

2020 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 to complete your questionnaire via Google forms is Friday, August 21, 2020 at 11:59pm for the August 26, 2020 East Bay Stonewall endorsement meeting for the November 2020 presidential election. Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot.

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 Amy Fitzgerald, EBSDC PAC chair via email at afitzlap@gmail.com.

Email address *

jesse@jesse.vote

Name (First, Last) *

Jesse Arreguin

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

Mayor

Jurisdiction? *

City of Berkeley

District? *

N/A

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing as of August 19, 2020? 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 am a member of the East Bay Stonewall Club, and previously served on the Board of the club from 2009-2010. I have participated in previous endorsement meetings and events, sponsored the Stonewall Pride Brunch, and guest bartended at the Stonewall event last fall for Transgender Equality. I am a member of many local Democratic Clubs in the East Bay, I am a Bernie Sanders Delegate to the 2020 DNC, and served on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee from 2012-2016.

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 elected to the Berkeley City Council in 2008, on the same night Proposition 8 passed. One of the earliest items I cosponsored was a resolution urging the repeal of this outrageously discriminatory measure. During my twelve years on the Council, I have been an ally to the LGBT community, I have either sponsored or co-sponsored more than 30 items relating to LGBT issues, ranging from proclamations recognizing Bisexual Pride Day, supporting marriage equality, opposing discrimination against LGBT immigrants, speaking out against Trump's outrageous and transphobic attacks on the transgender community and efforts to roll back critical education and civil rights protections, opposing efforts to prevent gender neutral restrooms and gender neutral policies, requiring the use of gender neutral pronouns for city employees.

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

Yes I have supported many incredible LGBTQ candidates for office including Judge Vicky Kolakowski, Judge Tara Flanagan, School Board President Judy Appel, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, Alameda County Schools Director Joaquin Rivera, ACDCC and Rent Board candidate Andy Kelly, Rent Board member James Chang, Councilmember John Bauters, Jovanka Beckles, Kriss Worthington, Terry Taplin, Rebecca Kaplan. I have contributed several of these candidates, and campaigned for those running to represent Berkeley.

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

I am honored to have the endorsement of Councilmember Lori Droste, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, Oakland Council President Rebecca Kaplan, School Board President Judy Appel, Rent Board Commissioner James Chang, EBMUD Director Andy Katz.

What other LGBTQ+ community members and/or organizations support your candidacy? *

I am honored to have the support of LGBT community members in Berkeley and throughout the East Bay such as Oakland Port Commissioner Michael Colbruno, Alameda County Planning Commissioner Andy Kelley, District 2 candidate Terry Taplin.

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

Homelessness has been my top priority in office, and is a key part of my platform. There are many young people experiencing homelessness who are LGBT, as a result of discrimination, family rejection, abuse, and assault. Some of these young people have exited out of the foster system. On the Council, I secured funding to keep our only homeless youth shelter open year round, we launched youth intake system in our homeless coordinated entry system to prioritize young people for shelter and housing, and funded a youth tiny house village project to serve Berkeley and Oakland youth. We are partnering with UC Berkeley to better understand the gaps in services for homeless and transition age youth so we can expand services and housing supports. In my first 30 days in office, we doubled the number of emergency shelter beds in Berkeley. The City also created the STAIR Navigation Center, the East Bay's first low-barrier, 24-hour-a-day shelter. The STAIR Center provides job assistance, mental health treatment, and substance abuse services, and has moved more than 250 people (out of an estimated homeless population of 1,000) into permanent housing. In passing Measure P, the Berkeley community generously provided millions of dollars that are being used for rent subsidies, additional shelter expansion, street health services, and mental health outreach.

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 re-election based on my record of results: more housing production than at any time in decades, hundreds of affordable housing units approved, unprecedented funding for anti-displacement programs and expanding tenant protections, moving hundreds of people experiencing homelessness off the streets and into housing, increasing police accountability, promoting green building, and currently, leading this city through an unprecedented health crisis.

My 16 years of public service experience, my record of progressive results, and my relationships with federal, state and local officials is what differentiates me from my opponent. They all know that I lead with my values and get results. The broad support I have received from state officials, regional leaders and trusted organizations also distinguishes me. I am honored to be endorsed by Governor Newsom, Superintendent Tony Thurmond, Robert Reich, the Sierra Club, Alameda Labor Council, supermajority of the City Council, and the entire Berkeley School Board.

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