


# 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) \*

Cecilia Lunaparra

Are you a registered Democrat \*

Yes

No

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

Berkeley City Council District 7

Jurisdiction \*

City of 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 am a member of the newly-formed Queer Young Democrats of the Bay. I formerly served as the President of Cal Berkeley Democrats, the official arm of the Democratic Party on UC Berkeley's campus, and Telegraph for People, a progressive urbanist organization working to create a pedestrian plaza on Telegraph Avenue in Southside and advocating for transit justice (with the unofficial slogan "Ban Cars, Build Homes, Be Gay," as it is a majority-LGBTQ+ organization). Within these organizations, I partner with other activists and community members to give motivated students the tools and support they need to fight for progressive legislation.

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 president of Cal Berkeley Democrats, I organized a massive rally on campus in support of Proposition 1 in 2022 to codify the reproductive rights of all Californians into our state constitution alongside Barbara Lee, Malia Cohen, and countless other fighters for reproductive justice. I also worked to support striking UAW grad student workers, specifically their bargaining demands that included workplace protections for queer academic workers. As a queer person, myself, I know that reproductive justice is inherently linked to queer liberation.

When conservative groups on campus invited a transphobic speaker on campus for an explicitly transphobic event, under my leadership, Cal Berkeley Democrats organized with Queer Alliance Resource Center (QARC) and other LGBTQ+ student leaders to host a safe space for queer people feeling threatened on their own campus. I have been organizing and working for student and youth power at the collegiate, local, and Democratic Party level throughout my undergraduate years and in doing so, have worked to uplift young queer advocates, especially young queer people of color.

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

This cycle, I proudly endorsed and supported Jovanka Beckles for State Senate, Jennifer Esteen for Supervisor, and Avery Arbaugh and Alfred Twu for ACDCC. I have also supported, with financial support, many LGBTQ+ candidates in past cycles as well.

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

No explicitly LGBTQ+ organizations have endorsed any candidate in this race yet, but I do have the support of a number of openly queer elected and appointed elected officials, including Alfred Twu, Victor Aguilar Jr, Jovanka Beckles, Noelani Fixler, Amyrah Doty, Luke Leuschner, and many others. Moreover, a majority of my campaign staff are UC Berkeley students and openly queer.

Full endorsements: <https://www.ceciliaforberkeley.com/endorsements>

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

All of my policy positions and goals are written with the most marginalized members of our society at the forefront. As LGBTQ+ people, especially trans people, we are disproportionately impacted by rent burdens, evictions and homelessness, police violence, hate crimes, labor injustices, and a lack of representation. Therefore, all of my positions will benefit the LGBTQ+ community – however, simply responding to this question without centering the specific and self-identified needs of the LGBTQ+ community would be a woefully insufficient and unrepresentative way to respond to this question. LGBTQ+ people not only experience oppression as an intersection, but homophobia, queerphobia, and transphobia permeate our society in unique ways, and work in tandem with other forms of oppression.

One of my primary goals as Council member would be reimagining public safety, and making sure it serves our LGBTQ+ community and communities of color, whose safety has for too long been compromised for the safety of others. Historically, queer communities (especially queer communities of color) have been overpoliced and overcriminalized, leaving many of us to feel unsafe and unprotected by police departments. Therefore, I plan to improve student and community safety by investing in programs that not only make people feel safe but also make sure that people are actually safe; and, to do so, we must work proactively. By reimagining public safety and reallocating police funds, we can allow the police department to focus on addressing violent crime, including hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people. I will work for Berkeley's Specialized Care Unit and BerkDOT that prevent the root causes of violence, rather than criminalization and mass incarceration. I also want to make the SCU 24/7 and pressure the state government to allow BerkDOT to take effect so that mental health issues, addiction, and traffic violations are not being handled by armed police officers. I plan to protect residents from police brutality by implementing the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force recommendations and cracking down on instances of illegal and prejudiced patterns of arrests, especially when fueled by racist and unconstitutional arrest quotas. I also want to increase the presence of non-police public safety ambassadors and create more community events to promote socializing, community, and harm reduction. Lastly, for student populations specifically, I want to create a specialized, unarmed, non-police response team to respond to noise complaints and other non-violent issues stemming from parties and social events.

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

I am thrilled that there are two young queer people of color running for this seat, and I am excitedly looking forward to increased queer representation on the City Council regardless of the outcome of this race. This is thanks to the countless hours spent organizing for a student supermajority Council District in Berkeley. Such a unique and special district deserves a representative that uniquely and distinctly knows

If elected, I would be the first undergraduate student, the first Latina, and the first openly queer woman of color to serve on the Berkeley City Council. I am the only undergraduate student in this race to represent a district that is 95% students and has a median age of 19. I am the only person running with close ties to both student and non-student organizations in District 7. I am also the only candidate in this race endorsed by any UC Berkeley student organizations as of right now. I have spent years organizing my community to create change in the local level, and I have the connections to my community, the organizing experience, and the drive to effectively serve District 7.

One of my favorite quotes is “the most effective tactic is one that people enjoy doing.” As Cal Berkeley Democrats member, Political Director, and President, I have proudly worked to build student power at the local level during my undergraduate career at UC Berkeley. Getting students involved in local government has been the most rewarding part of my experience in this city. I have led multiple Berkeley local government crash course lectures, co-authored a Public Comment guide largely used by countless student organizations and held meetings with student political organizations to practice giving public comment. One of my favorite memories in Telegraph for People and Cal Berkeley Democrats has been seeing students give fake public comments to the organizations on made-up topics, allowing students to build community with one another while learning how to civically engage. During my years organizing at UC Berkeley, we have created a united, progressive voice of passionate student organizers, and it is beautiful to see and experience. While many of us student organizers and Democratic Party leaders see this campaign for City Council as an extension of this student power, it is meant to go beyond that – this coalition is meant to be intergenerational, resilient, and long-lasting. Ultimately, this is how we engage young people in the Democratic Party, by creating a community, a space that speaks not only for them but with and alongside them. It is more than possible to improve student engagement in the Democratic Party, specifically in the local Democratic Party – it is vital. Young people are not only our future, we are the present, and these issues that come before us affect us, and I am proud to have earned the support of campus leaders whom I have had the honor of organizing alongside.

As an openly queer young Latina – an organizer, a commissioner, a leader, and now a candidate – I more than understand the unique experiences, frustrations, and inequalities that we face, and I am committed to representing not only my communities but the entire city of Berkeley with the new lens and fresh perspective it desperately needs and deserves. I humbly ask you to join them in supporting a committed, experienced, and principled undergraduate student activist for the undergraduate student council district. I thank you all so much for the opportunity to speak with you and am looking forward to working with and alongside you as we fight for a brighter, more equitable, more sustainable future.

This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms