

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an endorsement from the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club.

Per the Club's bylaws, to be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must be a registered Democrat. All candidates must also complete this candidate questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement. Endorsements are decided by the general membership, and candidates must receive at least 60% of votes cast to be endorsed.

The deadline for questionnaires is posted on the East Bay Stonewall website (<http://eastbaystonewalldemocrats.org/Elections>). Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot. To ensure a fair process, no grace period will be granted.

Please return your completed questionnaire via Google forms by clicking submit at the bottom of this form. All form submissions are final. If you have questions, please contact Joe Greaves, EBSDC PAC chair via email at jsphgreaves@gmail.com.

Email *

daphnesflight@yahoo.com

Name (First Last) *

Carole Marasovic

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

Office you are seeking? (e.g. City Council, School Board, Supervisor, etc) *

Commissioner, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board

Jurisdiction *

Berkeley

District *

City-wide race

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing? If you are unsure, email eastbaystonewalldems@gmail.com. *

Yes

No

I self-identify as: (check all boxes that apply; note these identifiers will be used publicly during our endorsement process.) *

Gay

Lesbian

Transgender

Gender non-conforming

Bisexual

Queer

Straight

Other:

How have you participated in East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club activities, and/or supported the Club other ways? What other LGBTQ+ organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity? What other Democratic clubs are you affiliated with? *

I have attended, and voted in, Stonewall endorsement events/ candidate forums. I have attended the trivia events and had a lot of fun. I have signed up for the Stonewall breakfast next week. I do not belong to any other LGBTQ+ clubs.

However, I do count as one of my supporters the partner and wife (herself a lesbian athlete) of Thomas Waddell, a physician and Olympic athlete who founded the Gay Olympics and after whom a SF medical clinic serving transgender persons is named.

In addition to Stonewall, I am also a member of the Berkeley Democratic Club and the Wellstone Democratic Club.

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Using specific examples, please identify the causes you have advocated for and the ways you have helped advance LGBTQ+ rights or otherwise helped foster a community of inclusivity for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. *

As Chair of Berkeley's Homeless Services Panel of Experts and Chair of the Homeless Commission, I have recommended to Council, successfully, enforcing legislation combatting source of income discrimination as well as legislation expanding hate crime reporting and response. I have supported responsive inclusion of the LGBTQ+ population in all services provided and in evaluating homeless services providers and programs during review of funding proposals and have considered that inclusion as a component of funding.

As to enforcing the source of income anti-discrimination ordinance, I included provisions recommending adoption of the FIT (first-in-time) standard. That standard requires that a landlord/property owner accept the first qualified applicant, the only genuine means of overcoming discrimination whether that be racial, gender, national origin or sexual orientation.

As a long-term member of Berkeley's Mental Health Services Act Advisory Committee, I have evaluated proposals in providing mental health wellness services to the LGBTQ+ community and embraced the services provided by the Pacific Center for Human Growth. Recently, when there was no response to grant monies for providing additional mental health trauma services targeted to the LGBTQ+ population, I reached out to not only the whole Council but directly to the Council members who were LGBTQ+ to contact their contacts within the LGBTQ+ community to advise them that these monies were available. That outreach resulted in additional monies awarded to the Pacific Center, allowing them to expand their mental health wellness services to the LGBTQ+ population.

On a personal level, I supported a transgender woman who had been physically assaulted as well as mocked and denigrated repeatedly. I provided emotional support when she reported being thrown to the ground and her wig pulled off by her assailants attempting to prove that she was a man; in a separate incident, I physically blocked her when a man kicked her and was about to kick her again; in yet, another situation, I supported her, after a staff member punched her and advocated on her behalf so that that long-term staff member was terminated even though I was not a witness and the eyewitnesses did nothing to report that physical battery upon her.

Have you previously supported LGBTQ+ candidates for office? If yes, did that include financial support? *

I currently support Alfred Twu for AC Transit and have contributed to his campaign. I supported Councilmember Terry Taplin when he ran for Council. I supported James Chang as a Rent Board commissioner. As a result of my knowledge of his skills and respect for him, I would vigorously support Andy Katz if he would ever run for office again.

Which LGBTQ+ organizations and elected officials have formally endorsed you for this race? *

Councilmember Terry Taplin has endorsed me. Alfred Twu , a Berkeley city commissioner, has endorsed me.

Please describe a policy/goal that is part of your formal platform that benefits the LGBTQ+ community? *

As mentioned above, I recommended enforcement of the source of anti-discrimination ordinance which was passed by the Berkeley City Council. A component of that recommendation is the FIT (first-in-time) standard. That standard requires that the first qualified applicant be accepted into rental housing which prevents discrimination and personal bias in selection of tenants.

The FIT standard was referred by Council to the 4x4 Committee for consideration to be sent back to Council. (The 4x4 Committee is a committee of 4 Councilmembers and 4 Rent Board commissioners). As an elected Rent Board commissioner, I would advocate for this recommendation to be addressed expeditiously. Discrimination on any basis, including against the LGBTQ+ community should not be tolerated at any level. This standard will protect that from transpiring in rental housing.

Another policy item requiring a deeper look is the manner in which discrimination transpires for tenants in rental housing including LGBTQ+ tenants and the duty of a landlord/property owner to act when they know that a tenant is being harassed, mocked or denigrated. In the same fashion that a landlord has a duty to protect tenants from another tenant that the landlord knows has demonstrated violent actions on the premises and that landlord/property owner is liable if a further violent act transpires if they have not taken action so should a landlord/property owner be liable if they have not acted on a report of harassment from one tenant to another based on the offending tenant's discriminatory actions.

A landlord/property owner must have a duty to act upon a report of harassment, mocking or denigrating another tenant. The landlord/property owner must admonish the offending tenant, warn them to discontinue their behavior, move them to another apartment on the property or take other action. If the harassment or other behavior continues, the landlord should have a duty to displace the offending tenant.

While the issue of displacement is a sensitive one because I want to avoid displacement of any tenants, to the extent possible, discriminatory behavior cannot be tolerated. Nobody should be made to experience the pain of discrimination and bias.

What makes you uniquely qualified for the office and how are you different or unique from the other candidates in your race? *

Other than the one incumbent running for re-election because he is a current Rent Board Commissioner, I have more governmental experience than any of the other candidates. I have been making policy recommendations on City of Berkeley Commissions for over 13 years, generally as Chair. In that capacity, I frequently write reports and present policy recommendations before Council. I regularly attend multiple other policy committee meetings, including the Council Agenda Committee and Budget Committee meetings, as well as the general City Council meetings to keep abreast of all the issues before Council. That provides me with the knowledge of understanding the full political picture so that I can put the pieces together to make policy recommendations that can be passed and implemented.

In addition, my unique experience of having professionally a mental health background as well as a legal background; a background in working in legal services and other nonprofits representing persons with both physical and mental disabilities and for nonprofits representing low-income persons in underserved communities; and working as an attorney for a state legislature provides additional insights.

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