

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) *

Jovanka Beckles

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

California State Senate

Jurisdiction *

East Bay

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? *

I have sponsored Stonewall Club events such as the Brunch n' Bowl event. I have attended the Annual Pride Breakfast ahead of the Oakland Pride Festivals. I am affiliated with number of LGBTI organizations such as the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. I'm a founding member of Richmond Rainbow Pride. It is an organization that creates spaces that are safe and welcoming to the LGBTQI community of Richmond. It was formed in response to the bullying and homophobia inflicted upon me during my tenure on the Richmond City Council. Richmond Rainbow Pride holds a variety of community events of interest to the community, advocates for the interests of the community, and promotes LGBTQI visibility in the greater Richmond area.

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 lived the experience of being a queer woman of color since I was a teen, even before I was publicly "Outed" by my high school basketball coach. I have been connected to LGBTQI communities in many capacities since. In my day job as a Mental Health Specialist I have counseled, supported and advocated on behalf of LGBTQI youth. Being a queer parent, I know first hand some of the challenges facing LGBTQI parents, and I have had the opportunity to advocate for LGBTQI parenting rights. Before I was elected to public office, my wife and I ran a small tea dance business for LGBTQI patrons and allies.

I faced subtle and indirect homophobia during my campaigns for the Richmond City Council. Once elected the first open lesbian city council member in Richmond, I became the target of homophobic backlash the moment I took my seat on the council. It became so outrageous that a local LGBTQI filmmaker BK Williams, decided to document it in the film Against Hate.

Fortunately, the overt homophobia backfired when the community rallied around me in particular, and the LGBTQI community in general. "I'm going to keep coming up here and tell you have gays have no morality...You're filth. You're dirt. Because I have the Constitutional right to say it." "Some people don't care for her lifestyle. I don't care for it myself."

Those were just some of the less crude and off color jeers and taunts yelled at me from Richmond residents and some of my colleagues. Rather than hang my head or quit my LGBTQI priorities, I realized how important it was for every LGBTQI person in Richmond and the Bay Area to see me stand tall and against the hate. As a city council member I authored an anti-bully in the workplace resolution to ensure no Richmond worker was forced

to stand against the hate I regularly faced. I made sure to honor the youth organizations that provided safe spaces to young people of all orientations, and lift up community leaders who protected these children. I helped fund the Human Rights Commission on which I sat in Richmond to ensure that resources were made available. I am an active member in

Richmond Rainbow Pride with my wife Nicole Valentino, who sits on the Board.

I am a proud gay, black Latina elected official and I will always use my voice to protect and move forward LGBTQI rights, especially as our rights and equality are under attack again.

- I oppose cuts in the state budget to programs that serve the LGBTQI community, including programs that assist

Californians living with HIV and AIDS.

- I support strengthening protections at the state level for LGBTQI seniors living in long-term care facilities against

discrimination on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV status.

- I oppose broad religious exemptions that would allow individuals or organizations to refuse to provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges to LGBTQI people on the basis that compliance would violate

their "sincerely held religious beliefs."

- I support providing adequate government funding for a mandatory teacher training program that would aid teachers in identifying and assisting LGBTQI students who may need support in coming out, dealing with bias-based bullying, or lack of family or community acceptance.

- I support enabling transgender, intersex, and non-binary people to obtain government-issued identity documents (birth certificates, drivers' licenses, etc.) that accurately reflect their gender identity.
- I support establishing the right of transgender people incarcerated in state prisons or county jails to petition to change their legal name or gender and require that correction officials use their new name. i will fight to enshrine same sex marriage in the state constitution.

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

Yes, I have endorsed Darryl Moore, Gabriel Quinto, Doleen Jones, Cesar Zepeda, Joey Smith, Devin Murphy, Carolyn Wysinger, Cameron Sasai, Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez, Peter Gallota and Alfred Twu in past and recent local elections. I am endorsed by LGBTQ+ elected officials and leaders such as: Devin Murphy-Pinole Mayor; Camron Sasai-Pinole Councilmember; Peter Gallota-SF DCCC; Tom Ammiano-Former State Assemblymember; Alfred Twu- CADEM Delegate; Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez-Community organizer; Mel Mallory-NHUSD Trustee. I provided financial support to most.

