

## 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 for questionnaires is posted on the East Bay Stonewall website (<http://eastbaystonewalldemocrats.org/Elections>). Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot. To ensure a fair process, no grace period will be granted.

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 Joe Greaves, EBSDC PAC chair via email at [jsphgreaves@gmail.com](mailto:jsphgreaves@gmail.com).

Email \*

jennifer@jenniferesteen.com

Name (First Last) \*

Jennifer Esteen RN

Are you a registered Democrat \*

Yes

No

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

State Assembly

Jurisdiction \*

State Assembly

District \*

AD20

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing? 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? \*

I have worked with the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic club both on campaigns and in their general advocacy throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area. I came out when I was an adult, during the time of No on prop 8, which was pivotal for me. I finally got to see LGBTQ people being out and proud in real life, not on The Real World or some other cartoonish characterization on TV or in the movies. It was real life, real people, up close and personal. I met some of my dearest friends during that time.

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. \*

My proudest direct advocacy work to support LGBTQ+ folx is openly supporting Lyon Martin clinic in San Francisco to prevent its closure in 2020. The Lyon Martin clinic has served as a world renowned center for Trans health for more than 40 years. It is the first clinic dedicated to serving members of our trans community with dignified treatment to help them transition with proper medical care. The training provided to clinicians and healthcare professionals has allowed gender affirming healthcare to be provided to people all over the world. Lyon Martin was on the brink of closure last year but was saved because of the support from community members' raising awareness about the financial struggles the clinic was facing. My union, SEIU 1021 organized Lyon Martin and brought them in as members with HR 360. We helped ensure clinic workers had access to electeds in San Francisco to increase and protect the clinic's budget. I'm proud of the advocacy work I did with the staff and clients of Lyon Martin in conjunction with HR360, their parent organization, my union, SEIU 1021, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. We not only saved the clinic from closing, again, we are in the process of helping them gain independence from HR 360, their current parent organization. I am a firm believer in self determination and worker led organizations. Lyon Martin is an example of worker power and self determination in action. As Vice President of Organizing of SEIU 1021, I strongly and consistently champion policies to improve protections and wages for all workers, especially LGBTQ workers and BIPOC members of the community because too often being both BIPOC trans means a lifetime of lower earnings, homelessness, drug addiction and early death. As an Assemblymember, I will propose public funds of support for transgender and nonbinary individuals, who face some of the highest rates of povert, unemployment mortality and mobility.

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

In my local electoral work I supported Jovanka Beckles for her bid for Assembly by volunteering my time and Alexis Villalobos in his bid for Assembly and I am currently supporting James Coleman in his run for CA Assembly and Alfred Twu for his current bid on the Berkeley Rent Board.

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

This is by no means an exhaustive list but highlights some of the diversity of endorsements and people who have partnered with my campaign:

Equality California, Harvey Milk Club, LA Stonewall as well as the endorsements of LGBTQ+ elected officials including Honey Mahogany, Chair SF DCCC; Jovanka Beckles, AC Transit Board; Bevan Dufty, BART Board, fmr SF Supervisor; Brandon Harami Bay Area Vice Chair of CA Dem party Progressive Caucus; Jackie Fielder Daybreak PAC founder; Alexis Villalobos fmr candidate for Assembly in AD 20; James Aguilar, San Leandro School Board; Tiffany Woods, CA Democratic Party LGBT Caucus Northern California Chair; Mel Shuen Mallory, New Haven School Board; Rafael Mandelman, SF Board of Supervisors; Mark Leno, fmr State Senator and State Assemblyman; Tom Ammiano, Fmr State Senator and State Assemblyman; Alicia Garza; Terry Taplin, Berkeley City Council.

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

As a queer woman these issues are personal for me. As a member of the LGBTQ Legislative Caucus I will work to help pass priority legislation like ensuring leave for chosen families. Before getting married, my wife and I were domestic partners. We feel fortunate that I work in San Francisco because I have benefits guaranteed by the City and County, but these same benefits do not apply statewide, nor nationwide. I grew up believing that as California goes, so goes the nation and the world.

I will help Senator Weiner bring back the Recovery Incentives Act, which was vetoed by Governor Newsom. I worked in the Psychiatric Emergency Room at San Francisco General Hospital for five years, and have worked in the community with substance use treatment programs since then. I have seen meth addiction up close. These experiences make me uniquely poised to speak as an expert alongside Senator Weiner, clients and other subject matter experts to support and raise public awareness for the importance of this legislation, which I would want to do as part of the process to pass it. Having as many resources as possible to treat substance use disorders (SUD) is a high priority for me and I plan to champion a package of mental health expansion legislation that will address SUD as well, because far too often, clients experience both SUD and mental health issues at the same time. As many of you likely know, research has demonstrated that meth has a unique place in the recreational life for men who have sex with men, and often is coupled with high risk behavior like having unprotected sex while high or sharing needles if they use meth intravenously. This leaves meth users at high risk for contracting HIV and other life threatening illnesses; which means this legislation has special meaning for the wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Additionally, I'll work on other legislation to protect families, children and young people, especially trans, non binary and disabled members of our LGBTQIA+ community because we have so much more progress to make. Trans people of color experience the most negative outcomes of any other demographic group in the country because of racism, transphobia and other overlapping isms. It will be my duty to help champion legislation that protects trans and queer people of color in California and that serves as a model to other states and countries. I also want to expand reproductive freedoms, including fair access to abortions, but also fertility treatments for LGBTQ+ folx. It seems that if you are in a same sex relationship, and you want to get pregnant, you have to be rich, because most procedures have to be paid for out of pocket and are not covered by private insurance. This expense makes the joy of having children unattainable for too many in our community.

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

My work over the last 12 years as a public health nurse and a psychiatric registered nurse sets me apart from any other candidate that may step into the race. We are in the third year of a devastating pandemic, healthcare is on the ballot, as is the health and safety of our communities. My approach to health and safety is driven by a dedication to making policy decisions that will address the root causes of inequities to create lasting change and pass legislation that will fund programs that heal our communities. Like expanding community based behavioral healthcare services and deeply affordable housing.

My campaign is earning endorsements and attention from the right people and groups to raise my profile, name recognition and lend credibility to me for those who may not already know me and my work; and my campaign is fundraising well while also being 100% corporate free, which is crucial for funding strong and expansive voter outreach. Our voter outreach plan was initiated months ago, during the governor's campaign to reject the recall, which was a great opportunity to recruit dozens of volunteers who are still working with me. I have secured the endorsement of SEIU California, the Working Families Party, People's Action National, Our Revolution, the Legislative Jewish Caucus, APALA, Bay Rising Action and Oakland Rising, and Project Super Bloom - all progressive organizations, in addition to more than 200 local leaders. I am knocking on doors in the district and people love hearing that I am a neighbor and registered nurse. So far, my campaign is considered the front runner in this race.

Now is the time for AD 20 to be nurtured and cared for in the way only a nurse can. With great attention, love, kindness and advocacy. I have a proven record of advocating for the interests of historically marginalized communities through my work at SEIU, the AHS Board of Trustees, the Eden MAC, and other community organizations I work with.. I strongly support the legislative priorities of East Bay Stonewall and I'm committed to partnering with the Stonewall to champion bills that will promote climate justice for Californians. I'm running a strong campaign and know that I will win with the full force of the East Bay Stonewall with me.

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