

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 submitting your completed questionnaire is 11:59 PM on Thursday, May 13th for the AD 18 endorsement meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 26th. 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 *

info@jamesforcalifornia.com

Name (First Last) *

James Aguilar

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

California State Assembly District 18

Jurisdiction *

Assembly District 18 (Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro)

District *

Assembly District 18

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 regularly attended meetings of East Bay Stonewall since my election in 2018. I am also affiliated with the LGBTQ Victory Fund as a member-alumni, as well as Equality California as a regular attendee of events and the annual LGBTQ+ Leadership Conference. In regards to Democratic clubs, I am also a standing member of the East Bay Young Democrats and a regular attendee of the San Leandro Democratic Club and Our Revolution East Bay.

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. *

An openly Gay elected official myself, a School Board Member and the youngest elected official in the Bay Area, I have been at the forefront of local LGBTQ+ and civil rights issues. Most recently, I have led the school district's push to make our policies and document language gender neutral – following similar developments in the City of Berkeley. Throughout my term thus far, I have also advocated alongside my colleagues for curriculum recognizing the LGBTQ+ leaders of our era and in the past – Queer individuals of color who are typically unrecognized in traditional education – as well as their respective world-changing accomplishments. Moreover, we have worked with community partners to implement comprehensive LGBTQ+ inclusive sex education, including the furthering of menstrual, reproductive, and other health products and services for our students, teachers, and staff.

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

I have supported the following LGBTQ+ candidates for office:
November 3, 2020 LGBTQ+ Endorsements:

Alex T. Lee (D), California State Assembly District 25 (donated)
Mark Fickes, Superior Court of Alameda County (donated)
Derreck Johnson, Oakland City Council

March 3, 2020 LGBTQ+ Endorsements:

Pete Buttigieg (D), President of the United States (donated)
Alex T. Lee (D), California State Assembly District 25 (donated)
Scott Wiener (D), California State Senate District 11
Esther Gooldsby, Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 4
Angela K. Normand, Alameda County Board of Education Trustee Area 2
Mark Fickes, Superior Court of Alameda County (donated)

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

Please see my list of endorsements here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/14v7bF-IJChTYmtcKIF_rNey7hVMSEDAm-TkyuutXqA8/edit?usp=sharing

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

First and foremost, my priority as an Assemblymember will be to address the education crisis in California. We are the fifth largest economy in the world yet the 41st in the nation for per-pupil spending, alongside our underfunded public colleges and universities. This statistic is unacceptable; we have to do more to support our students, families, teachers and staff. An out School Board Member myself, I understand what our local LGBTQ+ community needs from our schools. In addition to providing staff supports in PreK-12 and higher education institutions, including LGBTQ+ issue-related professional development, we need to connect our schools with community partners to provide further support and classroom and curriculum development – including heightened mental health services. I fully support and will advocate for a legislative overhaul for supports to improve overall school climate, but especially for our LGBTQ+ students, and provide training for certificated staff.

For other policies and goals:

Housing is an important in crafting a future that employs a 'California for all'. Just two years ago, Oakland reported an increase of over 47% in homelessness, leaving our own without basic needs. We need to do better, especially when national surveys show that our LGBTQ+ youth are 120% more likely to become homeless than straight individuals. We need to create more supportive services, enact strong and bold tenant protections, and deliver affordable transit-oriented housing.

Public transportation in this conversation is crucial, too. The days of hour long waits and unsafe transit should be behind us. Providing access to fast and reliable transit is crucial for ensuring the LGBTQ+ community that disproportionately faces economic hardships can actively seek jobs close to transit centers and expand access to transit-oriented housing.

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

If elected to the State Assembly, I would represent our state's LGBTQ+ youth – I would become the youngest legislator in California history at 21 years old, and would also become the first out legislator from the East Bay. In the Latino caucus, I would bring our membership to historic numbers. But, importantly, I bring my experience as a school board member as well as an educator and student myself - having connected close to my community than most other elected offices. In addition, my work on many community nonprofits, foundations, and state associations bring a highly needed perspective. All of my intersecting experiences are a testament to my qualifications and ability to serve our beautiful communities in the Legislature.

Like then Equality California and LGBTQ Victory Fund-endorsed candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg when he ran an underdog campaign for President of the United States, our campaign started from the ground up and we will build a successful campaign that can compete one piece upon another. Among our priorities as a campaign, we will not accept dollars from big corporations, billionaires, real estate, law enforcement, fossil fuel, or companies and their executives contracted with ICE and/or CBP. The power of our campaign will come through grassroots mobilization in the Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro communities. Our campaign is not only created and curated by the people but is funded by the people.

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