

**East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club
Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an early 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 (with the exception of candidates for statewide or federal offices) must also complete a candidate questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement. An LGBTQI candidate may be considered for early endorsement by the membership prior to the close of filing for a particular office provided 60 percent of the current Board members agree on the suitability of doing so. Candidates selected for early endorsement who complete a questionnaire by the deadline will be invited to appear at an early endorsement meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. Endorsements are decided by the general membership, and candidates must receive at least 60% of votes cast in order to be endorsed.

The deadline to return your completed questionnaire is Monday, August 13th for the August 15th East Bay Stonewall early endorsement meeting for the November 2018 general election.

1. *Are you a registered Democrat? If so, how long have you been registered as a Democrat? Have you ever been registered with another party and if so, when and for how long?*
 - a. Yes, I am a registered Democrat and have been since October 2012. The week after registering I signed up to work on the Obama campaign in Nevada and I had the best time of my life. Since then I've been actively involved, attending every CA Democratic Party Convention since 2014.
 - b. I am the Vice President of Finance of the East Bay Young Democrats.
 - c. I am the Secretary of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club
 - d. I am the Vice Chair of the California Young Democrats LGBTQ Caucus.
 - e. I am a member of the Asian Pacific American Democratic Club and Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club.
 - f. I am a member of the CDP LGBTQ, API, and Disability Caucuses.

2. *Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club? If so, for how long? If not, have you participated in club activities, supported or contributed to the Club in some other way? What other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity? What other non-LGBT Democratic clubs are you affiliated with?*
 - a. I am the Secretary of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, former VP, and have been a member since 2014.
 - b. I am a member of the California Young Democrats LGBTQ Caucus Vice Chair.
 - c. I was Chair of OUTBurst, Yelp's LGBTQ Employee resource group.
 - d. I was a member of UC Berkeley's Cal Queer and Asian (Cal Q & A) for three years. I participated in the Queer Alliance Resource Center & Queer Townhall as an active Queer leader in my campus communities. I've hosted an event at the Oscar Wilde House, the Berkeley Student Cooperative LGBTQ Theme House as Vice President of External Affairs BSC.
 - e. I am and have been very involved with the East Bay Young Democrats since 2014.

3. *Using specific examples, please identify the causes you have advocated for and the ways you have helped advance LGBT rights or otherwise helped foster a community of inclusivity for LGBT individuals and families*
 - a. Professionally:
 - i. As a Legislative Advisor to openly LGBTQ Berkeley Councilmember Kriss Worthington, I have the privilege of working with a local LGBTQ leader and serving the community I live in. We are working on gender identity affirmations on local documents and better access because while the laws have changed statewide, on many local levels, the implementation is

out of reach for those underprivileged mainly because of both cost and time.

- ii. When I was the Chair of OUTBurst I was part of the marketing and education team that tackled the gender-neutral bathroom rollouts in our offices. I planned and managed the guest speaker series which featured speakers from LGBTQ non-profits like Saints of Steel and LGBTQ political champions like Scott Weiner. I helped co-host Pride events and National Coming Out Day.
- iii. When I worked for Mike Honda for Congress, I raised money for the Chair of the Transgender Equality Task Force in Congress, and I organized with LGBTQ organizations that Congressman Honda advocated for.

b. Politically:

- i. I am the Vice President of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, I help plan political endorsements, organize issue-based campaign activism, build strong relationships with elected officials, and raise money and awareness for Oakland Pride.
- ii. I was an active campus leader while I was a student at UC Berkeley, and I held workshops presenting the political status of Asian Queer states-of-affairs in the US and internationally to students at the Cal Queer and Asian Conference and the Associated Student of University California DeCal Class.
- iii. As the Student Trustee of the Ventura County Community College School District representing students from 3 different colleges, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges, I helped implement anti-discrimination and anti-harassment ordinances that protect LGBTQ and many other student communities. We made anti-harassment education a requirement, and required students to sign that they understood the laws and rules about bullying and harassment before they were able to sign up for classes.

4. *Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support? Who are your LGBT endorsers? Who are your LGBT supporters?*

a. Supporter

- i. Berkeley Councilmember **Kriss Worthington**
- ii. **Emeryville** Mayor **John Bauters**
- iii. **El Cerritos** Mayor **Gabriel Quinto**
- iv. **President of East Bay Young Democrats Toni Gomez**

b. Supporting

- i. Kriss Worthington - Berkeley City Council - \$250
- ii. Alfred Twu- Berkeley City Council - \$50
- iii. Gia Cordova - UC Berkeley President - \$250
- iv. Ricardo Lara - Insurance Commissioner

5. *What have been your most significant accomplishments while serving in office? Have any of those benefitted the LGBT community?*

- As Rent Board Outreach Committee Chair, I expanded our outreach efforts by making the Rent Board more accessible to property owners and tenants. I specifically am advocating for data gathering on LGBTQ to be counted in our 10 year tenant and property owner survey to understand how to better serve our community.
- As a Senior member of the Eviction Committee, I fought to increase funding for housing legal services and successfully lobbied the Berkeley City Council to increase funding for free legal aid services. I championed the decision to make demographic data a key factor in how we allocate our free legal aid services. Additionally, I fought to make sure LGBTQ people are counted in surveys.
- On Budget and Personnel Committee, I fought to establish a reserve fund for the Rent Board to have sustaining abilities during times of economic downturn.

6. *What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected? What are your three main policy goals?*

- a. We need more Housing for ALL. We need investment in our communities, at the same time we need stronger renter protections like Just Cause and increase legal aid access for tenants so we can prevent displacement. With those two things, young people can establish a stable foundation on which to build their lives.
- b. The most important thing is to maintain the number of rent controlled units in the city while promoting an increase in the number of affordable housing units through new green development. I will work to ensure that the affordable housing units provided are accessible to families. We must make sure working families can live and thrive in Berkeley. Finally, I will advocate for LGBT and Queer homeless youths. We need to create a task force to address this issue. By fighting Queer homelessness, we can create intervention models that will help solve other issues regarding homelessness.
- c. I want to help the LGBTQ community continue to push for nightlife hours, access to healthcare, senior care, and gender affirmation by working with elected officials in all levels of government.

7. *What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking? What differentiates you from the other candidates in the race?*

- a. Personally, I am the youngest elected official in the East Bay. I am the only Queer person on the rent board. I am also the only API American person on the rent board and Berkeley. Professionally, I have experience working in public, private, and non-profit sectors. I have also worked both in and outside of politics, both for an elected in-office and out.
- b. What I bring to the office of Rent Board Commission is experience and skills in working with students and cooperative businesses. I know how to navigate consensus forms of governance, and I know how to organize in a progressive multicultural setting. I always tell people I'm running as a Queer person of color not because I'm fighting for representation, but because I'm fighting for more access to government resources for those who are in need. I believe we need to look at how we can empower marginalized communities, the Queer community, the elderly, the disabled community, and we need to empower people of color both in Queer and non-Queer spaces. I believe empowering communities in their own spaces and bringing different communities together by building bridges are the best ways to build communal empathy and support social justice.

Please return you completed questionnaire to John J. Bauters, East Bay Stonewall PAC Chair, by email at jbauters@gmail.com. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Bauters at 415-999-7932.