

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 *

ryanclalonde@gmail.com

Name (First Last) *

Ryan LaLonde

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

School Board

Jurisdiction *

Alameda

District *

Alameda Unified School District

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 been to one endorsement meeting. I joined at the beginning of Covid19 - so I am relatively new to EBSDC. I do plan to be more involved. I was a chapter leader for COLAGE in Washington, D.C. for 12 years. I also served on the COLAGE National Board for 6 years - 2 as the Chair of Board of Directors. Currently, I am the Co-Chair of the AUSD LGBTQ+ Roundtable and we worked to launch the first year of the school districts sexuality and gender curriculum. Currently I am member of the City of Alameda Democratic Club and the Wellstone Democratic Renewal 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. *

I was the only person with LGBT parents (I have lesbian mothers) to testify against DOMA in my home state of Michigan in 1996.

While a student at the University of Michigan, I led the largest LGBT student organization. I also created the United States' first LGBT Commission in a University Student Council.

I am a past president of the board of directors of COLAGE National (Children of LGBTQ parents). I served six years on the board and was President during the highest income generating year for the San Francisco-based non-profit.

I am proud to have created and led the DC Chapter of COLAGE for 12 years. And co-organized the largest gathering of LBGT families during the 2000 March on Washington.

I have created and given national trainings for teachers in collaboration with the Creating Change and NEA National conferences on how to "Make Classrooms Safe for Students with LGBTQ Parents."

I am a contributing author in the book: Improving Emotional and Behavioral Outcomes for LGBT Youth: A Guide for Professionals (2012)

I am the author/illustrator of the children's book, Families Come in Many Shapes, Sizes & Colors
Recently, I led Alameda's Pride Month promotions by creating pride posters and compiling a resource guide of LGBTQ-owned businesses in Alameda

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

Yes, I have supported and donated to Jim Oddie's campaign for city council. I also have sent money to Brian Sims campaign. Currently, my husband and I are close friends with Heather Mizuer who is running for Congress in Maryland and we are major donors on her current campaign and previous campaign for Governor. I also participated in Victory Fund trainings and have supported my classmate in their campaigns over the last 12 years.

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

I just filed and have not formally launched the campaign, but I do have the endorsements of San Leandro City Councilmember Victor Aguilar, former Alameda City Councilmember Jim Oddie and New Haven Unified School District Board President Mel Shuen-Mallory.

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

Over the last year, I have worked on the adoption of our school districts K-5 gender and sexuality curriculum. The first year was met with great feedback. I am eager to support it's final adoption into all classrooms in the district this year. It is key that we have a board that supports this state mandated curriculum. I also would like to update our outdated Trans Youth rights policy. This is all under my platform points of - Advancing Equity & Inclusion Initiatives & Strengthening Programming & Services

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

As an AUSD parent and active PTA leader for more than 5 years, I deeply understand Alameda's education system and the challenges facing families. I have been an LGBTQ+ family and youth advocate for the last 20 years. For the last decade, I have been an advocate for foster youth and adoption. I have seen a great deal of positive change for our students and families. I am running for Alameda Unified School District trustee to ensure that the forward momentum continues because there is more work that needs to be done.

As I highlight on my campaign Website - www.Ryan4AUSD.com, I have been extremely involved making are school district better and stronger. I recently co-led the successful Yes on Measure B campaign which provides 300million dollars worth of modernization and building renovations for our aging schools.

As the father of a Black student in our special education programs, I have navigated the ups and down and understand where we can improve our services to students. It is important to build a system of care for ALL our students.

But here is the thing about some of my opponents. The one incumbent vying for one of the two seats, has been a positive force on the board and I hope to work with him. The other two in the race are very problematic. One is a gay dad like myself, who has rallied AGAINST gay marriage and LGBTQ+ curriculum - and has worked to overturn our parcel tax measure and led the campaign against our Measure B in June. The other opponent has stated her anti-mask, anti-vax issues at school board meetings for the last two years. She also has stated that she would like to see the district roll back inclusive curriculum like Black History month and Black-focused programming. I shudder to think about their affect on our students positive growth.

I look forward to discussing more about my experience and plans with other Stonewall members soon. My goal is to continue to be a BOLD Voice for Better Outcomes. (www.Ryan4AUSD.com)

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