

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 *

nick@nickforoaklandschools.com

Name (First Last) *

Nick Resnick

Are you a registered Democrat *

- Yes
- No

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

School Board

Jurisdiction *

Oakland Unified School District

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 have been an active member of the club since 2016. I have served as the Club's Secretary for two years and President/Chair for 2 years.

When I became President, our members had indicated on surveys a desire to get together more often. We decided to focus in on the committee structure, and created an Events and Membership committee with two incredible co-chairs (and a few other committees). Our vision was to increase the number of events we hosted to at least 10 per year, with a specific focus on bringing in more members from our elderly community and members from outside Berkeley/Oakland. Fortunately, we were able to have more events, raise significantly more funds, and increase our membership drastically over those years. I don't have the fundraising/memberships numbers on hand right now but I was able to locate a total 14 events occurred in 2018 and 11 in 2019. The goal was always to be in deeper community with our LGBTQ+ siblings across the East Bay so that when election times roll around, we have deeper relational trust and engagement with our members so we can get out there for local candidates critical to our mission. That was the goal behind fundraising efforts as well. Our Club was founded in 1982 to give voice to the East Bay LGBTQ+ community. As a President that was my sole objective and now as a candidate, I hope to embody that mission.

I am a board member for Our Family Coalition, a non-profit who support LGBTQ+ families.

I am involved with the LGBTQ Victory Fund and was recently formally endorsed by them.

I am a member of the CA Democratic Party. I was a long-time member of the East Bay Young Democrats.

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. *

I support a number of different areas that are critical to our LGBTQ community. I do this personally and also lend my leadership and voice on the Board of Directors of Our Family Coalition (a one of a kind organization focused on LGBTQ families). To name a few specific areas: I have advocated at the state level to include LGBTQ history in state standards for Humanities courses. I have advocated to secure policies that protect and afford LGBTQ+ families similar levels of parental leave benefits as heterosexual couples. I have advocated to expand the definition of infertility so our gay, lesbian and trans community members are not left out of that definition.

More socially, I have lead, facilitated and been a member at 100's of events bringing together folks in all different spaces - with kids, around mental health, around trans identities, about reform and policy on behalf of our community, fundraising events for local candidates who give us a seat at the table, you name it!

Lastly, I have cultivated both teacher and student spaces within K-12 schools to lift up the voices of LGBTQ+ people. With students, it was a safe space to feel accepted and in community with others who may feel isolated in a school. With adults, we discuss our systems and practices in the classroom and go through 5 different ways they can modify approaches to be more inclusive of different genders, sexualities and family structures.

Marriage equality wasn't that far ago, and I was an active member of a volunteer team getting the word out and talking to voters to secure that win.

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

Yes and yes! Many, many, many!

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

Just to note, I believe you're only asking for me to list the endorsements of people specifically LGBTQ+. If I'm incorrect, please check out: <https://www.nickforoaklandschools.com/endorsements>

LGBTQ Victory Fund

Lori Droste, Council-member, Berkeley City Council

Terry Taplin, Council-member, Berkeley City Council

Victor Aguilar Jr., Council-member, San Leandro City Council

Megan Sweet, Trustee, Alameda Unified School District

Brendalynn Goodall, Alameda County Central Committee

Michael Colbruno, Oakland Port Commissioner

James Chang, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner

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

How can you tell a transkid "you can be anything in the world" when they don't see or notice people like them around? How can you help parents move through dealing with their child's different identities (that they don't immediately have experience with) if those parents aren't seeing identities like their children in places of power, making decisions? Representation is so important, especially now, while trans and LGBTQ+ youth AND history is under attack across our country. Having a seat at the table is step one in ensuring ALL policies we create as School Board members take into account the unique life experiences of our LGBTQ+ youth and families.

In terms of direct policy, I think we need to focus on a few areas: Invest in training and support to provide teachers and certificated staff with LGBTQ+ cultural competency training so they have the tools they need to identify and assist LGBTQ+ students who face disproportionate rates of bullying and harassment in school, lack of acceptance at home or in their communities and unique disparities in health and wellbeing. Focus on LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum that helps both LGBTQ+ identified students, and their non-LGBTQ+ peers, build a sense of understanding and connection to our history and triumph. Establish a Taskforce at the district level who is positioned to establish a strategic plan including policy ideas and community based programming that is unique positioned to help our unique community and their well being.

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

I would be the 1st LGBTQ OUSD board member in the history of the district. For reasons I describe in the question above, it's critical we have a parent and LGBTQ member on the board advocating on behalf of our community during such a critical time in history.

I know that by taking a collaborative stance we can get OUSD on the right track. I am the only candidate who has produced significant academic outcomes (the only OUSD teacher in the race), coached some of California's top district leaders toward systems-level academic gains and successfully turned around a small business.

Oakland deserves a better school board – one that's focused on kids and learning. With students falling further behind, our board is in disarray, talking about everything other than kids. I'm sick of the politics of division, of wedge issues and false choices, of a climate where people are intimidated from even speaking before our board. I'll bring the focus back where it belongs, while modeling decency, respect, and a solutions orientation.

I'm a lifelong educator, a parent with two young kids in OUSD schools, and a longtime resident of District 4. I have the commitment to stay with this, working towards goals that stand the test of time. Additionally, as a CEO and a proven leader, I have the skills to fix OUSD's troubled finances and get us on a path to stability.

Finally, I am different than the other candidates in our race because I believe we DO have a structural deficit and are not fiscally healthy as an organization. Our children are left behind year over year because we are unable to staff and program all schools across our district. We can't go on with business as usual. In order to ensure the promise of an education for ALL our children, we will have to make some really hard decisions that will impact our system. Right now, less than 20% of Black and Brown students read on grade level by 3rd grade. Our conversations should not be about sites or facilities or charters or property, but about our failure to provide our children an education that sets them up for a life of choice, opportunity and upward mobility.

I am the only candidate who believes we need to move away from the oversimplification of sides and to a more collaborative discussion about what is actually our reality:

How are families choosing schools and what is important to them?

How is the culture and conditions of our sites supporting teachers as professionals and leading to greater retention of veteran educators?

What are students experiencing as their educational program across our 84 sites? Is this just and equitable?

From there, we can leverage our collective understanding and design a new path forward, with our children at the CENTER of all decisions.

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