

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

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.

Please return your 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.

ABEL GUILLÉN | Oakland City Council, District 2

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?*

YES, I am a registered Democrat, and have been since I was 18 years old and first eligible to vote. I have never been registered for with another party.

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?*

YES, I am a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club and have been a member since 2012. I have also been a member of the Human Rights Campaign and founding donor of the Oakland LGBT Center as well as a former member of HonorPAC.

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.*

I have advocated for funding for youth and teen homelessness and allocated funding for this problem that disproportionately impacts LGBT youth. I have also been an active supporter financially and recognizing the work of the formation of Oakland's LGBT Center. I am proud to be endorsed by center founders Joe Hawkins and Jeffrey Meyers and look forward to looking at securing additional funds through government resources to sustain the center's vital community work.

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?*

I have supported numerous candidates in the past, including Senator Ricardo Lara, Mayor Gabriel Quinto, Andy Katz for EBMUD and Lori Dorste for Berkeley City Council. I enjoy the support of LGBT leaders like Joe Hawkins, Jeffrey Meyers, Gabe Quinto, Andy Kelley, Lori Dorste, George Perezvelez, Trustee Joaquin Rivera, former Oakland Councilmember Danny Wan, Ces Rosales and Tiffany Woods.

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

I think my most significant accomplishment as Councilmember is securing more than \$200,000 to address human trafficking and homeless youth that are disproportionality LGBT teens. We need to continue to provide funding for housing for this vulnerable population. I am also proud to have LGBT High School interns work in my office over the summer.

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

My main policy goals are to address the housing affordability crisis, build additional affordable housing by implementing Measure KK that I co-authored, and improve our failing infrastructure by continuing to pave our streets roads and parks.

I also want to ensure that we stop displacement of current Oakland residents by protecting 17,000 existing units of housing by protecting tenants that are currently in naturally occurring affordable housing.

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

I have been in public office for 12 years as a community college trustee and Councilmember, and have worked professionally as a Financial Advisor, raising more than \$3 billion to improve schools and colleges statewide. As the chair of the Council's Finance and Management Committee, I know how to reach consensus on difficult fiscal decisions, balance a budget, and find the resources needed to get things done. I have forged effective relationships throughout our city and in the neighborhoods I represent that are essential for an effective, ethical leader who gets results that benefit our entire community.