

### 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, I am a Democrat and have been since I became eligible to vote. I have never been registered with another party.

**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?**

Yes I am a member of East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club and have sponsored events such as the Brunch n' Bowl event. I most recently attended the Sixth Annual Pride Breakfast ahead of the Oakland Pride Festival.

I am affiliated with and endorsed by a number of LGBTI organizations in our community (please see answer 5).

I am also a dues paying member of the LAMBDA Democratic Club of Contra Costa.

I'm a founding member of Richmond Rainbow Pride. It is an organization that creates spaces that are safe and welcoming to the LGBTQI community of Richmond. It was formed in response to the bullying and homophobia inflicted upon me during my tenure on the Richmond City Council. Richmond Rainbow Pride holds a variety of community events of interest to the community, advocates for the interests of the community, and promotes LGBTQI visibility in the greater Richmond area.

I have the endorsement of the following non-LGBT Democratic clubs:

- Cal Berkeley Democrats
- John George Democratic Club
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club (WDRC)
- California Democratic Party, Progressive Caucus

**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 have lived the experience of being a queer woman of color since I was a teen, even before I was publicly “Outed” by my high school basketball coach. I have been connected to LGBTQI communities in many capacities since. In my day job as a Mental Health Specialist I have counseled, supported and advocated on behalf of LGBTQI youth. Being a queer parent, I know first hand some of the challenges facing LGBTQI parents, and I have had the opportunity to advocate for LGBTQI parenting rights. Before I was elected to public office, my wife and I ran a small tea dance business for LGBTQI patrons and allies.

I faced subtle and indirect homophobia during my campaigns for the Richmond City Council. Once elected the first open lesbian city council member in Richmond, I became the target of homophobic backlash the moment I took my seat on the council. It became so outrageous that a local LGBTQI filmmaker decided to document it in the film *Against Hate*. Fortunately, the overt homophobia backfired when the community rallied around me in particular, and the LGBTQI community in general.

*“I’m going to keep coming up here and tell you have gays have no morality...You’re filth. You’re dirt. Because I have the Constitutional right to say it.”*

*“Some people don’t care for her lifestyle. I don’t care for it myself.”*

Those were just some of the less crude and off color jeers and taunts yelled at me from Richmond residents and some of my colleagues. Rather than hang my head or quit my LGBTQI priorities, I realized how important it was for every LGBTQI person in Richmond and the Bay Area to see me stand tall and against the hate.

As a city council member I authored an anti-bully in the workplace resolution to ensure no Richmond worker was forced to stand against the hate I regularly faced. I made sure to honor the youth organizations that provided safe spaces to young people of all orientations, and lift up community leaders who protected these children. I helped fund the Human Rights Commission on which I sat in Richmond to ensure that resources were made available. I am an active member in Richmond Rainbow Pride with my wife Nicole Valentino, who sits on the Board.

I am a proud gay, black Latina politician, and I will always use my voice to protect and move forward LGBTQI rights, especially as our rights and equality are under attack again.

- I oppose cuts in the state budget to programs that serve the LGBTQI community, including programs that assist Californians living with HIV and AIDS.
- I support strengthening protections at the state level for LGBTQI seniors living in long-term care facilities against discrimination on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV status.
- I oppose broad religious exemptions that would allow individuals or organizations to refuse to provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges to LGBTQI people on the basis that compliance would violate their "sincerely held religious beliefs."
- I support providing adequate government funding for a mandatory teacher training program that would aid teachers in identifying and assisting LGBTQI students who may need support in coming out, dealing with bias-based bullying, or lack of family or community acceptance.
- I support enabling transgender, intersex, and non-binary people to obtain government-issued identity documents (birth certificates, drivers’ licenses, etc.) that accurately reflect their gender identity.

- I support establishing the right of transgender people incarcerated in state prisons or county jails to petition to change their legal name or gender and require that correction officials use their new name.

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

Yes, I have endorsed Darryl Moore, Gabriel Quinto, Doleen Jones, Cesar Zepeda and Joey Smith in past local elections.

