

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 *

jhoddie@pacbell.net

Name (First Last) *

Jim Oddie

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction *

City of Alameda

District *

At-large

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? *

Yes (Pride Breakfast, Bonta/Thurmond Bowling event, Oakland Pride Parade, Trivia Fundraiser Captain 2020). Former member of LGBTQ caucus with California League of Cities. Alameda Democratic Club (currently President), Wellstone Club, Alameda Democratic Lawyers Club. Member of CDP LGBTQ+ caucus.

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 an attorney, I participated in the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, providing low-cost and pro-bono legal services to HIV+ clients. I arranged for the City of Alameda to fly the rainbow flag on the day the decision in Hollingsworth v. Perry was announced. In 2018, after coming out, I was the first open LGBT candidate elected to the Alameda City Council. In that role, I've promoted an agenda of equity and inclusion, including funding for the first time, to the Alameda Unified School District to provide mental health services to students, including many LGBT students who expressed suicidal thoughts. I worked with our City's HR staff to ensure our HR policies support our transgender employees, and we put a successful measure on the ballot to make our charter gender-neutral. I also served on the LGBT caucus with the California League of Cities. Also while on City Council, I co-authored a referral with Councilmember Malia Vella to increase the reporting to City Council of hate crimes, bringing more visibility to these incidents.

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

In 2022: Ryan Lalonde/Alameda School Board (will donate), Gabe Quinto (will donate)

Supported in the past: Rebecca Kaplan (Financial), Richard Fuentes (Financial), Abel Guillen (Financial), Judge Tara Flanagan, Judge Vicky Kolakowski, Brendalynn Goodall (AD18 delegate), James Chang, Pam Harris, Lori Droste, Joaquin Rivera, Shawn Kumagai (Financial), Tiffany Woods (CDP LGBT Caucus), Mark Fickes, Bao Nguyen (Financial), Terry Taplin, Justin Sha (Financial), Ben Fong

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

James Chang, Shawn Kumagai, Andy Kelley, Justin Sha, Gabe Quinto

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

Many of the challenges from my previous races still exist – housing (including the supply of affordable housing, tenant protections, and homeless services), maintaining public safety (including supporting our new CARE team and efforts to eliminate bias in policing), and supporting our small businesses. Underpinning all of these is the ongoing efforts to achieve racial equity and social justice.

I have a record of fighting for these priorities and will continue to do so on the City Council if returned to another term. These issues impact all of Alameda, including the city's LGBTQ+ community, whether it's health, jobs, housing, reimagining policing, or social justice.

One thing I would like to build on is providing city financial support for mental health services for our LGBTQ+ youth. In 2019 we first approved funding for this program, in conjunction with our school district. We continued this program in 2020, and I'd like expand on it. This is critical as our transgender youth are under attack.

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

I am running for election to return to the City Council, having been elected in 2014 and again in 2018 (losing in 2020) (all 3 times with the endorsement of the Stonewall Club). No other non-incumbent in the race brings six years' experience on the City Council, and no other candidate running can point to a record of progressive policy accomplishments – as they say, I have the receipts – as I've led on almost all of the important progressive issues in Alameda. As noted above, I was the first open LGBT candidate elected to the Alameda City Council (and the only one in this race). After coming out, one constituent wrote to me that her daughter (also out) was so proud to have a local elected leader to look up to that was like her (I thought she was the brave one, coming out at 12) – representation matters!

I was also elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee in 2012 and served as the AD18 Vice Chair and an appointed member of the same body. I served on the StopWaste.org board and served as the President of the Energy Council and as President of the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board. I previously served as the first Chair of the City of Alameda's Open Government Commission. I also worked for over 6+ years as District Director for Assemblymember Rob Bonta, serving East Bay and Alameda constituents by fighting for our district and helping constituents navigate the state bureaucracy.

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