

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Buffy Wicks

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Q1 First name

Buffy

Q2 Last name

Wicks

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?

22 years

Q7 With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated?

Albany Dem Club, Wellstone Dems Club, Berkeley Dem Club, El Cerrito Dem Club, Stonewall Dem Club, Weest Contra Cost County Dem Club

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

Yes

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Q9 If so for how long?

joined recently

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

No.

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

I am not

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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.

During the 2012 Obama re-election campaign, I oversaw the OFA campaign's LGBTQ mobilization and engagement programs, with resulted in the largest LGBTQ vote turnout in presidential history.

I've worked in support of many LGBTQ political candidates and worked alongside many political appointees including the following:

Current and Former Elected Officials:

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

Former Assembly Speaker John Perez

State Senator Scott Wiener

Raymond Buckley, former New Hampshire State Representative and Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee

Appointees:

Brian Bond, Deputy Director of the White House Office Public and Engagement and liaison to the LGBTQ community

Ambassador to Denmark, Rufus Gifford

Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, James Brewster

Ambassador to Spain, James Costos

Jeremy Bernard, Social Secretary of the White House

Ellie Schafer, Director of the White House Visitors Office

I've been an adamant supporter of marriage equality and always working for candidates who had progressive view on LGBT rights, including Hillary Clinton and Howard Dean.

In my personal life, I've been a long-time member of the San Francisco Tsunami Water Polo Team since 2002. I played with this team at the Gay Games in Sydney, Australia in 2002.

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Q13 Who are your LGBT supporters?

State Senator Scott Weiner

Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, Right to Marry Supreme Court Defendants

Peggy Moore,

Principal at Boom LLC; former Senior Special Advisor to Mayor Libby Schaaf; former California Political Director at Obama for America
Leanne Pittsford, CEO and Founder of Lesbians Who Tech, Tech Jobs Tour, and include.io

Beth Gernstein, Berkeley Democratic Club

And many other community leaders across AD15

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

Most recently, I advised on, supported and donated Peggy Moore's Oakland City Council race.

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

My passion is fighting for equity, equal opportunity, and economic security. My belief in universal healthcare drove me to work directly with candidates supporting the most progressive agendas such as Howard Dean and President Barack Obama. While serving in the Obama White House, I worked directly with the President to ensure the passage of the Affordable Care Act-- ensuring healthcare extend to those with preexisting conditions, including those with HIV/AIDS, a disease impacting many in the LGBTQ community.

In addition, I've worked on a wide variety of economic issues, including paid leave policy, pay equity, affordable child care and more funding for public education.

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

I have worked in progressive politics for over 20 years, in grassroots campaigns, government, advocacy and policy. I have worked at the federal, state and local level. I have passed bold progressive policy and can bring that skill set with me. I will start on day one with critical relationships, such as with US Senator Kamala Harris, Lt Gov Gavin Newsom and others. I have progressive values and a solutions-oriented approach.

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

I will be ready on day to be an effective legislator and ally to the LGBTQ community. I am going to Sacramento not just to vote the 'right' way, but to lead on progressive, inclusive public policy.

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Q18 What would be your main policy goals?

As the next Assemblywoman from District 15, these would be my top priorities:

→ Ensuring all Californians have affordable access to healthcare. California is taking an important and necessary look at universal healthcare and creating a single-payer system. I believe California can and should be committed to providing single-payer health care for its residents.

→ Tackling the housing crisis head on. Our East Bay community faces a severe shortage of homes that are affordable to low- and middle-income young people, families, and seniors. We need to build more homes at all income levels and do everything we can to guard against displacement.

→ Boosting funding for public education. I am a product of public schools - from kindergarten through college. I believe everyone has a right to quality public education

and I will support legislation to reduce teacher shortages, increase funding for K-12 public schools, invest in community colleges, and ensure our public universities are accessible and affordable for California residents.

→ Making California the most family-friendly state in the nation. I will lead the push for a package of legislation aimed at promoting the health and safety of California kids. We need to transform our system of early childhood services at the state and local levels to be more child-centered.

→ Protecting and welcoming immigrant communities. We must reject the politics of hate and fear, and we can do that through responsible legislation that protects crime victims and keeps undocumented immigrants out of the shadows. Our strength is our diversity, and our diversity is reflected in our vibrant immigrant communities. I will do everything in my power to make immigrants from all corners of the globe feel welcome here.

→ Fighting for safety and justice for all residents. We must be honest about the outrageous racial disparities in our criminal justice system, work to end racial profiling and mass incarceration, and promote fair and impartial policing. And we must support re-entry programs to put formerly incarcerated individuals on a path to success.

Q19 How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?

All of these goals relate to the LBGTQ as this community reflect all aspects of living in District 15 and the goals and needs of the community.

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

I hope to pass progressive public policy that actually helps people in AD15.

Q21 Why do you feel you can win this race?

I have the most aggressive grassroots organizing campaign in this race with over 100 house parties and 500 volunteers. I was the only candidate in the race to gather and submit over 1,000 valid signatures in lieu of the filing fee. I have raised to the max for the primary campaign and began raising for the general election. I am also endorsed by notable elected such as United States Senator Kamala Harris, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom and may other AD15 community leaders.