

Name:     Natasha Middleton      
    Oakland City Council District 6    

Office you are seeking:

## 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. Since, the age of 18.

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. Started membership this month.

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 an ally, I have been an advocate and supportive of LGBTQ rights - in my personal life and in professional work. Specifically, I have participated in meetings and often brought up instances regarding transitional age youth involved in the system need specific resources and services. With the acknowledgment that providers are limited in addressing the needs and determine where more are accessible. I am also mindful and aware of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI protocol) in foster care and probation. Also, human sex trafficking victims also may identify as LGBTQ and how that is included in policies. Ensure that all discussions related to youth-involved in systems (education, foster care, law enforcement, etc), employment, homelessness are a part of the conversation.

In 2002, I trained and ran the AIDS Marathon in Honolulu and was mindful to raise awareness that AIDS affected all populations and reduce the stigma.

I supported the No on Prop 8 and continued support of marriage equality.

I have signed and will continue to sign petitions of support from the Human Rights Commission.

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4. *Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support?*  
I've supported Rebecca Kaplan, Gabriel Quinto, and City Councilmember Lori Droste (includes financial support). Lori is also my Emerge CA sister.

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

Endorsers:

- Mayor Gabriel Quinto
- Councilmember Lori Droste

Supporters:

- D6 neighbors and residents who identify as LGBTQ.
- Grant Martin, my consultant
- Gwen Booze
- Toni Gomez
- Leigh Morgan, former COO of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Emerge CA Sister

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 top priorities will be:

1. Housing and homelessness,
2. Community and economic development, and
3. Public safety, including human sex trafficking.

These are all huge problems, but they are all interrelated – and making progress on one will help us make progress on the others.

If we want vibrant commercial districts in District 6, we need to create a safer environment for small businesses to thrive. More businesses mean less blight – and more jobs.

If we invest in incentives to promote job training and local hiring, we decrease the number of residents at risk of homelessness and increase the number of people who can afford to rent or buy a home.

If we work to promote regional solutions to our housing affordability crisis, we stabilize our local neighborhoods and strengthen the fabric in our communities.

Stable neighborhoods with vibrant commercial districts mean safer streets – and fewer places for traffickers to buy and sell our girls and boys for sex.

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

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I have lived in Oakland for over 20 years and in District 6 for almost 9 years. As a resident and as a mother, I have seen both staggering transitions and stagnation occur in my neighborhood and surrounding areas of the District. We have needed a change for quite some time and waiting for someone else to make decisions that have been ineffective in the long term is simply a passive notion.

I am a results-driven problem-solver who has worked with our Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils to advance vital public safety programs. I've managed multi-million-dollar projects to reduce crime and delinquency among at-risk youth. I've served on the Measure Z Public Safety Commission and the Family Violence Law Center board. I co-organized a program to share healthy, home-prepared food with homeless people in Oakland.

I am the only candidate in this race who has been endorsed by Oakland's entire California state legislative delegation: State Senator Nancy Skinner, State Assemblymember Rob Bonta and State Assemblymember Tony Thurmond. And I am the only candidate in this race who has been endorsed either solely or as the #1 choice of labor unions.

**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.**