

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) *

Jennifer Esteen, RN

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

Supervisor

Jurisdiction *

Alameda County

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'm a member of the East Bay Stonewall club and moderated a panel earlier this year that the club hosted that featured Black queer business owners. I have also worked with the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic club both campaigns and in their general advocacy throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area. I am a participant with Castro Valley Pride and have been working with them to support LGBTQ youth in our schools as well as to support Drag Queen Story Hour, especially in the wake of hateful homophobic attacks last year in San Lorenzo. I was selected to be a participant in LGBTQ+ Victory Institute's Women Out to Win cohort this year and will be featured at their annual international Leader's Conference in Washington DC. This weekend I'll be participating in Equality California's "Real Talk with LGBTQ+ Leaders" Panel which is a part of their Leadership Academy being held in Oakland.

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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. *

My proudest direct advocacy work to support LGBTQ+ folx is openly supporting Lyon Martin clinic in San Francisco to prevent its closure in 2020. The Lyon Martin clinic has served as a world renowned center for Trans health for more than 40 years. It is the first clinic dedicated to serving members of our trans community with dignified treatment to help them transition with proper medical care. The training provided to clinicians and healthcare professionals has allowed gender affirming healthcare to be provided to people all over the world. Lyon Martin was on the brink of closure last year but was saved because of the support from community members' raising awareness about the financial struggles the clinic was facing. My union, SEIU 1021 organized Lyon Martin and brought them in as members with HR 360. We helped ensure clinic workers had access to electeds in San Francisco to increase and protect the clinic's budget. I'm proud of the advocacy work I did with the staff and clients of Lyon Martin in conjunction with HR360, their parent organization, my union, SEIU 1021, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. We not only saved the clinic from closing, again, we are in the process of helping them gain independence from HR 360, their current parent organization. I am a firm believer in self determination and worker led organizations. Lyon Martin is an example of worker power and self determination in action. As the former Vice President of Organizing of SEIU 1021, I strongly and consistently champion policies to improve protections and wages for all workers, especially LGBTQ workers and BIPOC members of the community because too often being both BIPOC trans means a lifetime of lower earnings, homelessness, drug addiction and early death. As a Supervisor, I will propose using funds to support for transgender and nonbinary individuals, who face some of the highest rates of poverty, unemployment mortality and morbidity.

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

In my local electoral work I supported Jovanka Beckles, Caroline Menjivar, Janani Ramachandran, Corey Jackson, Alex Lee, Christy Holstege, Rick Zbur Chavez, and Georgette Gomez for their bids for Assembly and Janani again when she successfully ran for city council. By volunteering my time and Alexis Villalobos in his bid for Assembly and locally I also supported James Coleman, Gabe Quinto, Devin Murphy, Rafael Mandelman, and my friends Honey Mahogany and Alfred Twu on their runs as well.

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

At this time I am still working to earn endorsements from Harvey Milk Club, Victory Fund, and EQCA. We expect the Milk Club decision by the time this questionnaire is due, so there may be an announcement before the Stonewall Club makes a decision. There may be other clubs that I make contact with as we approach election day.

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

As a queer woman there are many issues that impact our LGBTQ community that are personal for me. And there are four priorities that I have highlighted for my campaign that I feel are critical to address which are housing, healthcare, jobs and justice. In a study conducted by the Trevor Project in 2022, 28% of youth who were surveyed reported experiencing homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives. LGBTQ youth have longer durations of homelessness and are more likely to need public assistance than youth who do not identify as LGBTQ. By focusing on my four priority areas I will work to undo these statistics. I intend to work with our LGBTQ community centers in the county to expand their funding and services offerings so our community can get greater access to preventative care, job training and housing stipends in coordination with universal basic income programs that currently exist and will be developed. I will use my skills and experience as a public health nurse and organizer to ensure services expand and accountability metrics are leveraged to shift otherwise negative outcomes. I see it as my job to protect families, children and young people, especially trans, non binary and disabled members of our LGBTQIA+ community because we have so much more progress to make. Trans people of color experience the most negative outcomes of any other demographic group in the country because of racism, transphobia, and other overlapping isms. It will be my duty to help champion policies that protect trans and queer people of color in Alameda County that serve as a model to other counties and states.

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

My work over the last 14 years as a public health nurse and a psychiatric registered nurse sets me apart from any other candidate that may step into the race. I currently serve as Vice President of our Alameda Health System Board which has oversight of our county's four hospitals and multiple clinics and in this role I have fiduciary responsibility over our system's \$1.4 billion budget. I also serve as a council member on our unincorporated Eden Municipal Advisory Council. My campaign is earning endorsements and attention from the right people and groups to raise my profile, name recognition and lend credibility to me for those who may not already know me and my work; and my campaign is fundraising well while also being 100% corporate free, which is crucial for funding strong and expansive voter outreach.

My approach to health and safety is driven by a dedication to making policy decisions that will address the root causes of inequities to create lasting change and pass legislation that will fund programs that heal our communities. Like expanding community based behavioral healthcare services and deeply affordable housing. There are no other candidates that can relate to our community members, inspire and lead unapologetically the way I do, without being beholden to any special interest group. I'm running a grassroots campaign that is people-powered and people funded which keeps me independent and forces me to be accountable to the people.

Our Alameda County Board of Supervisors has never had a Black openly LGBTQ+ member, so I have the opportunity to be the first. People often tell me that I'm a unicorn of sorts because I'm a Black Jewish woman, mother, registered nurse, union member and leader, organizer and trusted public servant who is currently serving the county in multiple capacities.

Following the devastating COVID pandemic, the health and safety of our community is on the ballot. Now is the time for Alameda County to be nurtured and cared for in the way only a nurse can. With great attention, love, kindness and advocacy. I have a proven record of advocating for the interests of historically marginalized communities through my work at SEIU, the AHS Board of Trustees, the Eden MAC, and other community organizations I work with. I strongly support the legislative priorities of East Bay Stonewall and I'm committed to partnering with Stonewall to champion bills that will promote justice for all. I'm running a strong campaign and know that I will win with the full force of the East Bay Stonewall with me.

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms