

Name: _____ 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 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 have been a registered Democrat since I was 18. I have never been registered anything other than 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?*

Yes, I am a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, and have been for the past 5 years. I'm also the Vice President of the Asian Pacific Democratic Caucus of Alameda County, a member of Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club (which I've received the #1 endorsement), member of the John George Democratic Club (which I've received the #1 endorsement), member of MGO Democratic Club, member of East Bay Young Dems.

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 Chief of Staff to Oakland's first out lesbian public official, I have worked on policy and legislation such as gender neutral restrooms, supporting our LGBTQ small business owners, and have started the conversation around a possible partnership with a local theatre to play LGBTQ films. Oakland is celebrating its one-year anniversary of the LGBTQ Community Center and I will continue to support the center. It's imperative that our LGBTQ youth and community have access to a safe space and resources. Moreover, I will continue to be an advocate in appointing LGBTQ representatives to Boards and commissions as Councilmember for District 4. I will also continue to work with you, other organizations, and community members to advance legislation/policy and projects that will strengthen support for the LGBTQ community.

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

Name: _____ Office you are seeking: _____

Yes. I currently work as the Chief of Staff for Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan, including I've worked on and contributed to her re-elect campaigns in 2012 and 2016. Moreover, I've supported Councilmember Abel Guillen, and have mentored others who have shown interest in running for office.

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

I have a strong, diverse list of endorsers, including Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan, Gabriel Haaland from SEIU 1021, Carolyn Bowden from California Nurses Association, and I hope and would be honored to receive your endorsement as well.

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.

1. **Housing crisis; getting Oakland's homeless population off the streets.**

We need to get the unhoused off the streets immediately. Recently, the city purchased an older, vacant hotel to house some of the people living on the streets and bring in wrap around services, including social services, mental health services and substance abuse services. The city just received \$9 million from the State for homeless solutions/implementation, we should purchase another building for transitional housing and continue to work with the County and our local non-profits for wrap around services. Moreover, we need to build a lot more, here's my plan:

- **Rezoning for transit-oriented development. People are moving to Oakland, and if we truly care about not displacing Oaklanders, we need to expand our housing stock. Part of expanding our housing stock is rezoning to encourage building vertically and denser. We must build at all income levels, including affordable and deeply affordable housing.**

- **Amend Oakland's requirement of minimum parking spaces that must be built when developing housing. For developers, developing TOD's, we can create incentives, such as lowering the parking requirements to increase the number of units. We can then build more units, use this as an incentive for private developers to build affordable housing.**

- **Streamlining the permitting process. Currently, the permitting process is clogged, we must make the process easier by addressing the low-hanging issues, such as requiring creation of inspectors who can inspect for both building and fire standards - so that developers/contractors are not given contradicting information.**

- **Encouraging homeowners to put in accessory dwelling units. I've worked on legislation that will ease the permitting process for ADU's in Oakland.**

2. **Retail leakage**

It's important that we look to revenue generating options that do not depend primarily on raising tax rates on those already paying e.g. homeowners. We need to expand the pie, and a big part of that is addressing the retail leakage. Currently, the city is losing about \$2 million/year in retail revenue (if not more). Moreover, we must support and protect our small businesses, especially those who are under-represented like the LGBTQ community. Part of this, is creating a more streamline permitting process so that business can get started in a timely manner, implement street calming measures so that we can drive up customers from our community, and bring in anchor businesses to drive up the customer base. I hope to work closely with you to ensure that we capture the LGBTQ voice.

3. **Public Safety, including vegetation management.**

I will work to implement strong community policing within our district and work with my colleagues on the Council to expand. Currently, I, along with other community advocates,

Name: _____ Office you are seeking: _____

work with the beat officer in the Laurel to have him walk on the streets and talk to the community, including going into business establishments to say hi to the person behind the counter. This creates a feeling of safety, and drives up our customer base for our mom and pop businesses, it also creates strong community between the residents, customers and law enforcement officers. Moreover, I'm currently working on and will continue to work hard to pass the Vegetation Management District. It's critical that we pass this special district in order to have dedicated funding for fire prevention.

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

I'm a daughter of refugees, a single mother to my talented 11-year-old son, a domestic violence survivor and I co-founded the Bear Pantry at Cal (a food access program). For the past 5 years, I've worked on the Oakland City Council as senior staff to Councilmember At-Large, Rebecca Kaplan. During these past 5 years I've work on resolving community issues, written progressive legislation, policies and ballot measures, including Oakland's Measure JJ (renter protection). The District 4 seat is an open seat, and Oakland is faced with many serious issues, including homelessness and housing insecurity, I'm the only candidate that can be an effective and experience leader who can start on day one. As an effective representative, I will use the strong, working relationships that I have cultivated with the other Councilmembers, City Administration and Mayor's office to bridge the gaps and build consensus to get good policy and legislation passed. Moreover, one of the Council's most important responsibility is to pass a transparent and balanced budget, a tough task as the city only has minimal resources. For the past two budget cycles, I led the charge for the At-Large office, leading for a progressive budget. As the District 4 representative, I will continue to work with the community and fight for a progressive, transparent and balanced budget.

I'm currently have the endorsements of Assemblymember Rob Bonta, State Board of Equalization, Fiona Ma, District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, Milpitas Mayor Tran, Oakland Councilmember At Large, Rebecca Kaplan, Oakland Councilmember Noel Gallo, Berkeley Councilmember Kris Worthington, SEIU 1021, IFPTE Local 21, Oakland Firefighters Local 55, California Nurses Association, National Healthcare Workers, Building Trades Council of Alameda County, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, John George Democratic Club, Block By Block Organizing Network, and more.

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.