

# 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 Shay Franco-Clausen, EBSDC PAC chair via email at [REDACTED]

Email \*

[REDACTED]

Email \*

[REDACTED]

Name (First Last) \*

Sasha Ritzie-Hernandez

Are you a registered Democrat \*

Yes

No

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

School Board

Jurisdiction \*

Oakland

District \*

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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 not had the opportunity to participate directly in East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club activities, but I am deeply honored to have received the endorsement of the Alameda County Dems, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund and the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club. I am also a proud member of the East Bay Democratic Socialists, East Bay Young Dems and Latine Young Dems and have received the endorsement of all clubs. These organizations recognize my dedication to equity, inclusion, and authentic community representation on the Oakland School Board. I am thrilled to align with Stonewall's mission as a queer, working-class Afro-indigenous womyn who once navigated Oakland schools as an undocumented English language learner and has worked directly with families for more than a decade to advocate for quality education.

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. \*

I have been a lifelong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity, driven by my personal experiences and a deep commitment to fostering a supportive community. I stood up for my brother, who faced violence as a gay man in Acapulco, Mexico during the '90s. As a culture keeper in my Guerrerense community, I've mentored and supported many young individuals struggling with their gender identity. Just recently, I advocated for a non-binary student who faced discrimination in their choice of locker room at a high school in Oakland. During my campaign I used my platform to speak up against the anti-LGBTQ rally at a school board meeting in the neighboring city of Sunol. My wife and I actively participate in GSA clubs in District 5 schools, and I am proud to support events like raising the progress pride flag at Urban Promise Academy, increasing visibility and supporting student voices.

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

I supported Valarie Bachelor's campaign for Oakland School Board however my previous immigration status did not grant me the right to vote nor contribute to political campaigns.

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

LGBTQ+ Victory Fund, Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, Valarie Bachelor and Bobbi Lopez.

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

One vital aspect of my formal platform is engaged school communities. Inclusivity is at the heart of this goal, as it ensures that all stakeholders, including LGBTQ+ students and educators, have a meaningful role in decision-making processes at our school sites. To create truly engaged school communities, we need to center the needs of our most impacted and create a plan of action to address the challenges raised and amplify the areas of success. I personally want to support the implementation of anti-discrimination measures to foster an environment where all who identify as LGBTQ+ feel valued, respected, and included.

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

As a product of Oakland Unified, the times when I thrived the most were when school leaders and my family worked together to support me. When I organized with community members last year during the school closure crisis, I saw the impact of a breakdown in the relationships between district decision-makers and educators, school personnel, students and families. I want to bring my experience as an organizer and family engagement specialist to the school board to build and rebuild those relationships so we can tackle the tough issues together. I am running for school board to ensure that all students have access to the resources and support they need to reach their full potential. My experiences as a bilingual Afro-Latinx, queer, working class, recently undocumented and now naturalized citizen, I understand how vital it is for schools and working families in our community to work together in closing opportunity gaps. I want my perspective as a family engagement specialist to work to make the school environment safer for students and school personnel, make sure our budgets reflect our priorities, make equity the center of decision not an afterthought and create better partnerships between district decision makers, school personnel and families.

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This form was created inside of Shay Franco-Clausen.

Google Forms