

# East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

Owen Poindexter

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**Q1** First name

Owen

**Q2** Last name

Poindexter

**Q3** Office you are seeking

CA Assembly, District 15

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**Q5** Are you a registered Democrat?

Yes

**Q6** If so for how long?

Since 2000 when I first registered to vote.

**Q7** With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated?

Member of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club. I was a high level volunteer for Swing Left. As a former Obama campaign staffer, I am a member of the Obama Alumni Association.

**Q8** Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club?

No

## East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club Candidate Questionnaire

**Q9** If so for how long?

n/a

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**Q10** If not have you supported or contributed to the club in some way?

Not specifically, but I certainly support the mission of the club, and have advocated for LGBTQ rights as a political writer and activist.

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**Q11** What other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity?

none

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**Q12** What specifically have you done to advance LGBT rights and/or to nurture an inclusive and affirming community for LGBT individuals and families? Please give specific examples.

As a politics blogger, I have used my platform to advocate for equality and fairness for LGBT people.

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**Q13** Who are your LGBT supporters?

About 5-10% of my donors are LGBT, including an award winning, NYT best selling author.

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**Q14** What LGBT candidates have you supported, and did it include financial or campaign support?

Tammy Baldwin, Barney Frank, Kate Brown, Andy Katz (East Bay MUD). I have not donated to any of their campaigns (and rarely donate directly to candidates in general).

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**Q15** What other issues or causes have you advocated for that you feel are relevant to the LGBT community?

I am fighting to create an unconditional benefit system, including single-payer healthcare, affordable housing and a universal basic income. Homeless rates are much higher for LGBT people, and this is a clear symptom of discrimination. Universal systems disproportionately benefit those most marginalized by our society. My platform is unique in how it provides a standard of living for everyone, regardless of employment, family, citizenship or anything else. I also advocate for a universal right to counsel for anyone facing eviction, which would be a boon to LGBT people facing housing discrimination.

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**Q16** What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking?

I am a bold, ambitious strategist who is not satisfied with incremental changes to the structural inequities our society faces. The East Bay needs a representative who will go beyond a strong voting record and forge new progressive ground. My platform stakes out positions that truly respond to the modern economy and the threats posed by climate change.

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### **Q17** Why should Stonewall consider you over your opponents for an early endorsement other than being LGBTQ?

We will not have true equity in our society until we take care of everyone on a universal basis. My platform is the only one in this race which will accomplish this.

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### **Q18** What would be your main policy goals?

Universal basic income, affordable housing (increasing supply, strengthening protections, repealing Costa Hawkins), single-payer healthcare, action on climate change. On basic income, I would introduce a carbon dividend bill, seek to expand the state EITC to include unpaid caretakers, and propose a resolution modeled after the one Hawaii passed unanimously to declare that everyone is entitled to financial security and that we should explore various ways to achieve this including universal basic income.

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### **Q19** How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?

LGBT people should be free to pursue its goals, create community and businesses specific to its needs, and to express itself artistically. This is possible for people of enough means, but not so much for those who don't have financial or community support. My policies would allow everyone enough freedom to create a life that they find personally meaningful and valuable.

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### **Q20** What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

My policy goals reflect a desire to change our society toward one that is more sustainable on every level. See previous answers for specifics.

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### **Q21** Why do you feel you can win this race?

I have a unique and powerful message that stands out in this crowded field.

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