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

I am proudly endorsed by:

- The Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition
- Equality California
- Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
- LAMBDA Democratic Club of Contra Costa County

I am proudly supported by:

- Equality California
- Nate Albee, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Tom Ammiano, former CA State Assemblymember and LGBTQ advocate\*
- Stephany Ashley, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Brian Basinger, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Harry Britt, LGBTQ champion, former San Francisco Supervisor\*
- Cecilia Chung, LGBTQ champion; former Chair, San Francisco Human Rights Commission\*
- Peter Gallota, former President, Harvey Milk Democratic Club\*
- Carolina Morales, Harvey Milk Club Co-President\*
- Greg Shaw, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Laura Thomas, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Jerry Threet, Former Harvey Milk Club President\*
- Carolyn Wysinger, Queer Author & West Contra Costa educator  
(partial list)

**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 would seek single-payer, economic equality and environmental groups and frontline communities' direct input on relevant policy to ensure all legislation benefits the communities we seek to protect.

Single-payer healthcare: I will help build a coalition of legislators to push unrelentingly on single-payer healthcare, to press ahead on multiple initiatives to make affordable housing available especially in the areas in which people are most vulnerable now, facing homelessness and eviction, and I hope to join in reversing the decline of public education at all levels.

Economic inequality/ equality: Reducing economic inequality captures many of my leading policy priorities. Doing so requires tax reform (especially Proposition 13 corporate property taxes); protecting labor (through a higher minimum wage, defending labor unions, state-level compensation for reductions in federal labor protections); a single-payer health system; making our justice system fairly accessible to all, not just wealthy

people; free and high-quality public education at all levels, so people don't have to be wealthy to gain a fine education.

Environmental protections: As a corporate money free candidate, I am not beholden to any special interest group like Big Oil and I will continue to make sure any piece of legislation I support has considered the environmental consequences. As I have fought against Big Oil and Chevron in Richmond, I will continue to stand up against Big Oil and other polluters and their lobbyists in Sacramento. I will continue to advocate against market-based "solutions" such as cap and trade programs that continue to allow major polluters to continue to burden our communities, most often of color, with high pollution rates.

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

The lists of some of the ways in which I am different from my opponent overlaps with what makes me uniquely qualified to represent AD 15. This list includes:

1. I take no money from corporate donors or their PACs, nor do I invite or permit corporate-funded or oriented political action committees to work on my behalf.
2. People-power: I take my lead from my constituents and volunteers, not from lobbyists or corporate funders.
3. I have witnessed the affordable housing crisis up close and that is why I support prop 10; my opponent does not
4. I am a member of the LGBTQI community; my opponent is not
5. I am a woman of color; my opponent is not. Women of Color are grossly underrepresented in the state legislature
6. I believe we need a moratorium on charter schools in order to fully fund our public schools; my opponent does not
7. I have lived in the East Bay for 30 years; my opponent has lived here for 2 years
8. I have worked in the Bay Area for over 25 years; my opponent has not
9. I have held elected office for 8 years; my opponent has never held elected office
10. My child attended public schools in the East Bay; my opponent has no personal experience with public school education in the East Bay
11. Justice and collaboration: My approach to policy challenges is to conceive of government priorities as needing to focus first on those most in need. There are many victims, casualties, and disadvantaged people in our society today whose situations could be vastly improved by fair and constructive application of

government processes and resources. They are the people I put first. They and those who are dedicated to improving living conditions for them and who recognize the need for our society to become fairer and more equal, are the ones who help guide my thinking about policy and strategy. These are the individuals and organizations with whom I collaborate to create transformative and just policies.

I have been an activist and public official (Richmond Economic Development Commissioner, Richmond Planning Commissioner, two-term Richmond City Council member, for more than 10 years, am endorsed by local and state-level environmental, labor, and progressive political organizations, and am running an almost entirely volunteer campaign. My opponent is an establishment Democrat newly arrived in the East Bay with huge amounts of money from all over the country – but no real local connections. She’s a campaign professional. I have served the East Bay community and will continue to do so unburdened by support from major corporate funding sources.

I believe in politics from the grassroots upward, not from the top down. Government should help first those who need help most. That’s why I support Prop. 10 (Costa-Hawkins repeal) and a moratorium on charter schools. My opponent calls for Costa-Hawkins “reform,” another term for doing nothing about protecting residents from rapacious rent hikes and evictions. And she’s massively supported by Govern for California, a PAC devoted to undermining public employee labor unions and supporting charter school associations.

I am the corporate-free candidate, endorsed by Our Revolution, Democratic Socialists of America, the Sierra Club, and more than 75 East Bay leaders.