

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Andy Katz

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Q1 First name

Andy

Q2 Last name

Katz

Q3 Office you are seeking

Assembly District 15

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Q5 Are you a registered Democrat?

Yes

Q6 If so for how long?

Approximately 20 years

Q7 With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated?

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, East Bay Young Democrats, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, Berkeley Democratic Club, Albany Democratic Club, El Cerrito Democratic Club, Berkeley Albany Emeryville Democratic Campaign.

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

Yes

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Q9 If so for how long?

Approximately 6 years.

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

I have sponsored Stonewall's bowling / brunch and Pride events.

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

Member of BALIF (LGBT Bar Association). Supporter of Lambda Legal and Equality California.

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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.

I have been very involved in health issues that impact LGBT health disparities, particularly in developing programs that aim to reduce smoking prevalence. We have twice the smoking prevalence than the general population, and an even greater disparity among young LGBT people. This isn't an accident – it's the result of specific targeting by the tobacco industry for sponsorships and promotions, the historic marginalization of our community, and cultural adoption of perceived symbols of rebellion and liberation.

In addition, I've consulted with Supervisor Ken Yeager on his initiative to conduct a comprehensive LGBT health needs assessment for Santa Clara County, and I think this direction would be an excellent model for a state- funded program for all California counties. In the legislature, I will monitor at the administrative agencies implementation of recent legislation that calls for adequate training in cultural competency, including unique LGBT community needs.

On the Berkeley Community Health Commission, I formed a Subcommittee for LGBT Health Equity to assess our community's needs for improved interventions and service delivery for sexual health, mental health, and other areas where the LGBT community faces significant health disparities.

Q13 Who are your LGBT supporters?

My supporters include El Cerrito Mayor Gabriel Quinto, local activists Toni Gomez, Wendy Musell, Lynn Riordan, Paul Hogarth, and Becca Cramer. Many more of my individual donors and supporters are proud members of the LGBT community.

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

I provided significant campaign support for electing BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, Judge Tara Flanagan, and Judge Victoria Kolokowski. I supported current and former Councilmembers Gabriel Quinto, John Bauters, Darryl Moore, Lori Droste, Ruth Atkin, and Jovanka Beckles and School Director/Trustee Judy Appel and Joaquin Rivera with a personal endorsement, and when requested, a financial contribution. (partial list)

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

- Budget programs for public health disparities affecting the LGBT community, including tobacco prevention, mental health, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.
 - Closing loopholes in equal pay laws, mindful of severe pay gaps and workplace discrimination affecting transgender workers.
 - Cultural competency initiatives that fund Counties to survey health providers and LGBT community members to assess the gaps in providers that are aware of unique needs of the LGBT community, and support educational programming for physicians and mental health providers about these issues, particularly sexual health, mental health, and how to discuss identity and healthy living with LGBT people, particularly for transgender people.
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Q16 What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking?

- I've served for nearly 18 years in local government office, including 12 years in elected service on the EBMUD Board of Directors.
 - I'm the only civil rights litigator in this race, and have in-depth experience in how to strengthen equal rights through access to justice.
 - I have a deep public health background, from a decade of nonprofit public policy advocacy in Sacramento.
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Q17 Why should Stonewall consider you over your opponents for an early endorsement other than being LGBTQ?

My commitment to achieving equality for LGBTQ people and advancing civil rights enforcement, health equity, and improving existing important policy achievements like anti-bullying programs in public schools.

Q18 What would be your main policy goals?

In the Assembly I will prioritize workers rights, universal health care, protecting the environment, funding public education, and affordable housing for our community.

Q19 How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?

The LGBT community is part of a progressive coalition supporting equality and social justice. When we invest in public education and social safety net, this liberates more people to contribute to their families and our society. In particular, LGBT people as a community experience health disparities and equal pay disparities. In the Assembly, I will build intersectional coalitions to advance progressive issues and LGBT rights.

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

In the Assembly I hope to ensure that all Californians are covered by quality universal health care, that California moves forward on a path to 100% renewable energy and climate protection, and that we increase funding for our public schools and affordable housing for our community. I will also lead efforts to strengthen workers' rights, protect renters, and create new programs addressing public health disparities affecting the LGBT community.

Q21 Why do you feel you can win this race?

We need an Assemblymember with experience taking on tough fights. In the foreclosure crisis I took on the big banks to protect vulnerable tenants from eviction. I guided negotiations resulting in a \$15 minimum wage and paid sick leave for Berkeley workers. I've worked to pass laws for climate protection, accelerating clean energy, and reducing toxic diesel emissions from the Port of Oakland. My proven track record shows that I'm ready to lead. My campaign has been fundraising to communicate with voters through mail and organizing to go door-to-door to be able to win this race.
