

## **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 registered Democrat. I was Peace and Freedom and decline to state very briefly at points in the late 1990's. I have been a registered Democrat for at least the last 15 years +.***

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 the club. Stonewall was the first club that I went to when I decided to get involved in electoral politics. Karen met me at the door and helped me find my way to Brendalynn. These awesome women were an essential part in my finding my political voice as an African American lesbian and Democrat. Stonewall has been an essential part of my political development. I am a former board member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club and continue to have an active membership. I'm also an elected California Democratic Party Delegate from the 18th Assembly District.***

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 was active in helping to build the membership of East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club as the chair of the membership committee. In addition, while active in that role, I advocated an intersectional approach to building our community, one that looked at membership building and our issues through the lens of gender, race, class, immigration status, and disability. For example, I created a public forum to address national and local immigration policy and its impact on the LGBTQI community.***

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

***Yes. I have donated to progressive LGBTQI candidates in the past and will continue to support progressive LGBTQI leadership.***

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

**Hon. Lori Droste** -- Councilmember, City of Berkeley

**Hon. Kriss Worthington** -- Councilmember, City of Berkeley

**Hon. Andy Kelley** -- Commissioner, Alameda County Planning Commission

**Nick Resnick** -- President, Stonewall Democratic Club

**Brendalynn Goodall** -- Past President, Stonewall Democratic Club

**Kathleen Archambeau** -- Author

**Luan Stauss** -- Owner, Laurel Bookstore

**Sean Dugar** -- California Democratic Party Delegate/Executive Board Member, Assembly District 18

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.*

### **Gridlock**

***Right now, gridlock and conflict hamper the Oakland City Council's capacity to achieve results. Camps and factions create divides and make forward motion difficult. I am not a city hall insider and am not a part of that history. I plan to work from a deep moral compass, rather than out of allegiance to any faction, so as to always put the people of Oakland and social justice values first. I also plan to work closely with community groups, labor and constituents to help amplify their voices, understand their concerns, and take action on their behalf in every channel I can.***

***Creating partnerships to break through that gridlock is a skill. It requires a deep dedication to what you want to achieve, the confidence and humility to listen to a potential ally who might agree with you on one point while disagreeing with you on everything else, and the ability to focus on moving the work forward on the thing you do agree on. Too often, people refuse to listen to someone else's ideas because of who is doing the suggesting—the lack of trust leads to gridlock and a defensive “us vs. them” mentality. As a City Councilmember, I will eagerly listen for opportunities to collaborate with allies of all sorts to achieve the vision of an Oakland that lives up to its promise as a progressive beacon.***

### **Housing & Homelessness**

***Meanwhile, people are dying cold and unsheltered on our streets, and we have not invested in housing and infrastructure in the way that's needed. Housing is a major issue and an enormous challenge to all but the most wealthy. We desperately need to invest in developing housing that is accessible to people of various income levels. Teachers, white collar workers, blue collar workers, students, elders, recent arrivals, and long-time residents need to be able to live and work in Oakland.***

***We need to stop criminalizing our homeless neighbors. This means we need to set up more dedicated camp areas, and work with our homeless neighbors and allies to ensure everyone has access to safe housing where they are free from harassment by others. We need to rethink the way we interact with homeless individuals, and provide the services they need. I believe our budget should be an expression of our values, and an affirmation of our common humanity. Although the Council has taken steps to provide funding for the homeless and underhoused in our city, we still need to look at how we are spending those dollars. Does it make sense for three officers to respond to a merchant call about a mentally ill homeless person sleeping in a doorway, or can we hire a mental illness/homeless case worker at a lower cost, freeing our officers to do the safety work that's so desperately needed?***

### **Budget**

***Our budget is a direct reflection of our values. As a financial services provider for non-profits and community-based organizations, I am intimately familiar with what it means to incorporate values into budgets. We are all fighting for a small piece of the pie. My first priorities will include looking at how we spend our dollars, where they can be better utilized, and where we might find new revenue sources. Our officers are running up large amounts of overtime responding to issues of homelessness and to unemployed youth on corners. If we invested in youth services and social workers instead, we would save money, as well as provide more appropriate responses. Maintenance and preventative measures must be prioritized so we stop kicking the can down the road. We need to recognize the value, not just the cost, of the community services in which our city invests.***

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

***If elected, I would be the first out LGBT person to hold this seat and the first out LGBT African-American on the Oakland City Council. The importance of this moment is not lost on me. I am a lesbian mom, raising two children in the Bay Area; the changes taking place, from Supreme Court picks to bans on adoption, and changes to the national census will have a long lasting impact. We must fight back and resist this erosion of our civil and human rights with policy and legislation that ensures that we are all treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. In a time when we are seeing an attack on our communities coming from Washington, it is up to cities like Oakland to stand up as a bulwark to protect our values and our residents.***

***I am a Fulbright alumna and an Ivy League educated woman, who holds a masters degree from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism—but these degrees are not what make me uniquely qualified to be Oakland’s next D4 council member. My dedication to community and service are what qualify me to contribute to the Oakland City Council. Governance is fundamentally about service, and leadership should dedicate itself fully to community improvement. I have committed my life to service. I was born to working-class black parents who were active in the Civil Rights movement; my father’s occupation is listed on my birth certificate as “Progressive Labor Party organizer.” When I graduated from college—the first in my family to do so—and my classmates went to work for Wall Street, I went to work with people living with physical and developmental disabilities. I’ve served in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors, with increasing levels of leadership. I have worked in the areas of healthcare, affordable housing, and the arts. I am currently working as a consultant with non-profit organizations to provide support in financial management including budget development, budget oversight, and fiscal planning.***

***I am not a City Hall insider, nor am I a career politician, nor do I hail from the tech sector. I come from the grassroots. I have dedicated my life to working for community wellbeing, on issues including racial justice, immigrant rights, youth development, and economic equity. That is the commitment and practice I would bring to this seat.***

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.