

Name: Jim Johnson

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Current line of work: Chief, Assessment Services Division - Alameda County Assessor's office.

1) Please give a brief summary of your background and qualifications for the office of County Assessor.

With 26 years experience in the Alameda County Assessor's office, I'm uniquely qualified to continue the proficient, cost efficient administration of the Assessor's office. As Chief of the Assessment Services Division for the last 10 years, my job has provided experience in operating under budget, effectively resolving personnel matters and addressing assessment legal issues. I've been personally responsible for the continued oversight of our computerized workflow system over the last 2 decades. This system has improved the efficiency in every section of the office giving me a unique understanding of how the entire office operates.

2) Where will you get (have you already received) the money to run your campaign? Describe sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you would refuse to accept (if any).

Self financed so far, just started collecting donations. Spent \$27,000 on nomination and candidate statement filings. \$125,000 in the campaign bank account. I expect small donations from the citizens of Alameda County and cannot at this point think of any person or group I would refuse except the obvious like hate groups, etc., which I would expect all the candidates would refuse.

3) What endorsements have you received thus far?

Since my campaign has just begun this week, current Assessor Ron Thomsen.

4) Why are you running? What do you believe are the main priorities for the County Assessor's office?

I am running because after spending almost half my life working for this office I wanted to make sure the voters had a candidate who would have the expertise to continue to run the office to the high level expected by the taxpayers. I will continue to focus on customer service, technological improvements and fair assessments, which have seen our County become a

leader in assessment administration.

5) How would you assess the current incumbent's job performance? Please cite specific strengths and/or weaknesses.

Strengths - The current policies have led to exceptional public service and the outstanding average assessment rating of 99.84% in the most recent State Board of Equalization's survey of our office. The incumbent served full time as Assessor and that's how the job should be treated each and every day.

6) Please tell us three suggestions you would make to the Board of Supervisors that would make the Assessor's office more helpful to the people of Alameda County. (These could relate to economic efficiencies or other topics of your choice.)

With a \$27 million budget set by the Board, the Assessor's office has reliably been under budget while successfully surrendering a timely assessment roll each year, maintaining high customer satisfaction while providing fair and equitable assessments. I have no suggestions.

7) Because of long-standing structural budget problems at the State and local levels, some people are advocating California's adoption of "split-roll" taxes on real property (maintaining "Proposition 13" rules for owner-occupied residences while increasing taxes on commercial property). Would you support or oppose such a change? Do you anticipate any practical difficulties to implementing such a change?

As a non-partisan elected position, an Assessor (or candidate) should have no position on the changing of Prop 13 other than to point out any possible implementation issues such as rising labor costs. Our job is to follow the law, not make the law.

8) Concretely and specifically, how will you make yourself available to those who elect you? That is, how can we participate in holding you accountable if you are elected?

Running this department is a demanding job that requires an experienced, full time Assessor that is willing to be in the office each day, be available to meet with taxpayers and earn the respect of the employees. I will be dedicated solely to this job because that is what the job requires.

9) What is your political party affiliation and how committed are you to that affiliation?

I am a democrat, but this office is non-partisan for a reason, so I will continue to keep politics out of the office and make decisions based on State laws and guidance from the State Board of Equalization.

10) Anything you would like to add?

I am the only candidate with experience in County governance. My leadership of 176 employees will focus on efficiency, productivity, accountability, and transparency. I respectfully ask for your endorsement.