

Name: Joaquín J. Rivera

Office you are seeking: Alameda County Board of Education, Area 1

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

The deadline to return your completed questionnaire is Monday, February 19th for our early endorsement meeting for the June 2018 general election.

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an endorsement from the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club. Per the Club's bylaws, a candidate must be a registered Democrat and complete a candidate questionnaire. You must receive 60% of the vote for an endorsement. Candidates for statewide or federal office are **NOT REQUIRED** to fill out a questionnaire.

1. Are you a registered Democrat? If so, for how long (If not, you are ineligible for an endorsement)? With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated?

I am a registered Democrat and have been so for the past 30 years. I'm a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club and the Berkeley Democratic Club. I'm a former member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee.

2. Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club? If so, for how long? If not, have you 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?

I am a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club. I have been a member for the past 24 years. For the past 6 years I have been treasurer of the Club and a member of the Executive Board.

3. 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 my tenure on the Alameda County Board of Education I have:

- Sponsored a resolution each year declaring June as Pride month in the Alameda County Office of Education (the first time it has ever happened).
- Reviewed and edited the policies of the County Office of Education to ensure that they support sexual orientation and gender identity equality issues.
- Promoted legislation to the County Board members that would improve the quality of education for all students, particularly those in the LGBTQI community.

In addition:

- I volunteered in the Oakland Pride celebrations
- I participated in San Francisco Pride, Oakland marriage equality celebrations and rainbow flag raising ceremonies in Berkeley and Oakland
- I serve as the treasurer of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club

- I was a member of the steering committee that planned the City of Oakland's response to the US Supreme Court Decisions on Prop 8 and DOMA
 - As a member of the Legislative Committee of the California County Boards of Education I fought very strong to have the organization support AB 1266 which expanded the rights of transgendered students in California, including the right to choose restrooms and sport teams based on the gender they identify with. Although the organization eventually decided to remain neutral, I was able to educate the members of the committee about specific issues affecting transgender youth.
4. What other issues or causes have you advocated for that you feel are relevant to the LGBT community?

As an openly gay, Latino Jewish man I have faced bigotry and discrimination. I have stood up for my rights and tried to educate those with biases against gay people. I challenge homophobic comments any time I hear them.

I am out at work and have been out throughout my entire political career so I can be a role model for members of our society particularly for the young people in my community. In particular, the County Office of Education oversees juvenile incarceration. I have been a champion for the rights and respect of each of the juvenile prisoners and have worked tirelessly to secure the rights of the LGBT youth (including accommodations and behavioral health).

I was a strong supporter and advocate for marriage equality.

5. Who are your LGBT supporters? What LGBT candidates have you supported, and did it include financial or campaign support?

I am just starting to collect endorsements. I have been endorsed by Emeryville mayor John Bauters and Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner James Chang. In the past I have supported LGBT candidates Judy Appel, Andy Katz, Rebecca Saltzman, Tara Flannagan, Vicky Kolakowski, Darryl Moore, and Kriss Worthington, among others.

6. What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking? If you have an opponent, what should Stonewall consider for making an early endorsement other than being LGBTQ?

I am the incumbent in this race. I have been involved in public education for the past 28 years. I am a community college chemistry professor. I have been President and Chief Negotiator of the San Mateo Community College Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1493, AFL-CIO. I was vice-president of the California Federation of Teachers. I served for 12 years in the Berkeley School Board and for the past 8 years I have been member of the Alameda County Board of Education. I was president of the California County Boards of Education, the statewide organization that represents county board of education members.

I don't have an opponent yet but even if I did I believe that because of my experience, my involvement in the club and my strong advocacy for LGBTQ issues I should be considered for an early endorsement by the club.

7. What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected? What would be your main policy goals? How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?

If re-elected I'll continue my work to: ensure districts utilize sound fiscal practices; provide coordination and collaboration among school districts on education initiatives; expand academic opportunities in county/court schools; improve academic support, reduce truancy rates, and increase graduation rates for all the students; and hold charter schools accountable. I will also continue my work to make sure that our policies are inclusive of the LGBTQ community. I will continue to advocate at the state level for issues of importance to the LGBTQ community.

8. Why do you feel you can win this race?

I am the incumbent and I have experience running successful campaigns. I have been endorsed by the following elected officials:

Senator Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond
Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Board of Equalization Chair Fiona Ma

Karen Monroe, Alameda County Superintendent
Sheila Jordan, former Alameda County Superintendent

Amber Childress, Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education
Eileen McDonald, Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education
Fred Sims, Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education
Jacki Fox Ruby, former Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education
Marlon McWilson, former Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education

Ty Alper, Berkeley School Board Director
Pamela Doolan, former Berkeley School Board Director
Shirley Issel, former Berkeley School Board Director
Nancy Riddle, former Berkeley School Board Director
Miriam Rokeach, former Berkeley School Board Director

John Selawsky, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner, former Berkeley School Board Director, Berkeley Library Board member
James Chang, Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner

Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley Mayor

Linda Maio, Berkeley City Councilmember
Susan Wengraf, Berkeley City Councilmember

John Bauters, Emeryville Mayor
Christian Patz, Emeryville City Councilmember

Annie Campbell-Washington, Oakland City Councilmember
Abel Guillen, Oakland City Councilmember
Jean Quan, former Oakland Mayor

Shanti Gonzalez, Oakland School Board Member
James Harris, Oakland School Board Member
Jody London, Oakland School Board Member
Rosie Torres, Oakland School Board Member

Pat Low, former Albany School Board Member
Ron Rosenbaum, former Albany School Board Member

Ann Crosbie, Fremont School Board Member
Amy Miller, Dublin School Board Member
Valerie Arkin, Pleasanton School Board Member
Jamie Yee Hintzke, Pleasanton School Board Member
William McGee, Hayward School Board Member

Meredith Brown, Peralta Community College District Trustee

Joel Cohen, former Member Alameda County Democratic Central Committee

Please return you completed questionnaire to Michael Colbruno, East Bay Stonewall PAC Chair, by email at Michael.Colbruno@gmail.com. If you have questions, please contact Michael at (510) 385-9414.