

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 *

lopezforalbany@gmail.com

Name (First Last) *

Robin Lopez

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction *

Albany (Alameda County)

District *

N/A

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 not participated in any prior East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club activities, as I'm now becoming aware of this entity. Though I intend to become more involved as an accomplice. As the father to a non-binary child, entities like the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club are critical for progress and representation. In the past though, I've volunteered with the Richmond Rainbow Pride, and captured photos for their Pride event. On campus, at UC Berkeley, I was the prior President of the Graduate Student Union in my department, where I interfaced with a diverse group of stakeholders to support programming and visibility - such as the department's LGBTQIA+ community members. Lastly, as a previous Inclusion Diversity Equity Accountability (IDEA) Council chairperson at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, I worked alongside other employee resource group leaders, which included the LAMBDA Alliance group, to uplift and support advocacy and visibility at one the U.S. Department of Energy labs. The purpose of Lambda Alliance "is to enhance the work environment at Berkeley Lab for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, questioning, and gender-nonconforming (LGBTQIA+) employees and allies." In our capacity with fellow chairs, we worked collectively to support Pride Month programming, and year round awareness of inclusivity and accountability. I'm currently not officially affiliated with other Democratic clubs, as I'm still learning the nuances of such entities. I'm very early in my political career, and working to understand what information and resources I've not been previously made aware of. However, though I don't believe the exclusion of knowing is intentional, I do believe it speaks to broader concerns of equitable access to resources, support, and invitation for involvement. I do hope my participation in such Democratic entities can help elevate representation and participation of those of us from minoritized backgrounds.

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. *

In college, at San Francisco State University, I was the previous co-chair for Multi-Cultural AIDS Awareness Day. In this capacity and with this annual event, we collectively worked to normalize getting tested for HIV/AIDS, offered creative art exhibits for the campus community, and centered LGBTQIA+ leaders on campus to help achieve goals of getting the campus community to reckon with the historical oppressive behavior of the past by society towards specific community members. We used these educational opportunities to also raise funds, to support scholarship opportunities (Robert Westwood Scholarship). One of the primary goals of this event was to address the stigma of HIV/AIDS, to highlight that anyone can be impacted regardless of race, gender, or identity. By doing this, we worked to foster more open dialogue, and ensure LGBTQIA+ campus community members do not feel alone addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS. There are several other indirect ways I've helped to support and foster support for LGBTQIA+ individuals, but I cannot take credit for merely supporting. Though, I will say I take the utmost pride in being the proud father to my Non-Binary 12 year old child(They/Them), whom I affectionally refer to as my non-binosaur. Protecting and advocating for them at all times is not simply my job or responsibility - it is my honor. Hence, I take great pride in raising them. They will grow up knowing that every battle is worth fighting. And that every opportunity to catalyze change is worth the sacrifices. Small moments like correcting family members and holding them accountable around identity and pronouns are what I feel are the things I'll be most remembered for when my child reflects on how I supported an inclusive space for our LGBTQIA+ community members.

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

I have previously supported LGBTQIA+ candidates. Though, I have not donated to campaigns. This is in part to my status as a student-parent, and not having much financial flexibility. I can commit to be fully supportive financially, when I have the monetary resources to do so in the near future.

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

Cesar Zepeda, West County Wastewater District Board President

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

With respect to folxs who identify with the LGBTQIA+ community, I have experienced Albany to be rather welcoming and inclusive. Particularly, with first-hand experience on raising my child in this community. Though there's always room for improvement, as we should never settle for comfort nor remain complicit. As a father to a non-binary youth, I take this issue quite personally. The city could make more intentional efforts to celebrate intersectional diversity and identity. This includes opportunities such as representative artwork along the Ohlone Greenway, and creating forums and/or spaces for our LGBTQIA+ community members to come together and hold space, beyond just simple activities once a year during Pride Month. If elected to city council, I commit to elevating the visibility of our community members across identities that span race, gender, economic status, and abilities, especially for LGBTQIA+ community members. I intend to also interface more intentional with the school board to improve support and resources for LGBTQIA+ youth.

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

I'm uniquely qualified for the office I seek, in that I'm not just a candidate of color, who identifies as Latinx. I'm also a parent, who currently has a child attending the local school district. I have critically needed cultural and social relevance to catalyze change for our community. More so, I also unapologetically and publicly acknowledge I have a child who identifies as non-binary (with the permission of my child of course). Lastly, I'm the only candidate running who also lives in student-housing (UC Village) and clearly understands the need for affordable housing and access to basic needs for our most vulnerable community members.

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