

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Oddie \_\_\_\_\_ Office you are seeking: \_\_\_\_\_ Alameda City Council \_\_\_\_\_

## 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?*

Yes. Been a registered Democrat since I moved to California in 1996. Previously, I lived in Illinois, where we did not register by party, but I voted only in the Democratic Primary while living there.

- 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?*

I am a member and just joined this year, but have been supportive of the club for a number of years. As Rob Bonta's District Director, I've supported the annual bowling fundraiser and proud that Team Bonta has beaten Team Thurmond the last 2 years! I marched with Stonewall in the Oakland Pride Parade in 2014 and have attended the Oakland Pride breakfast numerous times. I served many years as President/Co-President of the City of Alameda Democratic Club. I also serve on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee.

- 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.*

As Assemblymember Bonta's District Director, I was honored to speak at the City of Oakland's press conference celebrating the Supreme Court's decision in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, bringing marriage equality to California. I arranged for the City of Alameda to fly the rainbow flag at City Hall on the day the decision was announced. In Alameda, we adopted the "Everyone Belongs Here" campaign – this has become our unofficial motto. On the council, I co-authored a referral with Vice Mayor Malia Vella to increase the reporting to City Council of hate crimes, bringing more visibility to these incidents.

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

Supported: Rebecca Kaplan (financial), Richard Fuentes (financial), Abel Guillen (financial), Judge Tara Flanagan, Judge Vicky Kolakowski, Brendalynn Goodall (AD18 delegate), James Chang (financial), Shawn Kumagai, Lori Droste, Joaquin Rivera, Pamela Harris.

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

In 2014, I was supported by Joel Cohen, Joaquin Rivera, Henry Villareal, Sean Cahill. I was also honored to receive the endorsement of the East Bay Stonewall Club. So far this year, I'm supported/endorsed by James Chang, Robbie Williams, Vincent Leung, and more to come.

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.*

Vision/Priorities

1) 911 Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services: Alamedans who need help, should get it fast. Alameda Hospital must continue to stay open.

2) Traffic! We must reduce traffic congestion for our quality of life.

3) Housing/ Homelessness: I'll work to expand housing options our children and local workforce can afford. Compassionate services will provide effective transition from the street for the homeless.

4) Quality of Life: I'll continue to protect our small-town character and maintain services all generations need - senior health/nutrition programs; city-school partnerships; school safety; and low-cost recreation programs for all ages. We need to give real meaning to our slogan, "Everyone Belongs Here."

I have a record of fighting for these priorities and will continue to do so on the City Council if re-elected to serve a second term. These issues impact all of Alameda, including the city's LGBT community.

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

I am running for re-election to the City Council, having been elected in 2014. I was also elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee in 2012 and currently serve as the AD18 Vice Chair and an appointed member of the same body. I serve on the StopWaste.org board and currently serve as the President of the Energy Council and as President of the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board. I've previously served as the first Chair of the City of Alameda's Open Government Commission. In my day job as District Director for Assemblymember Rob Bonta, I work daily to serve East Bay and Alameda constituents by fighting for our district and helping constituents navigate the state bureaucracy.

I humbly ask for your support and an opportunity to continue to serve.

...To continue providing you the best safety services possible – the services Alamedans deserve.

...To continue taking on the challenges we face – income inequality, housing, sea level rise, traffic – we've made progress in all of these areas – they are not insurmountable – but there is more to do. Tackling these areas requires both experience and shared values – I believe I have the right combination of both to "continue" and solve these issues together with Alamedans and our regional partners.

**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.**