

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 *

elisa@elisaforcouncil.com

Name (First Last) *

Elisa Mikiten

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction *

Berkeley

District *

District 1

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? *

None

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. *

Way back in the 90's, when housing discrimination was have a terrible impact on people with AIDS, my architecture firm did the first housing in Berkeley dedicated to them. The project was 100% affordable, funding through a HUD program (HOPWA) that no longer exists. It made a difference.

My firm has also built housing for homeless youth, and kids emancipated out of foster care, who are disproportionately LGBTQ+ kids. These housing projects are in Berkeley and Oakland. Here's a link to one of them. <https://www.mikitenarch.com/rising-oaks---oakland-hills.html>

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

Pete Buttigieg. Yes.

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

No known LGBTQ+ endorsers.

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

I'm going to go all out to make District 1 the most vibrant, inclusive, diverse neighborhood it can be. This is not an upper crust district. District 1--especially west of San Pablo--is home to many racially and economically diverse groups that have been excluded elsewhere. The call to increase density in Berkeley is right and just, and at the same time, I want to be careful in this area not to replace older housing that serves low income people with new housing that serves only high income people. Neighborhoods east of San Pablo, also have a mix of residents, largely because we benefit from rent-controlled multi-family housing mixed in with single family residences. Here we can increase density on the single family lots with less risk of displacement.

District 1 also has enormous potential to create neighborhoods on our corridors. University Avenue is a sorry sight, with retailers struggling for a customer base. Housing on transit corridors can be wonderful, if we get the rules right. Currently, even where the density standards are generous, our ordinance is full of second-tier barriers, which must be removed. And we need to embrace new tools to meet the needs of middle income residents who fall between market rate rent and subsidized low income units.

These things are not directly targeted to the LGBTQ+ community, but any effort to increase access and fairness in Berkeley should benefit inclusion of all.

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

My skill set is right for this moment. The decisions we make now will shape Berkeley for this century. I'm a City Planner who has worked in housing development, community development, and economic development for 30 years. I'm more than a housing advocate; I actually build it.

I will pursue a vision for District 1 that includes new rental and ownership housing, strong neighborhoods, vibrant street life, economic opportunity, and multi-modal transportation. I will make sure that our policies and our budget decisions support these objectives. I know where the roadblocks are embedded in our ordinance and our policies, and I will remove them.

I will address climate action through transit oriented development and economic development. This is not only a question of being able to commute to work via transit; this is about having neighborhood access to goods and services. Trip reduction is about the mix of uses in our urban fabric.

I will pursue clean, safe, well-designed streets that work for all, not block-by-block solutions.

I will make sure our affordable housing dollars are invested wisely, achieving the highest number of units possible. I will help Berkeley compete successfully for additional state and federal investment by working directly with non-profits. There are new models for low and middle income housing development which we should embrace.

I will work with the community in District 1, building the trust and respect we must have to move forward, and which has been broken by a lack of groundwork in the community, exclusion from process, and an absence of representation for sectors of our community.

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