

## 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](mailto:jbauters@gmail.com) is Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** for the September 13<sup>th</sup> 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?*

I am a registered Democrat and a proud Democrat.

I was so inspired by Bill Clinton in 1992 that I took a two week vacation from my job as a CPA at Deloitte & Touche and took a crash campaign management course at American University and then was hired as a regional Finance Director (fundraiser) for Texas Governor Ann Richards (may she rest in peace). I went on to become the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the 1996 Democratic National Convention Committee and then the Democratic National Committee in 1997.

For a couple years right after I left the DNC – I was an independent and while I did not support Republicans, I was frankly very disillusioned with the Monica Lewinsky scandal

2. *Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club? I joined September 9<sup>th</sup> and I believe I have been a member in the past but it's been awhile. 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?*

I am not affiliated with any other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations. In my prior campaigns for City Auditor (2006 & 2010) I have been endorsed by the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, Alameda County Democratic Party, John George Democratic Club, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club and others.

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.*

LGBT people are central to my life and the lives of my children, whose god-uncles are a married male couple and who have been a big part of their Godfamily since day one. Before the boys came I asked John and Randy to commit to the boys for the rest of their lives — and they have. My boys have been raised in an inclusive environment where only love matters. They are adopted, and I am a strong and vocal advocate for LGBT adoption and foster parenting. I teach the boys about all families, single partner families and families with two mamas or two papas.

Name: Courtney Ruby

Office you are seeking: Oakland City Auditor

Politically, I have supported LGBT candidates and pro-LGBT ballot measures and opposed anti-LGBT measures (Prop 8 was particularly odious). As City Auditor, LGBT people have played central roles on my staff. My first campaign assistant, who I hired as my first executive assistant is gay, and our family stays in close contact with her. My former assistant city auditor was one of the lead organizer for Dikes on Bikes in SF.

I was appointed the Interim CFO of the State of Illinois Department of Human Rights and partnered with the Director, the first openly gay member of the Governor's cabinet, to lobby for the passage of critical legislation to add sexual orientation to the State's Human Rights Act.

4. *Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support?*

Yes I have supported LGBT candidates. I do not believe I have provided financial support.

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

Karen Anderson, a member of Stonewall, is a long-time supporter and endorser. I have many LGBT supporters.

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.*

I am running for City Auditor to restore integrity in the office and provide meaningful and impactful results for the citizens of Oakland.

Top priority areas to audit: Homelessness, affordability, safe streets and public safety.

There isn't any issue you can't audit, the key is asking the right questions when setting the audit criteria so that the audits results create impact in addressing the root cause. We could evaluate if a) the city is spending the dollars to address affordability, services for the homeless, and street repair as they have been appropriated in the budget b) the dollars being spent are actually impacting affordability, improving services for the homeless or improving city streets or c) are other cities getting better results and if so, why? For public safety, there are so many areas to evaluate—response time, effectiveness, community satisfaction, racial profiling, use of force, effectiveness of internal affairs, etc. Before determining where to audit regarding public safety, I need to evaluate where the greatest impact would be to the citizens and community stakeholders. Audit are a great tool if used wisely, meaning they must be scoped so that the subject is useful and its results will be impactful. Lastly it must be released in a timely manner to ensure the recommendations are relevant and there must be effective post audit methods to ensure recommendations are implemented so results are realized—accountability to the citizens.

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

I served as City Auditor between 2007 and 2014 and made the office a model of accountability, transparency and results. We were honored in 2014 with a national award for our hard-hitting performance audits and investigations. In a January 23, 2018 column titled, "Oakland Desperately Needs a New City Auditor," the East Bay Express wrote about my previous service: "Ruby proved to be a highly competent and courageous city auditor – dedicated to rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse in Oakland city government and protecting whistleblowers who risk their livelihoods in order to expose wrongdoing in City Hall."

Name: Courtney Ruby

Office you are seeking: Oakland City Auditor

The current auditor acts like an internal auditor whose client is the City Administration instead of an independently elected auditor who serves the citizens and who is there to protect the people's interest.

**Please return you completed questionnaire to John J. Bauters, East Bay Stonewall PAC Chair, by email at [jbauters@gmail.com](mailto:jbauters@gmail.com). If you have questions, please contact Mr. Bauters at 415-999-7932.**