

Name: Cat Brooks Office you are seeking: Mayor, City of Oakland

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an endorsement from the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club.

Per the Club's bylaws, to be eligible for endorsement, a candidate must be a registered Democrat. All candidates must also complete this candidate questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement. Endorsements are decided by the general membership, and candidates must receive at least 60% of votes cast to be endorsed.

The deadline to return your completed questionnaire to jbauters@gmail.com is Monday, September 10th at 5:00pm for the September 13th East Bay Stonewall endorsement meeting for the November 2018 general election.

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?*

Over the years, I have been registered as both an Independent and a Democrat. While I have had strong criticisms of the Democratic Party and its failure to truly address the needs of Black, Brown, working class and poor people, I am currently registered as a Democrat. I do feel that it is important to raise radically progressive issues in our political system and without that designation, we would not be able to work for progressive change.

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?*

No. I have been endorsed by the Wellstone Democratic Club, Our Revolution North Bay and Contra Costa.

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 am an actress, playwright, poet and activist. The arts for me are one of the greatest sources of resistance. In 2005, just months after I gave birth to my daughter, my friend called me to audition for a play called Corpus Christi - the retelling of the Jesus story but in the form of a gay man in Corpus Christi Texas. The original production was a cast of all white gay men that opened to bomb threats in New York City. Our production was different; a cast of varying gender, race, class and orientation with a shared mission of spreading understanding and love for all. We worked with the playwright Terrence McNally and ultimately became the longest running production in history. We took our story across the country and out of the United States including Ireland, Scotland and other hostile areas courageously and unapologetically spreading our mission.

On the local level, I have been most active around issues related to police misconduct. And here too, we know that the fight against anti-LGBT bias is vital. In addition to a dramatic disparity in the treatment of African Americans, there have also been long and troubling histories of police departments (both in Oakland and elsewhere) mistreating LGBT people, failing to hire LGBT people, and perpetuating negative

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stereotypes and using bigoted language. Complaints we've heard about in Oakland in recent years include harassment of trans people, and stereotyping trans women as sex workers, as well as comments from LGBT who applied to the department, passed all the tests, and then were not hired. We have consistently voiced these concerns in our endless fight for transparency and accountability from the Oakland Police Department.

4. *Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support?*
I have supported Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan (Oakland At-Large) and candidate for 2016 Berkeley District 2 City Council, Nanci Armstrong-Temple

5. *Who are your LGBT endorsers? Who are your LGBT supporters?*

Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Carlo Gomez Arteaga, Executive Board of the San Francisco Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

Jenna Hackman, Gender Spectrum

Kin Folkz, Spectrum Queer Media

Katie Tertocha, Field Director and Volunteer Coordinator

Patrice Cullors, BLM - Los Angeles/Justice Teams Network

Lea Arrellano, Two Spirit Urban Medicines

Tina D'Elia, Consultant

Stephanie Daniels, We Heart Finance

Mollie Jane, Design Action Collective

Andrea Pritchett, Berkeley Copwatch

Forrest Schmidt

James Brandon, Author/Actor

Nic Arnzen, Director/Producer

6. *What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected? Please outline your top three policy goals or objectives and how you intend to achieve them.*

Housing & Homelessness: The first order of business must be to immediately get those who are sleeping on the streets, off of the streets. We need to be moving as though a bomb dropped into the center of Oakland - bucking all bureaucratic excuses about why it can't be done and get it done. This means using alternative housing models. Some of our public lands could be used to build Tiny Homes. They can be up in two weeks and cost a fraction of what a regular affordable housing unit would cost to build. We can open up, partition, and put showers and bathrooms in city owned warehouses. At the state level, we can support Proposition 10, repealing Costa Hawkins, and then implement a progressive rent control policy that would serve as a model for the rest of the state.

Jobs & Economy: We must grow the budget. Even if we redirected all of our monies toward the places that our values tell us the money should go like housing, social services, clean streets and schools - there still would not be enough to go around to improve the quality of life for all Oaklanders to the degree that we need to. We should support the upcoming legislation to reform prop 13 which will bring over \$500 million into alameda county annually, collectively identify the businesses that we want in Oakland, and invest in the workforce development department to train Oaklanders for these jobs. We must also support an anti-speculation tax, a real estate transfer tax, and a Citywide Community Benefits Agreement with a Project Labor Agreement that

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would ensure developers pay their fair share to develop here. We need to audit all of our major city expenditures, including the Oakland Police Department which receives 43% of our general fund, annually.

Public Safety: We have never had a mayor that demanded full transparency and accountability from our police department. In fact, we've had nearly the opposite. We remain in federal receivership which is costing the city millions annually. We also continue to pay out multi-million dollar claims against the police department, and allow them to exceed their authorized overtime spending by tens of millions of dollars per year. The list goes on - our solution is to commission a complete audit of our police budget, and to follow that audit with conversations amongst community, community stakeholders, experts, and government officials to determine how best to move forward.

7. *What makes you uniquely qualified for the office and how are you different or unique from the other candidates in your race?*

I currently serve as the Executive Director/Co-Founder of the Justice Teams Network, a network of grassroots activists providing rapid response and healing justice in response to all forms of State violence across California. I am the co-founder of the Anti Police-Terror Project, an organizer, and proud resident of Oakland, California. In addition, I have served as Executive Director for both Youth Together and the National Lawyers Guild. I left my position as co-host of KPFA radio's morning show "Upfront" to run for mayor.

My energies have been focused on activism and community engagement. I come to this campaign with 13 years of on the ground, grassroots, unpaid organizing experience in Oakland. I believe it is because of this commitment that we have seen a groundswell of volunteers and donors rise up in support of my campaign. With more than 500 volunteers and nearly 2,000 donors, we are already reaching folks with a desire to change the status quo.

The importance of the voice and needs of the people is at the center of my work. I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Justice Teams Network, a statewide network of organizations working to change the way in which law enforcement engages communities through advocacy, organizing, communications, and policy. Until I stepped down to run for mayor, I leveraged my role as co-host of KPFA's morning news show "UpFront" to bring the work of justice and equity into a public forum that not only served to educate the public, but also to activate them in moments of engagement and resistance.

I have an extensive background in fighting for educational equity. One of my first orders of business as the community liaison for The Education Trust, West, was to play a leadership role in a campaign that made the A-G curriculum the default curriculum for OUSD, ensuring that every child graduates with the ability to apply to a state school. This experience has anchored my work -- not only as Executive Director of Youth Together, but also on boards and commissions such as the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth. In addition, during my tenure as Director for the National Lawyers Guild - San Francisco Bay Area, I guided an organization that provides legal support for organizers and activists on the frontlines of resistance work.

The above experiences have given me a uniquely grassroots orientation to the work of political engagement, centered on listening to the people most impacted by decisions made by their "representatives". Most recently, I used my expertise to help secure the passage of SB 1421 through the California State House and Senate. There are very few politicians who have a demonstrated history of advocacy unimpeded by self-interest; my track record over the last several decades shows clearly that I am here to represent the People.

Please return you 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.