

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 submitting your completed questionnaire is 11:59 PM on Thursday, May 13th for the AD 18 endorsement meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 26th. 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 *

mia@miabonta.com

Name (First Last) *

Mia Bonta

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

State Assembly

Jurisdiction *

California

District *

18th 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 am affiliated with the City of Alameda Democratic Club, the 18th Assembly District delegates, and the California Democratic Party Democratic State Central Committee.
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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. *

When I was in college I served as an ethnic counselor to Puerto Rican, African American and AAPI students finding their way through Yale University, the institutional embodiment of white supremacist culture. In that role as a junior and senior, I was the person that nearly a dozen BIPOC young people came out to first, and in a few instances, sadly, last. Every young person would talk to me about the fear of letting their family down, of knowing that there were cultural and generational connections that would be hard to sustain, and most predominantly their parents' worry that they just wouldn't be able to live a full life as they defined it-- married, healthy, with children, and a thriving job. Helping LGBTQ identifying youth in those early years, translated for me into building an awareness around the inequities that the LGBTQ community endures-- marriage inequality, healthcare, reproductive rights, housing, and job discrimination among them. I am continuing to support students in Alameda Unified with anti-hate anti-discrimination policies and practices like creating positive all gender neutral spaces, standing up for gender identity and sexual health course content beginning in elementary school, standing up for inclusive and intersectional curriculum that speaks to the wealth our community has in its diversity of family structures, re-writing our equity policy to be inclusive of our LGBTQ community, and re-drafting our restorative justice programming to ensure we are applying a more explicit and inclusive lens around the impacts on LGBTQ students and families of our bias.

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

Jim Oddie's campaign for Alameda City Council: Literature drop, precinct walked, endorsed, contributed.

Verna Castro's campaign for Alameda Unified School District Board: Fundraised, assisted with the County Democratic Party endorsement process, sat on the campaign committee, walked precincts. Would have been the first openly gay school board member, I supported Verna despite opposition from local teachers.

Angela Normand's campaign for Alameda County Office of Education Board: Fundraised, walked precincts, worked to secure ADEM endorsement, publicly endorsed.

RobinLynn Wilson, appointed AUSD school board member for Community Learning Centers Schools-- recruited, nominated, and secured School Board vote.

Brendalynn Goodall's campaign for Alameda County Democratic Central Committee: Encouraged her to run, donated, made calls on her behalf.

imber Anakata, elected Advocacy Chair PTAC and elected founding Officer at Large for the California Democratic Party Renters' Council. Encouraged her to run, advised her on policy, worked to found the Renters' Council.

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

Former Alameda City Councilmember Jim Oddie, imber Anakata founding Officer at Large for the California Democratic Party Renters' Council

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

I believe that my platform on Women's economic justice, including reproductive and health justice, will also benefit and highlights challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community. For too long, women's health has been undermined and undervalued in our health policy and systems. Women and families remain under-insured, forced to link their right to health security and health coverage with their work status, and we have experienced the encroachment on our rights to our bodies through legislative, court, and policy decisions in surrounding states that are already signaling to us here in California that our country will rely on our legislative leadership on these issues for the national stage.

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

My lived experiences, as an Afro-Latina, as a mother of three brown children, as a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law-- towering examples of white supremacy, and as a young girl growing up in the Bronx who was well on her way down the school to prison pipeline. It was only a chance encounter with a teacher who helped me enter into a gifted program which gave me the opportunity to live a different life. Because of that teacher, that opportunity, I was then able to attend one of the most elite educational institutions in this country-- Yale University. I had to work four jobs, received a scholarship and walked away with massive student debt, but I graduated and ended a cycle of poverty for my family forever. My best friend, who did not get the same opportunity to enter into the gifted program, ended up pregnant at age 14. A chance encounter should not determine whether our youth can explore their full potential, have a job that will help them thrive, and enable their family to live securely.

Since then, I have dedicated my life, through non-profit service and working in education and for children, youth, and working families to ensure that Black, Latino, API and children experiencing poverty and discrimination could be assured that their schools had an education, health supports, mental health supports, and career technical education and pathway programs. I have three children who are Black, Latino, and API. Issues of social, racial, environmental, and economic justice are not just abstract concepts to me, but are the center of my lived experiences. I have seen firsthand how the systems in our state – from education and the criminal justice system to health care and housing – often fail to provide for all Californians. The pandemic has further exacerbated systemic inequalities, while exposing once again the precariousness of so many people's livelihoods. That is what motivates me, and separates me from my opponents.

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