

Name: Paola Laverde

Office you are seeking: Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner

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?
I have been a registered Democrat since I became a US citizen in 1994, 24 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?*

I am not affiliated with any LGBT clubs in the Bay Area. I am affiliated with the Berkeley Tenants Union, Berkeley Progressive Alliance, Berkeley Citizens Action, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club and Democratic Socialists of America.

- 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.
In 1992, as a Spanish-language television news producer at KDTV CH 14, Univision in San Francisco, I investigated and produced a five part series which looked at the issues affecting LGBT people and their families within the Latino community. I am very proud of this series because for the first time on Spanish-language television news, the issues confronting LGBT Latinos (rejection, discrimination, fear) were openly discussed and helped spread the word, within the Bay Area Latino community for the need for acceptance. The series was praised by the LGBT community as KDTV received dozens of letters thanking it for its coverage of these important topics.*

- 4. Have you previously supported LGBT candidates for office and if yes, did that include financial support?
Yes.*
- 5. Who are your LGBT endorsers? Who are your LGBT supporters?
I am running on the Community Power Slate, with four other candidates (there are 5 open seats on the Berkeley Rent Board). Two of my slate mates (both incumbents) identify as queer. They both endorse and support me.*

- 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 goals for the next four years include:*

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- Amending Berkeley's Relocation Ordinance to include an enforcement mechanism that tenants can utilize - I intend to achieve this goal by working closely with other Berkeley committees including the Committee on Disability (many tenants with mobility issues are negatively affected when their building's elevator goes out, quite frequently for days at a time.) to get the City Council to make the change.
- Ensuring that the Rent Board's decennial survey of rent controlled tenants is conducted in a timely and comprehensive manner - The last survey came out in 2010, and was conducted in 2009.
- Establishing universal registration of all rental units - If the City Council does not pass this resolution, I will work with other Rent Board Commissioners and advocates to get enough signatures for the 2020 Berkeley ballot.

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

I am part of the Community Power Slate made up of five candidates who were selected at the Berkeley Tenants Convention in March. We are all progressives and have the same goal of not only upholding Berkeley's Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance but to expand rental protection to more Berkeley Tenants. My accomplishments in office include: as the Chair of the Habitability Committee, I was able to update Berkeley's Municipal Code on elevators to provide greater protections to mobility impaired tenants and as a member of the Outreach Committee, I came up with the Tip of the Month program which expanded the Board's outreach to tenants and landlords on social media.

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.