

Name: John Knox White

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 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?*

I am a registered Democrat and have been for around 15 years. I was registered in the Green Party for about 2-3 years from 2000-2002/03 and as a Democrat for about 15 years before that.

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 not currently a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, but I have served on the executive board of the City of Alameda Democratic Club twice, and I continue to support club activities as an active member.

In 2016, I founded Alameda Comes Together: Now, a group focused on standing in solidarity in resistance to attacks on our Jewish, Muslim, LGBT and immigrant neighbors from hate crimes and abuses of power by the Trump Administration.

Previously, I worked alongside CARE (Community Alliance Resource for Education) in Alameda around the time of Alameda's Lesson 9, Alameda's anti-LGBT bullying curriculum in our public schools, in a supporting role. When anti-LGBT individuals in our city spearheaded an attempted recall of three school board members over their work to stop bullying of students based on LGBT bigotry, I helped coordinate and lead the campaign to successfully kill the recall before it started. We succeeded in getting an endorsement for the No on Recall from all elected officials that represent the city of Alameda, from Senate (Boxer and Feinstein) and Representative (Stark) to the local Hospital Board including everyone in between...except our current mayor (Spencer). I have always tried to be a strong and supportive ally of the LGBT community, and that will continue should I have the honor of serving on the City Council.

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.*

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I actively participated in promoting the adoption of Lesson 9, the Alameda Unified School District's anti-bullying curriculum focusing on creating both visibility of LGBT people in the school curriculum and reducing bullying of LGBT individuals, students with LGBT family members and any other students bullied over LGBT perceptions or identification. Since that time, I have worked with community leaders to ensure that the city progresses on LGBT issues and protections and at the same time community celebrations like Pride aren't used as civic photo ops without direct participation of the LGBT community themselves.

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

I have supported many candidates including Rebecca Saltzman and Vicky Kolakowski, including some that I have given money to. I believe that Saltzman is the candidate I have provided the most financial support of any individual candidate for office.

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

I am officially endorsed by Rebecca Saltzman, Jonathan Bair and Debbie Chapman. Supporters (financially, displaying lawn signs, etc.) include Olivia Higgins, Sean Cahill, Kelly-Cahill, and others. I will proudly publicize the Stonewall Democratic Club endorsement should I earn it, including in mail.

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.*

My core vision for Alameda is one that prioritizes not only sustainable growth that makes it easy for residents to walk, bike, or use transit, but also transitioning our city to environmentally, fiscally and socially sustainable action. In my experience, we are a community that rises to this challenge when called. But too often, we have not had the leadership that does so.

While there are many priorities in this election, three rise to the top for me:

1. Transparent city budget and staff contract approvals,

2. Rebuilding trust in our city government, and

3. Approving the next housing element and ensuring housing security for our community members who rent, specifically ensuring that the council provides direction for future development, rent stabilization and housing availability within a context of environmental sustainability and sprawl reduction.

Within these, my goals are:

1. Through a strong, citywide partnership that includes labor, management and community leaders as strong collaborators, develop a long-term budget strategy for addressing all of our city priorities, including future climate action and sea-level rise adaptation.

2. Working transparently to ensure that decision making is inclusive and brings a broad array of voices to the table to address issues identified by a variety of communities within our city. This will include reducing the divisive tenor of our city council meetings and building a collaborative relationship between our future city manager, labor and the council.

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3. Working with the community to engage in the first update to the city's land-use element of the General Plan since 1990 to bring it up to date on best practices for land use and housing policy as it pertains to reducing local and sprawl-induced environmental impacts.

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

After serving on multiple boards, commissions and task forces in Alameda over the past 16 years, I have shown that I am effective at bringing people together to discuss tough issues. I have striven to broaden the voices of those who engage in our city processes and conversations, while also making sure that decisions are made and implemented – inclusive action. I have shown ongoing and consistent leadership on issues related to our environment and environmental equity issues. I believe that these are qualities that are needed on our council. Additionally, we are an extremely diverse community, yet that is not well-reflected in our civic sphere. I'm committed to working hard to change that and have a history that backs that up with action.

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.