

## 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 \*

kaplanforoakland@gmail.com

Name (First Last) \*

Rebecca Kaplan

Are you a registered Democrat \*

Yes

No

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

County Board of Supervisors

Jurisdiction \*

Alameda County

District \*

District 3

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: Butch

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. I have been a member of Stonewall for many years, attending and sponsoring events, and became the first out lesbian to be elected in Oakland. I have worked with multiple LGBT groups, including the student LGBT association at MIT which I helped lead and where we worked to get a sexual orientation Non-discrimination policy adopted and LGBT studies programs.

I helped convene community meetings for and support the launch of Oakland pride, and worked with numerous LGBT community members and organizations to successfully fight for funding for LGBT youth to be

Included in Oaklands youth programming. I have also worked with lavender seniors, and as a member of the LGBT group within my synagogue. I have also worked and participated in events with the Alice B Toklas Democratic Club, the Harvey Milk Club, and worked with Parivar and AIDS Project East Bay to provide Covid vaccination outreach and education with a focus on LGBT POC community.

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. \*

Thank you very much for the opportunity to seek your endorsement, which I would be very honored to have, as I run for Alameda County Supervisor, where I would become the first ever openly-LGBT member. I came out at the age of 17, and, as an undergraduate, worked to organize and run our student LGBTQ group, which successfully fought to get our University (MIT) to adopt sexual orientation non-discrimination policies, and provide support for LGBTQ students, and provide LGBTQ studies programs.

In my professional life, as well as in my activism, I have continued to work for the needs of our LGBTQ community, including changing the youth program funding distributions of the City of Oakland to include programs for LGBTQ youth, abolishing old discriminatory laws that were still on the books when I was elected – including one making “cross dressing” an illegal act, and working to get other LGBTQ people appointed to other leadership positions such as on Boards and Commissions. I worked with community partners to bring transgender awareness and trainings to the Oakland police department, and to respond to negative stereotyping that had taken place.

I worked to organize community sessions which launched the Oakland Pride festival and supported additional community organizations. I helped advocate to bring the Butch Voices Conference to Oakland, where it has returned multiple times. I helped bring a presentation and resolution to the Oakland City Council on HIV/AIDS and supported the hanging of the AIDS quilt at city hall. In addition, I bring to my work on other issues, such as homelessness, an awareness of the disparities faced by LGBTQ people, and the need for services, such as homeless shelters, to include support for people of all genders and orientations, and we are working with a community coalition to expand services and housing options for LGBT people who are unhoused.

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

Yes, throughout my career I have actively worked to support openly LGBT+ candidates for elective and appointed office, and hiring for leadership roles, including working successfully to push for the first openly LGBT Planning Commissioner and Port Commissioner. I have supported LGBT+ leaders including Senator Toni Atkins, Assemblymember Evan Low, Kamika Dunlap, Bobbi Lopez, Tom Temprano, John Bauters, Michael Colbruno, Ruth Atkin, Ada Chan, and more including financial support and endorsement.

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

Hon. Michael Colbruno

Hon. David Campos

Hon. Bobbi Lopez

Lisa Williams

Christiana Remington

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

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I worked to organize community sessions which launched the Oakland Pride festival and supported additional community organizations. I helped advocate to bring the Butch Voices Conference to Oakland, where it has returned multiple times. Recently, I helped bring a presentation and resolution to the Oakland City Council on HIV/AIDS and supported the hanging of the AIDS quilt at city hall. In addition, I bring to my work on other issues, such as homelessness, an awareness of the disparities faced by LGBTQ people, and the need for services, such as homeless shelters, to include support for people of all genders and orientations.

Looking ahead, additional steps I seek to work on include responding to the rising problems of anti-LGBTQ bias and hate crimes, increasing supports for our transgender community, including expanding access to gender-neutral bathrooms, and ensuring appropriate access to services throughout additional facilities, including homeless services, parks and recreation, and others. In addition, providing for further services for LGBTQ seniors, and supports for senior housing and housing for homeless LGBT youth including transition aged youth, as housing and services that are welcoming of LGBTQ people is a growing need, and remedying the under-representation of LGBTQ people on further roles, are ones which I would be honored to work to continue to expand.

The county controls the majority of homeless service funding and oversees public health and hospitals, and thus, as county supervisor, I would seek to expand on appropriate and inclusive services for all of our community, including ensuring access to health care services for the trans POC community that has often been made unwelcome.

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

I have a track record of dedicated expertise taking action to protect the needs of community and provide justice and opportunity, and effectively working to pass needed policies and fund important programs. My commitment and experience are substantial, and include successfully intervening to ensure equitable pay, restore vital services that had been cut by others, win regional and State funding for important local needs, such as in-house civilian crisis responders program (known as MACRO), stopping planned cuts and layoffs of workers (such as the proposed closures of fire stations and proposed cuts to HeadStart, which I successfully reversed) and fighting against discrimination.

I will also bring my extensive experience successfully mobilizing regional resources. I believe my work on regional boards over the last decades controlling significant funding, including ACTC and BAAQMD, is an advantage as well as my working relationships with regional leaders, and being able to find and identify funding and other resources for core community needs. I have worked to pass budgets that support community, and change policies at the regional level to improve support for Alameda County, which is the heart of the Bay Region, and which has often been underserved in regional funding. I have launched major innovative clean fuel programs to reduce air pollution, and healthy food access programs that partner with corner stores, schools and hospitals.

If elected, I would become the only woman on the Board, and the first ever openly-LGBT member. I would also bring my training in science (MIT undergraduate) public policy (MA) and J.D. from Stanford Law School and my history of work as a State legislative aide, housing rights attorney, and elected official.

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