

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.

Email *

seth@sethstewardforda.com

Name (First Last) *

Seth Steward

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

Alameda County District Attorney

Jurisdiction *

Alameda County

District *

N/A

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

I have attended Stonewall meetings and events. It's a great organization and I'm proud to be a member. A few years ago, I signed up to volunteer at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center a few years ago following a vandalism event.

I am a lifelong member of the Democratic Party and have consistently been an active member. In my younger days, I engaged in political organizing through the San Francisco Young Democrats, in which I served as President from 2000-2001.

I have worked on numerous campaigns for democrats, including, phone banking, canvassing neighborhoods and helping with general work, both for candidates and propositions.

Since January 2021, I have been an alternate member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. I serve as an alternate for Ms. Brendalynn Goodall.
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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. *

I have fought for the rights of our LGBTQ+ community. As a prosecutor in San Francisco, I prosecuted several hate crime cases where the victims were attacked because of their sexual orientation. In one case, the defendant would regularly urinate on the lawn of the victims while yelling homophobic slurs. He would also take pickets out of their picket fence. In another case the victims were attacked after a night out.

A case that I remember particularly involved a defendant who assaulted the victims and called them homophobic epithets and threatened to kill them. The defendant in that case had several firearms and Nazi paraphernalia. While I fought for the safety of these specific victims, I also fought to ensure that all members of our LGBTQ+ community feel safe. Hate has no place here. I am proud of the work I've done to protect the LGBTQ+ community.

On a personal note, I have encouraged my nephew and cousins to explore their own sexual identities and supported them whole heartedly when each of them came out and/or transitioned.

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

I supported Bevan Dufty for a number of offices including Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and his current role on the BART Board. I supported other candidates as well but some of them were not successful in their races.

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

Bevan Dufty
Brendalynn Goodall
Terry Taplin

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

The LGBTQ+ community has long experienced disproportionate rates of violence, and unfortunately, even progressive counties such as Alameda County are not exempt from this crisis. We cannot have safety and justice without equality.

In my platform, I have outlined clear and actionable steps to fight bias and expand victim's rights. I am committed to implement these policies that benefit the LGBTQ+ community. As District Attorney I will:

- Improve policies and training regarding bias and discrimination;
- Lead the fight against hate by seeking felony charges for hate-motivated crime; and
- Ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals are centered and protected.

The rights of victims lie at the heart of justice. Too many times, the criminal justice system has ignored the needs and the voices of survivors of crime. We need to:

- Develop trauma-informed resources for victims and survivors of crime;
- Create a Crime Victims Advisory Board representing communities who are disproportionately impacted by crime including communities of color, LGBTQ+, and immigrants;
- Decrease restrictions on victim compensation;
- Provide services to all victims of violence, even if the police never make an arrest; and
- Implement culturally informed training and policies that reflect our diverse community.

Recognizing the rights and humanity of our most marginalized populations is necessary to build the safe and inclusive communities everyone deserves. As District Attorney, I will ensure equitable access to justice for people from communities that have historically been mistreated, abused, and ignored by the criminal legal system.

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

As a longtime Alameda County resident, I cannot sit back while our criminal justice system fails to achieve safety, justice, and peace for our community. We are in a time of crisis and we need change. Failure to make change will be maintain the status quo. My diverse lived experiences make me the best candidate to bring change to Alameda County.

Raised by a single mother, my brother and I learned the values of service, excellence and fairness. I spent 13 years as a prosecutor handling felony hate crimes, domestic violence, arson, kidnapping and other serious cases. I worked hard collaborating with alternative courts and diversion programs which have been shown to improve safety and reduce recidivism. I am a proud Air Force veteran and teacher. As a policy leader in Oakland, I drafted legislation banning chokeholds and carotid restraints by police, and recently worked with Oakland's leaders to ban ghost guns.

The Air Force Rescue motto is "These Things We Do That Others May Live." I will bring this level of duty and commitment to the District Attorney's Office. As District Attorney, I will prioritize safety through thoughtful, responsible change. I plan to stem the rise of violent crime, expand access to alternative courts for nonviolent crimes, address the root causes of crime, hold law enforcement accountable, fight racism and bias, eliminate the death penalty, expand victims' rights, and use data to evaluate our progress and report our results to the people who live and work in Alameda County.

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