

Name: Julie Sinai Office you are seeking: Berkeley School Board Director

## 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?*

Since 1978. I am a life-long Democrat and 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?*

I am a member. I joined this year. I am also a member of the Berkeley Democratic Club, the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club and the non-partisan East Bay Women's Political Alliance (I have been endorsed by all three).
- 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.*

When I served as an appointed School Board member in 2013-2014 I advocated for the rights of Transgender students on campus, including but not limited to bathroom usage, anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies. I supported Gay marriage and actively worked to oppose Prop 8. I have been supportive of LGBTQ issues throughout the community.
- 4. Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support?*

Yes and Yes
- 5. Who are your LGBT endorsers? Who are your LGBT supporters?*

Joaquin Rivera, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee  
Lori Droste, Berkeley City Councilmember  
Judy Appel, Berkeley School Board Director  
Darryl Moore, Former City Councilmember  
Kim Beeson, BUSD Teacher  
Susanna Bell Fishman, BUSD Teacher  
Dmirti Belser, Executive Director, Center for Accessible Technology  
Alison Bernstein, Attorney  
Mark Chekal-Bain, Berkeley Parent  
Jen Corn, BUSD Principal (on leave)  
Beth Gerstein, Berkeley Parent  
Carla Javits, CEO/President REDF  
Annie Johnston, Coordinator, UCB Graduate School of Education  
Carrie Portis, Consultant  
Ces Rosales, NorCal Vice Chair California Democratic Party Women's Caucus

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Iris Starr, Berkeley Parent

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.*

**Ensuring every student graduates ready to pursue their education and career path.** That means we have developed effective strategies and programs to eliminate the opportunity gap and we continue to strengthen our literacy program while putting new energy into math, science, technology and career technical education. Our schools must be safe and all students need to be supported so that they can achieve their full potential. When students graduate skilled and competent in all these areas they will have greater opportunities to secure a path to a rewarding career with a living wage job. I plan to harness the expertise and resources of our region's renowned colleges and universities, labor and union training programs, local businesses and community groups to provide support in the classroom and with internships, and with teacher professional development and externships.

**Competitive compensation packages for BUSD's teachers and staff.** Our teachers and staff cannot afford to live in Berkeley. We are losing skilled employees and are challenged with recruiting new teachers and staff. We need to ensure our employees can live in the town they work. I plan to work with stakeholders across the district, city and region to 1) provide good compensation packages, 2) address teacher/staff housing, and 3) advocate at the state level for resources.

**Financial Strength.** Thanks to Berkeley voters, BUSD has benefitted from parcel taxes for instruction, libraries, arts, supportive services and facilities maintenance and bond measure for facilities development. Many of our facilities were retrofitted and renovated more than 25 years ago and need to be upgraded. The Facilities Bond and the maintenance parcel tax will be up for renewal in 2020 and we have to prepare for a robust campaign. While revenue from the state has stabilized, the District's share of pension costs will continue to rise, canceling out any increase in revenue. The Board made difficult decisions this year and will have to grapple with a structural deficit in the coming years. Through program evaluation, data analysis and budget review, I will ensure fiscal responsibility.

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

I have been hyper focused for 10 years on tackling the opportunity gap. I was a founding member of the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth and I have served in various capacities over the years - as an employee, appointed school board members and city commissioner - I have maintained a steadfast commitment to increasing access and improving quality of education, jobs and health care to those typically least represented in our community. I am also only candidate with demonstrated track record of support for and development of career education as a necessary element of K-12 education. I believe Ty Alper and Ka'Dijah Brown will make excellent partners on the Board as we redouble our efforts to address the persistent achievement gap.

**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.**