

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 *

abbey.kerins@gmail.com

Name (First Last) *

Abbey N Kerins

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

San Leandro School Board

Jurisdiction *

Area 2

District *

Alameda

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 do not have strong participation in party organizations. However, I look forward to developing more connections and collaborations as a School Board member. While this is an informal affiliation, I have worked with GLSEN in the past in order to bring more resources for LGBTQAI students in my classroom.
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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 a teenager in the 90s, I canvassed and participated in actions to support equal housing opportunities and end housing discrimination of the LGBTQAI community. When I worked at the Coalition of Essential Schools in the early 2000s, I advocated for the addition of non-binary language in our organization materials and policy briefs. As a teacher, I led the school's LGBTQ+ student group as a faculty advisor. As a literacy coordinator, I supported the adoption of curriculum materials that were evaluated with a specific lens to LGBTQAI representation and led to the inclusion of historical and literary texts that told the stories of and were written from the perspective of our LGBTQAI community. Currently, I have written grant applications to support anti-bias education with an explicit focus on sexual and gender identity, and I have been working with our Executive Cabinet in Newark Unified to address gendered language in our Student and Family Handbook and other materials.

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

I do not have a significant history of political donations. I have donated volunteer hours for David Cicilline and currently support Shawn Kumagai and James Aguilar, locally.

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

James Aguilar has formally endorsed my campaign.

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

There is a long history of education exclusion for our LGBTQ+ students. Our community is disproportionately represented in discipline, absenteeism, and dropout data, and these results are even more extreme when we look at LGBTQ+ students that also students of color. Students identify feeling unsafe or uncomfortable and fear of not meeting academic requirements for graduation as the two top reasons for disengaging with school. I believe that my platform has 2 policies that would support the long-term success of our LGBTQ+ youth. 1) Mental Health support that has become a focus as a result of pandemic relief funds has been a long-time need for LGBTQ+ students, and we need to plan for sustaining this important resource far into the future, even as one-time COVID funds are exhausted. 2) Expanding learning opportunities that directly link students to real world and work-based experiences can greatly accelerate the connection that students feel to a successful life beyond school. Our LGBTQ+ student face disproportionality in income earnings and job security. Connecting our youth to these real career and technical experiences that keep them engaged in school, support them to meet graduation requirements, and prepare them for a post-secondary life can interrupt this pattern of inequity.

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

I extensive lived experiences working with students and families in our community. I know what it takes to make on-the-ground changes for students, because I have carried out these changes as a teacher in the classroom and as a district leader. The work of looking critically at our policies and practices to address the persistent bias toward LGBTQ+ students and families is work that takes knowledge of the day to day ways that our schools work or do not work for our community. I also believe that as a bisexual-identifying woman, I can build trust and be accessible to our community. I do not take this for granted however, and will be explicit in my stance on justice for LGBTQ+ students and families in all the policy and funding matters that we consider.

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