuring the City makes sound decisions to enable this wonderful community to continue to thrive. I look forward to another opportunity to serve the community as City Auditor.