

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 Ryan LaLonde, Interim EBSDC PAC chair via email at [REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Email *

[REDACTED]

Name (First Last) *

Soli Alpert

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction *

Berkeley

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: Queerspawn

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 been a member of Stonewall for many years. Growing up I was a member of COLAGE and the Harvey Milk Democratic Club when I lived in San Francisco. I am a member of East Bay Young Democrats and on the Central Committee of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club. I also serve as an alternate member of the Alameda County Democratic Party.

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. *

As a child of lesbian mothers, I have grown up in the queer community throughout my life. Creating an inclusive and open environment for all is core to my values. In my role as Legislative Aide to Councilmember Rigel Robinson, I was proud to help draft and pass the Gender Neutral Language policy, which removed gendered language from the City municipal code and added pronouns as a field on applications for City Commissions and other documents. More broadly, I know that the LGBTQ+ community faces issues at the intersection of many crises. On homelessness, mental health, housing, and public safety, LGBTQ+ people face greater challenges because of their gender and sexuality. I address some of these issues further in another answer.

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

Yes, I have endorsed the following candidates and contributed to most of them:
Jennifer Esteen, Jovanka Beckles, James Chang, Elena Condes, Cecilia Lunaparra, Victor Aguilar, Xavier Johnson, Andy Kelley, Bobbi Lopez, Mark Fickes, Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez, Bevan Dufty, Janice Li, Peter Galotta, Frances Hsieh, Rebecca Kaplan, Janani Ramachandran, Angela Normand, Jackie Fielder, Honey Mahogany, Rafael Mandelman, James Coleman, Alex Lee, Austin Bruckner.

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

Victor Aguilar, San Leandro City Councilmember
Ryan LaLonde, Alameda School Board Member
Austin Bruckner, Candidate for Hayward School Board
Xavier Johnson, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Andy Kelley, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner
Lance Kwan, Ohlone Community College Board Trustee
Mel Shuen-Mallory, ACDCC Delegate
Bobbi Lopez, ACDCC Delegate

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

A disproportionate share of our homeless population, especially homeless youth, are LGBTQ+. We need to advance solutions to homelessness that are rooted in housing, compassion, and the provision of services. I support placing an additional revenue measure on the ballot to fund affordable and supportive housing. I also support policies to expand rent and eviction control, including being a proponent of a measure for the November ballot in Berkeley that would expand rent and eviction protections and establish the right to form tenant associations. Additionally, we have seen an unfortunate number of violent incidents in our Downtown and Telegraph neighborhoods, often targeting LGBTQ+ individuals. I support funding public safety programs like unarmed ambassadors to walk with people at night as has been proposed by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Youth mental health is a significant issue for all communities, but is especially acute for young LGBTQ+ people. Under Councilmember Kate Harrison, the City has invested to expand mental health services at Berkeley High School. I support continuing and expanding that investment, and identifying new opportunities to fund youth mental health.

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

Unlike one of my opponents, I have lived in the district for many years. What sets me apart from the field is my track record of delivering substantive, progressive policy accomplishments for the Berkeley community. In my time as a Legislative Assistant and Rent Board Commissioner, I have helped to draft the Fair Workweek Ordinance and the Empty Homes Tax, both groundbreaking progressive legislation that protect workers rights and crack down on housing speculation respectively. I have helped to advocate for a robust revision to the Demolition Ordinance that protects tenants' rights while allowing for new infill development. And I am proud to be a proponent of a measure for the ballot this cycle that would expand rent and eviction control and establish the right to form tenant associations. Of all the candidates in the race, I am the most well connected to District 4 residents and institutions and have the broadest record of policy accomplishments.

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms