


# 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 Ryan LaLonde, Interim EBSDC PAC chair via email at 

Email \*



Email \*



Name (First Last) \*

James Chang

Are you a registered Democrat \*

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction \*

Berkeley

District \*

7

Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing? If you are unsure, \*  
email [eastbaystonewalldems@gmail.com](mailto: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 been a member since 2014 and I currently serve as a Board Member of East Bay Stonewall since 2023. I previously served as a Board Member as well, from 2015 to 2020. Over the years in this position, I helped plan political endorsements, organized issue-based campaign activism, built strong relationships with elected officials, and raised money and awareness for Oakland Pride. I believe in advocating for our community and ensuring that our elected officials have our best interests in mind.

I am affiliated with other LGBTQ+ organizations in the East Bay, such as California Young Democrats LGBTQ Caucus, Young Elected Officials Network LGBTQ Caucus, and Oakland Pride Breakfast Committee. I am also affiliated with East Bay Young Democrats, where I served as President in 2022.  
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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 a Legislative Aide for two progressive Berkeley City Councilmembers, I have supported and worked closely with creating policy that supports LGBTQ+ community members. While working with Councilmember Kriss Worthington, a Queer man, we established gender affirmation IDs for workers by adding a nonbinary gender option on the General Application for appointment to Berkeley boards and commissions. With Councilmember Ben Bartlett, I assisted with multiple Pride resolutions supporting Pride Month. I am very proud of my advocacy and support for the LGBTQ+ community, and as a Councilmember of District 7, I plan to achieve even more.

Outside of my work at City Hall, I have actively worked towards advancing LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity for years. When I was the Chair of OUTBurst I was part of the marketing and education team that tackled the gender-neutral bathroom rollouts in our offices. I planned and managed the guest speaker series, which featured speakers from LGBTQ+ non-profits like Saints of Steel and LGBTQ+ political champions like Scott Weiner. I helped co-host Pride events and National Coming Out Day. During my time as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, I was an active campus leader. I played an important role in presenting the political status of gay and Asian communities in the US and internationally to the students. I did this by participating in the Cal Queer and Asian Conference, as well as the Associated Students of the University California DeCal Class. As the Student Trustee of the Ventura County Community College School District representing students from 3 different colleges, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges, I helped implement anti-discrimination and anti-harassment ordinances that protect LGBTQ+ and many other student communities. We made anti-harassment education a requirement and required students to sign that they understood the laws and rules about bullying and harassment before they were able to sign up for classes. I have been an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity, and I will continue to be one as a community member, political leader, and activist.

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

Yes, I believe it is crucial that we have LGBTQ+ political leaders, and I have donated and worked on numerous campaigns to help candidates achieve these positions.

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

California State Senator Scott Wiener  
Assemblymember Alex Lee  
Berkeley Councilmember Terry Taplin  
Oakland Councilmember Janani Ramachandran

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

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I want to ensure that our local LGBTQ+ health organizations, such as the Pacific Center and the Trans Health Collective at the Berkeley Free Clinic, have the support they need to continue serving our community. I plan to work closely with these organizations in drafting policy so the City of Berkeley can ensure the health of our LGBTQ+ undergraduate population.

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

District 7 is in need of a dedicated Council representative who can deliver affordable housing, safety, and services to its 14,000 hard-working students and residents. I am passionate about housing affordability and have served eight years as an elected member of Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Board. During my tenure, I played an instrumental role in implementing Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Ordinance. This law regulates residential rent increases and protects tenants from unwarranted rent hikes, and arbitrary, discriminatory, or retaliatory evictions. I was also President of UC Berkeley's student Co-ops for Rochdale Apartments, where I ensured that many low-income students, who often experience homelessness during their time in Berkeley, have a safe and reliable place to call home. With over half of the Berkeley population being renters, elected leadership must understand how to support and advocate for the majority of their constituents, and I am that leader.

For the past seven years, I have been Chief of Staff to former District 7 Councilmember Kriss Worthington and now to Councilmember Ben Bartlett. In these roles, I have problem-solved for hundreds of students and participated in writing and passing progressive legislation to expand affordable housing, end homelessness, meet the climate crisis, and improve public safety. I'm a proven progressive leader who will always be true to these values, but I understand that serving on the Council isn't about political ideology; it's about governance and serving the people of Berkeley.

I believe that my experience as a student leader, co-oper, elected official, and council collaborator has given me the skills to champion Berkeley forward. What sets me apart in this race is that I have over ten years of effective advocacy for progressive causes and the leadership experience that District 7 needs. I don't just have opinions; I have the track record to prove it.

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This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms