

# 2020 East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Endorsement 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 complete your questionnaire via Google forms is Friday, August 21, 2020 at 11:59pm for the August 26, 2020 East Bay Stonewall endorsement meeting for the November 2020 presidential election. Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot.

Please return your completed questionnaire via Google forms by clicking submit at the bottom of this form. All form submissions are final. If you have questions, please contact Amy Fitzgerald, EBSDC PAC chair via email at [afitzlap@gmail.com](mailto:afitzlap@gmail.com).

Email address \*

benfortransit@gmail.com

Name (First, Last) \*

Benjamin Fong

Are you a registered Democrat? \*

Yes

No

Office you are seeking? (e.g. City Council, School Board, Supervisor, etc) \*

AC Transit Board of Directors

Jurisdiction? \*

Contra Costa/Alameda Counties

District? \*

Ward 1

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing as of August 19, 2020? If you are unsure, email [eastbaystonewalldems@gmail.com](mailto:eastbaystonewalldems@gmail.com). \*

Yes

No

I self-identify as: (check all boxes that apply; note these identifiers will be used publicly during our endorsement process.) \*

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Transgender
- Gender non-conforming
- Bisexual
- Queer
- Straight
- Other: .....

How have you participated in East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club activities, and/or supported the Club other ways? What other LGBTQ+ organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity? What other Democratic clubs are you affiliated with? \*

Yes. I am an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Member, ROMBA Fellow, LGBT Next Gen Fellow, am involved with EQCA and the Victory Fund.  
.....

Using specific examples, please identify the causes you have advocated for and the ways you have helped advance LGBTQ+ rights or otherwise helped foster a community of inclusivity for LGBTQ+ individuals and families. \*

As a Foreign Service Officer, I helped to promote same sex equality under the leadership of Secretary Clinton, including pushing for non-discrimination policies in foreign countries for the LGBT community and promoting minority rights. I have pushed for LGBT acceptance in the workplace including with advocacy at with Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs (GLIFFA) to combat discrimination against same-sex couples in foreign affairs due to DOMA. As a ROMBA Fellow at UC Berkeley, I helped build allies through planning programming for the broader population as well as build community among our group. As a LGBT Next Gen Leader, I've helped promote other LGBT candidates.

Have you previously supported LGBTQ+ candidates for office? If yes, did that include financial support? \*

Yes. As a LGBT Next Gen Leader, I've helped other LGBT candidates with financial support and volunteering.

Which LGBTQ+ organizations and elected officials have formally endorsed you for this race?

\*

Senator Scott Wiener, BART Director Rebecca Saltzman, Councilmember Gabe Quinto, Berkeley Rent Control Board Commissioner James Chang, Mayor Breed's Nominee to the SF MTA Jane Natoli

What other LGBTQ+ community members and/or organizations support your candidacy? \*

Many others are supportive with endorsements coming in.

Please describe a policy/goal that is part of your formal platform that benefits the LGBTQ+ community? \*

Creating an anti-bullying policy for AC Transit workers. Beyond ending workplace discrimination, we should ensure that bullying does not occur in the workplace to ensure we can all feel safe at work.

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 policy professional, not a politician, and that's what we need for this role to run our bus system. I have years of experience working in transportation bringing sustainable transportation options to dozens of cities. I have government experience on the local (Berkeley Planning Commission, State (as Legislative Affairs Dir for UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly), and Federal (Dept of State) experience to get AC Transit the funding it needs.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms