

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 *

malia.vella@gmail.com

Name (First Last) *

Malia Vella

Are you a registered Democrat *

Yes

No

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

State Assembly

Jurisdiction *

State Assembly District 18

District *

AD 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've been a member on and off since 2014/2015. I've attended Oakland Pride events for many years, I'm a member of the Teamsters LGBTQ Caucus and help with events connected to our annual women's conference where we Co-sponsor events. I've also attended Stonewall Dems club meetings in past years.

CA Democratic Party (elected ADEM, AD 18), CA Democratic Party Fil-Am Caucus (Vice Chair), CA Democratic Party Labor Caucus, CA Democratic Party API Caucus, City of Alameda Democratic Club, and the Democratic Lawyers of Alameda County.
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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. *

As an Alameda City Councilmember I sponsored legislation to ensure that we have gender neutral restrooms in all of our civic buildings and diaper changing stations in all city restrooms. I also voted to remove all gendered pronouns from our city charter.

I have several close cousins who are LGBTQ and when I was in high school my family flew to Canada to witness my cousin's wedding because her own close-minded parents would not. I also attended a women's college and all of my college roommates were LGBTQ. It helped me to understand the important safe spaces created by small, independent colleges like Wellesley. I watched first hand as some of my closest friends were able to fully own and enjoy who they are without fear of being judged or made to be uncomfortable or othered. I really enjoy teaching at Mills College and have always tried to advocate and support my students so that they are afforded the same opportunities given to me and my friends at Wellesley. Some of my students do not have support at home, so when Mills gave students little notice during the COVID-19 Pandemic before closing campus and turning the students out, I called the administration and lobbied for them to give assistance to several of my queer and nonbinary students. I supported the Everyone Belongs Here campaign in Alameda as a councilmember, I've also stood with the LGBT community as an ally outside of city hall in connection with this campaign.

While at Santa Clara University School of Law I was a member of the LGBTQ Law Students group, supporting my roommate and close friends. Our small club volunteered on the No on H8 campaign, phone banking, hosting a meeting on campus and attending demonstrations.

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

John Bauters, Emeryville City Council

Lori Droste, Berkeley City Council

Jim Oddie, Alameda City Council (re-election)

Shawn Kumagai, Dublin City Council

Abel Guillen, Oakland City Council

Brendalynn Goodall, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee

Andy Kelley, Berkeley Rent Board

Tiffany Woods, CDP LGBTQ Chair

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

John Bauters, Emeryville City Council
Lori Droste, Berkeley City Council
Terry Taplin, Berkeley City Council

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

I support building housing and addressing homelessness, criminal justice reform, and addressing social, racial, and economic inequities. I support pro-equality legislation, including affirming records including marriage licenses and college records so that transgender and nonbinary people are not dead-named, ensuring health systems and healthcare facilities provide a full range of service including reproductive and gender-affirming care, ensuring we adequately fund in-school support for our LGBTQ students, and that we move to a universal healthcare system.

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 who has been elected and re-elected, both times with an overwhelming majority of the votes. I have run in highly contested races, the first time unseating an incumbent and both times I have emerged as the top vote-getter and set records (I was most recently the highest vote getter in the history of Alameda with over 16,000 votes in November 2020). I am the only candidate who was on the November 2020 ballot. And, I have more overall labor support than any other candidate and I have raised more money to date than any other candidate.

I have good name recognition in Alameda, and have personal and professional connections in all 3 cities in the district. I am also the only candidate who has worked as legislative staff and has professional connections in Sacramento. I have built a strong, formidable campaign in a matter of weeks and will have the labor support, finances and volunteers needed to win. No other candidate has the endorsement of the State Building Trades or their affiliates, the Teamsters Union, ATU, CFT, State Controller Betty Yee, Senators Connie Leyva and Lena Gonzalez, Assemblymembers Bill Quirk, Lorena Gonzalez, and Tasha Boerner-Horvath, as well as dozens of local elected officials.

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