

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 *

rashiforcouncil@gmail.com

Name (First Last) *

Rashi Kesarwani

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction *

City of Berkeley

District *

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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 became a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club in 2018 and attended a bowling event with the club at Albany Bowl. Although my membership lapsed during the pandemic, I have recently rejoined and look forward to attending the Annual Pride Breakfast next Sunday. I previously served on the board of the Berkeley Democratic Club and the East Bay Women's Political Alliance.
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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 woman of color, I believe it is important to build alliances and coalitions with other marginalized communities. I consider myself a strong ally to the LGBTQ+ community and have used my position on the Berkeley City Council to call attention to issues that affect our LGBTQ+ community. Specifically, I authored a resolution - unanimously passed by the Berkeley City Council in April 2022 - reaffirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to transgender and gender expansive rights in the wake of more than 100 anti-transgender bills introduced across 33 states. I also co-sponsored legislation authored by Councilmember Terry Taplin to place a measure on the ballot to repeal Article I Section 7.5 of the State Constitution (also known as Proposition 8) to defend marriage equality.

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

Yes, I have endorsed and financially supported Councilmember Lori Droste and Councilmember Terry Taplin on the Berkeley City Council. I have previously endorsed Victoria Fierce for AC Transit and John Bauters for Emeryville City Council. This cycle, I have endorsed Gabe Quinto for El Cerrito City Council and Alfred Twu for AC Transit At-Large. I have financially supported Rebecca Saltzman for BART Board District 3.

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

Berkeley Councilmember Lori Droste
Berkeley Councilmember Terry Taplin
Emeryville Councilmember John Bauters
El Cerrito Councilmember Gabe Quinto

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

Historically, members of the LGBTQ+ community have moved to the Bay Area in search of a tolerant community. I have been a champion for creating homes so that our community can be a welcoming place for all. For example, the City Council unanimously adopted my recommendations that give homeowners greater flexibility to create backyard cottages (Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs), and I have authored legislation to support a better permitting experience for ADUs. I have advocated for rezoning commercial and transit corridors through our Housing Element Plan so that more affordable housing can be created in high-opportunity neighborhoods. I have also built consensus to create homes at the N. Berkeley BART station. Finally, I have also been a champion for housing for formerly homeless individuals, including the creation of permanent supportive housing in District 1 using state Homekey funds.

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

Over the last four years, we have made progress on our toughest challenges, but there's still more work to do. I want to ensure that our community is a safe, healthy, and welcoming place for all, and I have a proven track record of delivering results. I collaborated with state, county, and city leaders to bring an end to dangerous freeway encampments by providing motel rooms and housing navigation services to homeless individuals. I led on securing state Homekey resources to fund a permanent supportive housing site in District 1. I engaged stakeholders and built consensus that led the Council to a unanimous decision in support of creating homes at the N. Berkeley BART station. I tackled the problem of our unsafe failing streets by authoring a fiscal policy to ensure adequate funding for street paving. I partnered with State Senator Nancy Skinner and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks to secure \$15 million in state resources to repair infrastructure at our waterfront. As a Councilmember, I leverage more than a decade of state and local government experience. I managed a budget of more than \$1 billion for San Francisco's Human Services Agency, which provides health care, meals, and other essential support to low-income individuals and families. At the California Legislative Analyst's Office, I helped win the fight for overtime pay for low-wage homecare workers. I believe I am best qualified to continue our progress on the pressing issues facing our community.

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