

Name: Rigel Robinson

Office sought: Berkeley City Council District 7

**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 ever since I registered to vote in 2014 (when I turned 18 years old). I have never been registered with any other 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 not currently a dues-paying member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club or any other LGBT organization. I am affiliated with California Young Democrats, East Bay Young Democrats, and the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club. I have since graduated, but I was recently a boardmember of the Cal Berkeley Democrats and on the National Council for the College Democrats 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.*

When I was serving in the student senate of my campus' student association, members of the Queer Alliance Resource Center (QARC) launched a campaign to secure a physical space in our student union. My senate class met that demand and passed a resolution to reallocate space so that QARC would have a physical community space to

meet and organize in. I have worked to be an ally to LGBTQ advocacy wherever I can, including voting for a resolution in the student association to urge the campus to allow for students to self-identify their gender on academic records. I hope to bring that same commitment of allyship to my work in City Hall. It is important to recognize too that a disproportionately high share of homeless individuals are estimated to be LGBTQ. Protecting vulnerable LGBTQ youth from ending up on the streets must be a priority of any city official.

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

Yes. My first vote in Berkeley was for Councilmember Kriss Worthington in 2014, who I now hope to succeed in office. I did not contribute financially. In my campus' student government, I ran for elected office and have supported candidates with CalSERVE, the campus' progressive coalition and the oldest campus political party in the country, which made history years ago when it ran the first openly gay candidates for student government offices at UC Berkeley.

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

I am proud to count Councilmember Kriss Worthington, Councilmember Lori Droste, Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner James Chang, and former Assembly Speaker John A. Perez as my endorsers and supporters. I am proud to be endorsed by Teddy Lake, who represents the queer community and LGBT student organizations on the student senate of UC Berkeley's student government, the ASUC.

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.

First, housing: Berkeley students are facing an affordable housing crisis. To make matters worse, increased student enrollment is pushing the gentrifying force of campus farther and farther into the surrounding community. As a City Councilmember, I'll push for zoning requirements that allow for taller, denser buildings around campus — while fighting for more units that are affordable.

Second, public safety: For too many students and non-students alike, the Southside area isn't safe to walk around at night. I'll fight for better lighting and community policing practices to keep our residents safe.

Third, Telegraph Avenue: Telegraph Avenue has been a center of activity for Southside and the campus community for generations — but it can, and should, be better. Too many small businesses go into bankruptcy, and too many commercial spaces are left vacant. I will push for local ordinances that would incentivize worker-owned cooperatives, recruit more small businesses to open shop on Telegraph, and protect our small businesses from being threatened by large corporations.

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

District 7 is unique — in 2014, students and community members passed a redistricting measure, making it the first student supermajority district in the country. More than 85 percent of its residents are of student age. As a recent UC Berkeley graduate and former student government officer with extensive experience working with the city, the University, and the surrounding community, I am best positioned to bring together these stakeholders to address the problems facing Berkeley today.

Please return your 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.