

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 Shay Franco-Clausen, EBSDC PAC chair via email at [REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Name (First Last) *

Jesse Arreguin

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

State Senate

Jurisdiction *

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

District *

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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? *

Yes, I have been a longtime straight ally and member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club and I was also a prior Board member between 2009-2010. I have also sponsored numerous club events including most recently the Oakland Pride Brunch. I am a member of other local Democratic clubs including the Berkeley Democratic Club, John George Democratic Club, Wellstone Democratic Club, and I am a former California Democratic Party delegate and member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee.

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 have been a longtime straight ally and partner with LGBTQ+ elected leaders and community organizations. I am proud to have helped pass Berkeley's first policy to provide gender affirming care for city employees. I have also supported numerous resolutions opposing Proposition 8, supporting marriage equality at the federal level, expanding domestic partner benefits, ensuring that undocumented couples have protections, opposing transphobic and anti LGBT legislation at the state and national level, and recognizing Pride Month in the City of Berkeley. I have supported continued funding to the Pacific Center, our longest serving LGBTQ+ community center, and worked to help support their continued operation in Berkeley when they were forced to relocate. We have funded culturally responsive mental health outreach and services for LGBTQ+ youth, and expanded our Transitional Youth shelter year round.

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

Yes I have endorsed and financially supported many LGBTQ+ candidates including Judge Vicky Kolakowski, Judge Tara Flanagan, Oakland Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, Emeryville Mayor John Bauters, Oakland Councilmember Abel Guillen, Richmond Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, El Cerrito Councilmember Gabe Quinto, Berkeley Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Darryl Moore and Terry Taplin, Berkeley School Board Director Judy Appel, San Leandro Councilmember Victor Aguilar, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman and many others. Many of these leaders are supporting my campaign for State Senate.

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

Former State Senator Carole Migden, El Cerrito Councilmember Gabe Quinto, Richmond Councilmember Cesar Zepeda, San Leandro Councilmember Victor Aguilar, Berkeley Councilmember Terry Taplin, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, former Berkeley Rent Board member James Chang, Oakland Port Commissioner Michael Colbruno

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

Housing remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Bay Area and entire state. We are dealing with decades of opposition to new housing and racially discriminatory laws which have segregated communities.

Throughout my public service career, I have been an advocate for affordable housing and tenant protections. On the Berkeley City Council, I led efforts to create our affordable housing requirements for new construction, and wrote and helped pass Measure O, our \$135 Million General Obligation Bond for affordable housing. Over the past five years our bond measure has helped finance 1,000 new units of deed restricted housing. Recently, I authored the Fair Chance Ordinance to ban the box on housing applications so past criminal convictions are not a barrier to access housing. I have been instrumental in writing and passing every significant rent control, tenant or affordable housing policy in Berkeley over the past 18 years.

I am proud of Berkeley's progressive leadership on housing. We are focused on addressing the "three P's" – Production of new housing, preservation of existing affordable housing, and protection of neighbors from displacement and homelessness.

Under our pro-housing leadership Berkeley has some of the strongest tenant protections in the state, and a universal right to counsel policy to ensure that any tenant facing eviction has a right to legal representation. I authored our Tenant Protection Ordinance, to protect renters from harassment and more recently the COVID-19 Emergency Response Ordinance, our eviction moratorium, which is still in effect.

I am running for State Senate to continue my progressive, pro-housing leadership and push for more progress at the state level in dealing with our affordability crisis. We need to continue to pass laws to streamline production including for permanent affordable housing and homeless housing. We need to reform CEQA so it can't be used as tool for obstructionism, while continuing important review and environmental protection. The housing project at People's Park is an example of how CEQA can be abused and distorted beyond its original purpose to stop needed housing from being built. We also need to repeal Costa Hawkins and strengthen rent control policies at the state level. The state should increase funding for affordable housing including Low Income Housing Tax Credits and support housing preservation projects. I also strongly support state laws and increased enforcement to require cities to zone and permit more housing to meet state mandates, and to affirmatively further fair housing. As President of ABAG, the Bay Area's regional government, I helped develop and pass our RHNA Plan, to plan for 440,000 new homes in the Bay Area including in wealthy and exclusive communities who have historically resisted building housing. I will support legislation and oversight to ensure that cities follow state housing laws, and to remove economic and racial barriers to housing access. In my own city, Berkeley was the first community in the United States to pass single family zoning as a way to prevent people of color from the exclusive Elmwood District. Our Council under my leadership set the goal of ending exclusionary zoning and we are soon going to adopt zoning changes to allow multi-family housing by-right in our residential neighborhoods.

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

I am running for State Senate because I believe the East Bay deserves a Senator as bold as the people who live here. The East Bay's Senate District 7 is one of the "bluest" districts in California and is the home of so many social movements. The East Bay deserves a Senator with the experience, the ability to get things done and the strong progressive values we share.

I am running to bring my 18-years of elected experience, including 7 years as Mayor of Berkeley and my work as a regional leader to Sacramento.

I am running on a platform of making it easier to build more housing including affordable housing, strengthen tenant protections and protect our communities from displacement. For me this issue is deeply personal as a lifelong tenant and someone who has experienced displacement and homelessness in my childhood. I believe that housing is a basic human right and no family should end up on the streets.

My path to becoming an elected official started in my roots as the son and grandson of migrant farm workers and a lifelong activist for economic and social justice. I believe that our government can be a positive force for change, and I want to bring my lived and professional experience, knowledge of the issues and deeply rooted progressive values to make positive change for the region and state.

What distinguishes me from my opponents is my record of elected experience, having run for office and been elected six times, my role as Mayor of Berkeley, one of the largest cities in SD7, my lived experience growing up in poverty and overcoming the odds, and my track record of legislating pro-labor, progressive policy. My record of accomplishments on housing, homelessness, criminal justice reform and police accountability, effective climate action and pro-labor policy and my ability to build coalitions to get broad support, demonstrates my ability to be an effective progressive legislator.

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms