

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 *

reichi@reichilee.com

Name (First Last) *

Reichi Lee

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

Berkeley School Board

Jurisdiction *

Berkeley

District *

None (Berkeley School Board seats are all 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. Since becoming a member this year, I have attended several East Bay Stonewall election related events. I hope to become more involved after the election, including finding ways Stonewall can collaborate with Berkeley schools.

I am a supporter of the Trevor Project (suicide prevention) and Asia Rainbow Ride (based in Taiwan - I am Taiwanese - started by my friends who modeled it after the AIDS LifeCycle with the goal of bringing together LGBTQ+ communities and allies in Asia).

I also belong to Berkeley Democratic Club, Wellstone Democratic Club, APA Democratic Caucus, and 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. *

When I was in college, I interned at the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington D.C., where I worked to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a first-of-its-kind federal bill that prohibited discrimination in hiring and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. As a result of that work, I wrote an award-winning research paper on the art of coalition politics that included interviews with Human Rights Campaign, legislators, church leaders, and other groups to examine how divergent groups who normally have very different viewpoints came together around a common goal. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass but it formed the basis for the Equality Act which would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to explicitly prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Fingers crossed the Equality Act will finally soon!

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

I regularly vote for LGBTQ+ candidates because I believe their lived experiences are critical to decision-making at all levels of government. I plan to financially support.

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

Berkeley City Councilmember Terry Taplin; Berkeley Rent Board Member James Chang; Commissioner Alfred Twu, Berkeley Planning Commission; Megan Sweet, Director, Alameda Unified School District Board of Education; Sandy Stier and Kris Perry, Marriage Equality Pioneers and Lead Plaintiffs in Hollingsworth v. Perry (overturning Prop 8).

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

I would like to see more dialogue around the unique issues pertaining to transgender youth, including trainings for teachers and staff, and more resources for youth who are experiencing gender dysphoria and/or considering undergoing medical treatment to help them transition, name changes, etc. As a school community, we must ensure that transgender youth or youth with caregivers who are transgender feel supported and welcomed. Additionally, Berkeley High students have told me they like the mental health services provided at the Health Center. I would like to ensure that any mental health support is expanded to include support for transgender youth.

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

I am the only candidate with both the endorsement of the current President and Vice President of the Berkeley School Board, indicating that they want to work with me. Having represented foster youth from 1 day old to 21 years old and having worked closely with students with the highest needs, I understand what invisibility feels like and I have seen first-hand the harm that it can do to one's life outcomes. I want to change that. All children and youth deserve to be seen and heard, and all of my work has shown me that they can do a lot more than we think. Since education is the best tool for social justice we have, it is imperative that we make it the best that it can be. Because I have a long track record for fighting for equity, bringing excellent opportunities to young people, and collaborating with divergent stakeholders around the common goal of students success, when I am elected, I will hit the ground running. Thank you for your consideration!

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