

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 *

LK@lkmonroe.org. (LKMONROE.org)

Name (First Last) *

L.K. Monroe

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

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 first joined E. B. Stonewall in 2013. Then I was able to partner with the Stonewall Democratic Club by sponsoring a lane at Stonewall's Brunch and Bowl. I received the club's endorsement in 2014. This is the only LGBTQ+ organization where I have official membership at this time. There are, however, a number of groups and initiatives where I provide leadership or support for LGBTQ+ students and staff – please see my responses to the following questions for more detail.
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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. *

AFFIRMING COMMUNITY:

As a teacher, principal, and educational leader, I have promoted and nurtured inclusive learning environments for students and adults. I have been trained to facilitate discourse and convened regular community circles focused on student identity, self-worth, and mutual respect. These opportunities and routines are critically important in establishing a culture based on community norms of caring where LGBTQ+ students and staff feel safe, seen, and affirmed. Additionally, I have taught and led in communities with significant representation of staff identifying as LGBTQ+.

SUPPORT & CONNECTION FOR YOUTH:

As more is now known about the importance of our students having the freedom and support to show up just as they are and have access to avenues to learn and connect to people and resources to help them appreciate who they are becoming. Sadly, we have seen a marked increase in the number of youth suicides during the pandemic and LGBTQ+ youth continue to be disproportionately represented in these numbers. This is a tragic reality. For this reason, and so many more, the skill and awareness to foster classrooms, schools, communities, and a citizenry that is able to contribute from a place truth and authenticity is essential.

ALLIES & PARTNERS:

Over the years I have worked with a number of partners who have been invaluable resources to our efforts to elevate and address the needs and celebrate the brilliance of our LGBTQ+ students as well as others who often struggle to be seen and valued for who they are and what they bring.

The MOSAIC Project – As a school leader, I collaborated with the MOSAIC Project. We became the first MOSAIC model school in the Oakland Unified School District. The MOSAIC Project vision states, “We envision peace: a just, diverse, and inclusive world where individuality and community are both core values and where listening, empathy, and assertiveness guide our interactions” <http://www.mosaicproject.org/>

Californians for Justice (CFJ) – We have an ongoing collaboration with CFJ to help train and establish more Community Schools. These are places that wrap around students and their families to meet their not only their academic needs, but physical and social emotional needs also with the support of community.

Visibility:

We celebrate Pride Month each year by flying the Pride flag at the County Office of Education. The advocacy that led to this decision also prompted our honoring other, often marginalized, groups by flying a commemorative flag in front of our highly visible building.

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

Yes. Yes.

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

Joaquin Rivera - Alameda County Board of Education, Shawn Kumagai - Dublin City Council, Richard Fuentes - Candidate for CalPERS Board

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

NEW SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DEPARTMENT:

During the pandemic I was able to realize a longterm goal of establishing a new Social Emotional Learning department. The professionals who make up this unit assist districts and practitioners to put supportive practices in place. Part of this work includes peer leadership training as well as Youth Participatory Action Research. We understand these practices are only successful when adults understand how best to assess and address what their LGBTQ+ students want and need in order to be supported. This requires we train and assist our educators and leaders to establish Coordination of Services Teams (COST) and other supportive structures so that every resource is brought to bear.

THE PURPLE PROJECT (red states & blue states = purple):

Prompted by the present political climate of divisiveness, intolerance, and discord, I began working with my civics team, to bring together students from communities of differing political/cultural backgrounds to engage in discourse with one another. The goal of the project is to use proven practices in perspective taking and conflict resolution to foster and equip these young people to engage in productive ways – giving them the agency to use their voices to lead the way in their schools and communities to create a better future.

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

I was first elected to this office in 2014 and was sworn-in in 2015 and began my service as the first African American woman ever elected to serve as County Superintendent. I have been in the role for nearly 8 years. During that time I have repositioned the County Office of Education to be Flexible, Accountable, Collaborative, and Empowered – to F.A.C.E. Forward! We have put in place and administered internal and external surveys to measure our progress toward this goal. Our guiding principles are to: Stand Up for Justice, Stand Out in Excellence, and Stand Together in Partnership.

The work that I have had the privilege to lead has received attention locally and statewide. I have been invited to participate and speak directly into major education policy issues at both the local and state levels. I have also been chosen by my peers, at the height of the pandemic, to lead all 58 county superintendents as their president as we coordinated the distribution of PPE, as well as the administration of both COVID tests and vaccinations.

At this crucial time, when we are experiencing significant education workforce shortages and severe fiscal challenges for several of our districts in the County, highly experienced committed leadership has never been more important to lead and advocate for the essential funding and resources our public schools so desperately need and deserve.

I would very much value the opportunity to once again receive the endorsement of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club. Thanks so much for your consideration.

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