

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Irella Blackwood

Page 1

Q1 First name

Irella

Q2 Last name

Blackwood

Q3 Office you are seeking

Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder

Page 2

Q5 Are you a registered Democrat?

Yes

Q6 If so for how long?

Recently, but, I have been active within my Democratic values at a young age. While in College I marched with Barbara Lee for education reform, protested against the Iraq War, and led a protest against a racist bake sale on campus.

Q7 With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated?

I support and am endorsed by the CAL Democratic Club, John George Democratic Club, the Metropolitan Greater Oakland Democratic Club, Castro Valley Democrats, East Bay Women's Political Alliance, East Bay Young Democrats, as well as Fremont (FUN) Progressives.

Q8 Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club?

No

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Q9 If so for how long?

I want to join.

Q10 If not have you supported or contributed to the club in some way?

I am a long time supporter of the club's mission & goals. And, would like to contribute financially.

Q11 What other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity?

I support organizations that believe in inclusion, outreach, and fight against discrimination.

Page 3

Q12 What specifically have you done to advance LGBT rights and/or to nurture an inclusive and affirming community for LGBT individuals and families? Please give specific examples.

As a founder of my non-profit organization whose mission is to identify students from developing countries that are strong in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, STEM, who lack the resources to attend college/university and to provide opportunities to gain a tertiary education. I have worked fearlessly to ensure inclusion of the LGBT communities and others in my outreach and recruitment.

Q13 Who are your LGBT supporters?

Gabe Quinto, Mayor of El Cerrito.

Peggy Moore, Principal at Boom LLC; former Senior Special Advisor to Mayor Libby Schaaf; former California Political Director at Obama for America

Gwen Booze.

Steven Blackwood, Entrepreneur

Toni Gomez

Kate Gordon, all-star athlete.

Q14 What LGBT candidates have you supported, and did it include financial or campaign support?

Respondent skipped this question

Q15 What other issues or causes have you advocated for that you feel are relevant to the LGBT community?

I supported initiatives that allowed gay marriage and fought against those who prohibited it, this included prop 8 and when issues like this have come up consistently in San Francisco where I work.

Page 4

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Q16 What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking?

I am the only candidate who has the educational requirements to be the Chief Financial Officer for the County of Alameda. I am a CPA finalist, have an MBA in Finance from Holy Names University, and graduated with Honors from CAL in Economics and Accounting. I worked in the private sector for the #1 accounting firm in the world PriceWaterHouseCoopers auditing large companies like Cisco and Ebay. As Chief Auditor in San Francisco I have been publicly noted for uncovering \$5 million in waste and fraud. I want to bring transparency to the Alameda County Auditor-Controller office by publicizing and conducting performance audits.

Q17 Why should Stonewall consider you over your opponents for an early endorsement other than being LGBTQ?

I have the best educational and work related qualifications. I support outreach and inclusion of the LGBTQ community. I have received the overwhelming support of the Alameda County Central Committee and support of John George Dems, MGO Dems, Castro Valley Dems, and CAL Berkeley Dems.

East Bay Times also recently reported me as their best pick for Auditor and that, "Many candidates for public office give lip service to the idea of ferreting out waste and inefficiency; Blackwood has actually done it." More on that article here - <https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/04/24/editorial-blackwood-the-transparency-pick-for-alameda-county-auditor/>

Q18 What would be your main policy goals?

To bring in the values of transparency, accountability and fiscal stewardship into the office of the Auditor. I will do so by making the audits public so the public can see where the money is going and how effectively and efficiently. I will conduct performance audits to show how our departments are working, to compare best practices, show what we're doing well and what can be done better. This is critical to ensure our \$3 billion dollar budget is going where it's most needed and for us to get the most bang for our buck.

Q19 How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?

By conducting performance audits we will be able to see where the money is going and if it is being utilized effectively towards the communities it's meant for. These audits will also show us if we are doing sufficient outreach to recruit LGBTQ employees and vendors.

Q20 What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

To bring forth transparency and accountability to the office. There are many best practices from the public and private sectors that I hope to bring to the office. This will not only make the office more productive, but accessible to the public.

Q21 Why do you feel you can win this race?

I am working very hard with organized labor, democratic and LGBT communities to get my message out. My professional team is working with a large base of volunteers to distribute my campaign message, with consistent messages on slate cards, digital ads, and mail. My message of being most qualified, transparency and accomplished - has gathered increasing momentum in the community. We feel confident we are headed to the right path.