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

I'm endorsed by the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club. I am endorsed by LGBTQI elected officials such as: Devin Murphy-Pinole Mayor; Camron Sasai - Pinole Councilmember; Peter Gallota-SF DCCC; Tom Ammiano-Former State Assemblymember; Alfred Twu- CADEM Delegate; Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez - Community organizer; Mel Mallory-NHUSD Trustee.

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

Every platform issue I have will benefit the LGBTQ+ community because we all live on this planet. They include: Reparations, addressing income inequality, building more affordable housing, fighting for free healthcare for all, free college and daycare, seamless transit and environmental protections. Additionally, I will fight to enshrine same sex marriage in the California constitution.

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

The most important factor in this race is almost certainly that I am the only candidate absolutely refusing corporate and business entity donations- in a political landscape where donations from corporations are the most plentiful and powerful, where a candidate's "viability" is chiefly determined not by their record, achievements, or community ties but by whether they have the privilege of knowing powerful deep pocketed friends. As I showed in battling Chevron, in raising the minimum wage, in bringing rent control, I am beholden only to my values and my constituents. I do not take money from those who would later try to hold it over me. I am unique in this race in my follow through- over a decade in office, I have always pursued what I campaigned on, rather than changing, abandoning, or reversing course in office- and I have done what popular expectations (based on a norm of collaboration and complacency between office holders and corporate interests) said would be impossible for one person.

I decided to get involved in local politics over a decade ago when I saw the needs of my community going unmet by local leaders, many of whom were controlled by the oil industry and greedy developers. After winning a seat on the Richmond City Council in 2010, I joined other progressives to "Ban the Box," increase taxes and environmental controls on Chevron, establish rent control and just cause eviction protections, raise the minimum wage for Richmond workers, fund successful community-based violence prevention programs, and make Richmond a sanctuary city (well ahead of Donald Trump's election). Starting my term as an AC Transit Board Member during the pandemic, I am proud to have secured hazard pay and pandemic protections for transit workers. I am running for State Senate in District 7 so I can win improvements like these for working people who are also LGBTQI community members, across the state.

I can't think of a better representative for Stonewall Democrats than me. I'm a full-time mental health worker, a rank-and-file union member, a black-Latinx gay woman, a mother, and an immigrant.

As you know, the state legislature does not represent the demographics of California – Black people especially are missing from its ranks. Black Queer people even more. Because representation matters, Stonewall Democrats should endorse a qualified, viable Black, LGBTQ candidate like me. The current legislature only has 2 Black Senators out of 40 and the East Bay has not had a BIPOC representative in almost 30 years. This is an injustice the Stonewall Dems can rectify with your endorsement of my candidacy.

Then I can bring what I have learned as a full-time mental health worker, a county worker, a rank-and-file union member, a Black-Latinx gay woman, a mother, and an immigrant to Sacramento to create laws that better address the concerns of these marginalized communities. I also know that seeing someone like themselves in office will inspire more people of color to get involved in politics. As a state senator I could connect with SO MANY people who stay out of politics today because it seems foreign to them. Of all the candidates, I have the strongest record of creating solidarity between the LGBTQ community and straight allies, even when I come under attack. I share your values and will be fearless in advocating for them in Sacramento.

Lastly, I think I deserve Stonewall Democratic club's endorsement because it's always good to endorse the winner, and I intend to win this race. I have the most local name recognition, which is a huge advantage, especially in the primary. I am the only candidate to have won a region-wide office within the last 5 years. I am the top vote getter in the last election of all the candidates in the race. AC Transit Ward 1, where I defeated a long-term incumbent, is almost identical to SD 7. Because of my record in office, I have a wide network of grassroots activists and individual donors – not potential supporters, but the kind that have actually shown up for me and will do it again. I am already exceeding expectations when it comes to

endorsements and my momentum is growing. I am the only candidate with reparations on my platform. I am the only leading candidate with a record of getting into office on a people's platform, and then enacting it. I believe that in the capitol, with no concessions, obligations, or lobbyists, I and my engaged constituents can do amazing things for this state. And I believe that with Stonewall's support and solidarity, we can get there.

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms