

Name: __Nayeli Maxson__ Office you are seeking: __Oakland City Council D4__

**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?*

Yes, I am a lifelong registered Democrat.

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 a member of the Stonewall Club. I am a member of the East Bay Young Democrats, where I serve as VP of Membership and last year, served as EBYD Political Director. I also formerly held a board member position with the District 5 Democratic Club in San Francisco.

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.*

Having grown up in San Francisco in a very LGBTQ-inclusive community, I have always worked to build inclusivity for my extended friends and family circle including many LGBTQ individuals. As a result, there are many examples of causes I have advocated for and the ways I have helped advance LGBTQ rights, helping to foster inclusivity for LGBT individuals and families. Here are three specific examples.

(1) While working in Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office, I helped research and design a policy to re-classify veterans who were dishonorably discharged and "other than honorably" discharged during 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' as honorably discharged. I attended many meetings in Washington, D.C. advocating on behalf of the rights of LGBTQ servicemembers, who deserved the benefits and honor which come with a clear certificate of discharge.

(2) As my partner Andrew Germond and I discussed the possibility of getting married, we spoke with our friends and family, many of whom identify as LGBTQ, and decided that we would not get married until everyone could get married. I started a Facebook group focused on this concept of standing in solidarity and rejecting the construct of marriage until it is accessible to all. We became strong advocates for inclusivity in legal marriage after Proposition 8 and became domestic partners when we decided to have children. Finally, on June 26, 2015, we woke up to the news that the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision had come down on the right side of history. Andrew and I immediately went to the Alameda County courthouse with our first son, and Andrew's

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mother and got married. We now celebrate that day in history on our anniversary each year.

(3) As the Executive Director/CEO of the Alliance for Community Development, I made the executive decision to add LGBTQ entrepreneurs and business owners to the set of communities we specifically seek to economically empower. As a result, we have expanded our outreach efforts to LGBTQ business owners across the East Bay. In my first year as Executive Director/CEO, we served more LGBTQ entrepreneurs and business owners through our free navigational support program than we had combined in all previous 17 years.

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

Yes, I have supported many LGBTQ candidates including but not limited to: Tom Ammiano, Mark Leno, David Campos, Peggy Moore, Rebecca Kaplan, Tom Temprano, Rebecca Saltzman, and James Chang. I have typically donated in relatively small donations but which were meaningful to me given income and budget at the time.

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

Former State Senator Mark Leno

James Chang, Commissioner, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board

Nicholas Vigilante, Secretary, Montclair Neighborhood Council*; Oakland Firesafe Council Board*

Linton Johnson, business leader; Chief Strategist with Bay Area Rapid Transit*

Calanit Kamala and Bree Dezort, owners of District 4 business; 'Hive the place to bee'

****Organization listed for identification purposes only. Does not represent an organizational endorsement.***

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.*

At the 10,000 foot level my legislative priorities are: preventing displacement and ensuring housing for all; supporting equity and jobs through local economic empowerment and social entrepreneurship; increasing attention and support for fire prevention within our built and natural environments; and building trust for safer communities by growing our capabilities in restorative justice, rehabilitation, and crisis intervention.

Specifically, immediate action includes:

(1) Scheduling the housing preservation package to be heard in committee, if it has not yet been passed by January 2019. District 4 residents I have met with at house parties consistently identify homelessness as the number one issue of importance at this time. This preservation package, including Condo-conversion regulation, SRO conversion regulation, and the regulation of short term rentals, had been moving individually from the city administrator's office to the city attorney's office to various councilmembers' offices, and despite years of discussion, has not moved forward. It's painful for me to see this languish, as these are critical pieces of the puzzle when tackling anti-displacement, prevention of increased homelessness, and protection of rental housing stock. Moving these forward as a package has been proposed by East Bay Housing Organizations and I have signed onto a letter of support. I provided pro-bono legal research for the short term rental regulation portion in 2014 and am frustrated to see that it has not yet moved forward. I would also consider additional funding for tenant legal defense as an element of this package, depending upon the status of funding for tenant defense at that time.

(2) Gathering information and building internal support with my colleagues on the council and in the administration for year-long pilot program based in the Business Assistance Center, led by local community organizations, geared towards making business support and capital more accessible to all. The city has

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property available that it has not made effective use of for years. This space must be used to help communities build wealth equity, which allows community members to stay in their communities, increase local jobs, and increase city revenue. Together with 20 other business support providers, we submitted a 40 page report to city leadership laying out challenges and recommendations for how to better serve all local business and support all entrepreneurs, specifically aiming to better serve women, people of color, immigrants, the formerly incarcerated, LGBTQ individuals, veterans, and young people. As a Councilmember, I would continue to support this cause.

(3) Discussing with community stakeholders, and then scheduling a (revised as necessary) ordinance to incentivize City procurement with local worker cooperatives which I worked on as a staff person and has not yet become local policy. This work is driven by the Sustainable Economies Law Center, who launched a Worker Cooperatives Policy Brigade, training local community members to engage policymakers and advocate for equitable business models as part of their Transformative Policymakers Project.

(4) Discussing with community stakeholders, and if unresolved by January 2019, requesting additional project management and administrative staffing in the fire prevention unit in order to move our vegetation management draft forward with greater community input, in order to earn and re-build community trust. This trust is pivotal in bringing forward the next wildfire prevention assessment district, which financially supports critical fire prevention efforts.

(5) Discussing with community stakeholders, and then bringing forward several of the police accountability policy solutions I worked on as a staff person which were not implemented to incentivize advanced educational attainment, to increase training requirements in crisis intervention and de-escalation training, training from social workers, and training from individuals certified in substance use and mental health treatment, as well as implement strategies for hiring and promoting a higher proportion of women.

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

I believe two particular qualities distinguish me from the other candidates in the race: depth of knowledge of District issues and understanding of community members' needs, and proven ability to incorporate executive decision making and community organizing into one cohesive role.

(1) Experience working in this office and connectedness with District 4 residents, community organizations, familiarity with ongoing District 4 projects and long-standing legal issues such as utility undergrounding.

(2) Proven ability to blend community organizing and executive leadership functions: as the executive director of the Alliance for Community Development, I have demonstrated my capacity to both lead an 18 year old organization with \$6.5 million in assets, making challenging decisions regarding our strategic plan, shifting our programs to be more outcomes-driven, and fundamentally re-thinking our organizational culture. At the same time, I have led the Alliance as a community organizer, building a membership organization with 147 individuals and entities who are committed to values such as equity, access, local leadership in the entrepreneurship space. Together, we have established shared messaging, united around a shared vision, and advocated to local leadership for more investment in equity-focused practices.

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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.