

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.

Email address *

jhoddie@pacbell.net

Name (First, Last) *

Jim Oddie

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction? *

Alameda

District? *

N/A

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. *

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 (Pride Breakfast, Bonta/Thurmond Bowling Events, Oakland Pride Parade, Trivia Fundraiser Captain).
No other LGBTQ+ Organizations. Alameda Democratic Club (active, former officer), Wellstone Club (member), Alameda Democratic Lawyers Club (member). I'm also a member of the CDP LGBT Caucus.
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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 an attorney, I participated in the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, providing low-cost and pro-bono legal services to HIV+ clients. I arranged for the City of Alameda to fly the rainbow flag on the day the decision in Hollingsworth v. Perry was announced. In 2018, after coming out, I was the first open LGBT candidate elected to the Alameda City Council. In that role, I've promoted an agenda of equity and inclusion, including funding for the first time, to the Alameda Unified School District to provide mental health services to students, including many LGBT students who expressed suicidal thoughts. I'm working with our City's HR staff to ensure our HR policies support our transgender employees. I also serve on the LGBT caucus with the California League of Cities. Put a charter amendment on the ballot this year to make our City Charter gender-neutral. I co-authored a referral with my colleague Malia Vella to increase the reporting to City Council of hate crimes, bringing more visibility to these incidents.

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

Supported: Rebecca Kaplan (financial), Richard Fuentes (financial), Abel Guillen (financial), Judge Tara Flanagan, Judge Vicky Kolakowski, Brendalynn Goodall (AD18 delegate), James Chang, Pam Harris, Lori Droste, Joaquin Rivera, Shawn Kumagai (financial), Tiffany Woods (CDP LGBT Caucus), Mark Fickes, Bao Nguyen (financial)

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

*

Shawn Kumagai, John Bauters, James Chang, Andy Kelley

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

Brendalynn Goodall, Michael Colbruno, Robbie Wilson

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

Right now, Covid-19 is the top challenge facing all of us. In Alameda, we have faced this challenge by finding a testing partner (although this is a stop and go process), protecting tenants from evictions and rent increases, protecting lowest-wage workers from losing their minimum wage increase, rental assistance, grants for small businesses, and supporting a non-profit to provide further financial grants. The other challenges and priorities remain mostly the same from when I ran for re-election in 2018 – maintaining public safety, including reimagining policing so all residents are safe – solve by prioritizing these during budget development and seeking additional funding, and the cost and availability of housing – solve by strengthening tenant protections and supporting efforts to add to our housing stock, and supporting repeal of Measure A. Underpinning all of these is the ongoing efforts to achieve racial equity and social justice.

I have a record of fighting for these priorities and will continue to do so on the City Council if re-elected to serve a second term. These issues impact all of Alameda, including the city's LGBTQ+ community, whether it's health, jobs, housing, reimagining policing, or social justice.

One thing I would like to build on is providing city financial support for mental health services for our LGBTQ+ youth. In 2019 we first approved funding for this program, in conjunction with our school district. We continued this program in 2020, but need to expand it in future years.

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

I am running for re-election to the City Council, having been elected in 2014 and again in 2018 (both times with the endorsement of the Stonewall Club). No other candidate in the race brings six years' experience on the City Council, and no other non-incumbent can point to a record of progressive policy accomplishments (my colleague Malia Vella has a strong progressive record as well). As noted above, I was the first open LGBT candidate elected to the Alameda City Council.

I was also elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee in 2012 and currently serve as the AD18 Vice Chair and an appointed member of the same body. I serve on the StopWaste.org board and served as the President of the Energy Council and as President of the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board. I've previously served as the first Chair of the City of Alameda's Open Government Commission. I also worked for over 6 years as District Director for Assemblymember Rob Bonta, serving East Bay and Alameda constituents by fighting for our district and helping constituents navigate the state bureaucracy.

I have a strong record of improving emergency operations, making significant investments in safe streets for all, and securing landmark advances in affordable housing, tenant protections, and compassionate solutions for our unhoused neighbors. We face enormous challenges and opportunities in the coming year, not the least of which is how we continue to deal with the Covid crisis.

While Alameda has fared better than most of our neighbors in this pandemic, vigilance, foresight, and preparation are critical. I've worked closely with my Council colleagues, City staff, and public health experts to put safety and protection first. We've prevented commercial and residential evictions and been responsive to our treasured small businesses as we work to forge a local economy that can weather this storm.

We've also heard the clarion call: Black Lives Matter, and we must embrace this moment to tear down the legacy of systemic racism. I'm helping lead the charge to end exclusionary zoning in Alameda, to secure for more of our neighbors an opportunity to find affordable housing and embark on the dream of homeownership.

My vision and purpose in public service is to defend an Alameda that is inclusive, welcoming, and resolute. We've achieved so much, and now that we face the greatest public health challenge we've ever seen, I'm ready to meet this moment.

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