

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 *

sethsteward@gmail.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) *

Peralta Community College District, Trustee, Area 7

Jurisdiction *

Peralta Community College District

District *

Area 7

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 am a proud member of Stonewall and have participated in a number of Stonewall activities including meetings, endorsement meetings and happy hours.

I am an alternate member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee. I am the alternate for Ms. Brendalynn Goodall. I am also a Brother of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) Oakland Chapter and a member of the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County.
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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. *

As the lead hate crimes prosecutor in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, I prosecuted a number of crimes where the victims were attacked because of their sexual orientation. I remember a particular case where a neighbor on a number of occasions threatened and assaulted two victims because of their sexual orientation. In this particular incident, I am proud to have achieved justice by fighting for a stay away order, restitution, educational classes among other things to reduce the possibility of future hate based violence.

As Chief of Staff for Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb I have participated in a number of Pride events including the raising of the Pride Flag over City Hall and have pushed to make sure our LGBTQ+ community has an opportunity to participate in all areas of City government. I have also worked to be inclusive to include our LGBTQ+ community in our legislative decisions.

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

I have previously financially supported Bevan Dufty and Rebecca Prozan.

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

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Trustee Harris Mojadedi

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

I support the Peralta Colleges Gender Inclusion Policy and will work to make sure all students, faculty and staff feel welcome. I will fight discrimination wherever I find it and I will make sure to include all disenfranchised voices including our LGBTQ community.

I will make sure that each College has a LGBTQ+ Ombudsman that will work to facilitate an open and affirming atmosphere for students, faculty and staff. As an organization, Peralta has neglected our LGBTQ+ community. The Ombudsman will work to ensure fairness and equity for students, faculty and staff.

One of the key tenets of my campaign is fostering a culture of collaboration and trust, specifically between administration, unions, students, staff, and faculty. I believe this culture will be facilitated by ensuring that our LGBTQ+ students, staff, and faculty have a prominent voice in institutional decisions at the Board of Trustees level. I will meet with our LGBTQ+ community regularly to ensure their voices are heard.

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

While I am unaware of other candidates' goals and priorities, I can distinguish myself in three ways.

First, I have two decades of leadership and management experience in a variety of roles from professional to public service to community engagement. I am well-versed in solving complex problems by mobilizing a variety of stakeholders, building consensus, and ensuring a great outcome for all. Currently, I serve as Chief of Staff for Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb where I drafted legislation banning chokeholds and carotid restraints by police, and recently worked with Oakland's leaders to ban ghost guns and ghost gun kits and put campaign finance reform on the ballot.

Second, I am deeply committed to the Peralta Colleges – not only as a resident of Oakland since 1999, but also as a Director on the Peralta Colleges Foundation Board since 2019 and as a teacher at Merritt College. As Scholarship Chair for the Foundation Board, I led efforts to deploy funding directly to students and create opportunities to invite those who would not otherwise be able to access higher education. I also teach criminal law at City College of San Francisco and Merritt College to be part of the solution, to break the school-to-prison pipeline, and to give people the education necessary to live a successful life and positively contribute to their families and communities. This is what our young people deserve.

Finally, I spent 13 years as a prosecutor handling hate crimes, domestic violence, and other serious cases while collaborating with alternative courts and diversion programs. My professional training and expertise as an attorney and specifically a prosecutor gives me a unique vantage point into the purpose of institutions of higher education. My legal experience has demonstrated to me time and time again that education is the key to keeping young people out of the criminal justice system and communities safe. In addition, I am capable of developing policies/procedures to support a well-functioning institution, which is critical to the success of our learners and educators at the Peralta Colleges.

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