

2020 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 to complete your questionnaire via Google forms is Friday, August 21, 2020 at 11:59pm for the August 26, 2020 East Bay Stonewall endorsement meeting for the November 2020 presidential election. Any candidate submitting a questionnaire that is received after the deadline will not appear on the endorsement ballot.

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 Amy Fitzgerald, EBSDC PAC chair via email at afitzlap@gmail.com.

Email address *

benny4berkeley@gmail.com

Name (First, Last) *

Ben Bartlett

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

City Council

Jurisdiction? *

Berkeley

District? *

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Are you an East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club member in good standing as of August 19, 2020? 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 am a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, I have participated as a Friend of the EBSDC sponsor for the yearly Pride Event. In my early years, I was a member of the Colby College LGBTQ+ club "Bridge," where I first became involved in the fight for equity and inclusion for LGBTQ+ individuals. I currently serve on the Democratic Central Committee as an Alternate Executive Board member, I am a member of Berkeley Democrats, and have been a member of the Berkeley Democratic Club, the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, John George Democratic Club, and the Democratic Farmer League of Minnesota.

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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. *

I authored and worked with Councilmember Lori Droste to establish June as LGBTQ+ Pride month in Berkeley. I also co-authored a letter of support with Councilmembers Lori Droste and Kriss Worthington for SB 179, which allows Californians to identify as nonbinary for official ID documents without a court order. Lastly, I supported Councilmember Rigel Robinson's ordinance to adopt gender-neutral language in Berkeley's Municipal Code.

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

Yes, both supported and provided financial support for: Councilmember Darryl Moore / School Board President Judy Appel/ Councilmember Kriss Worthington/ Councilmember Lori Droste/ Director Andy Katz/ Commissioner James Chang/ Tim Silard / Xaiver Johnson/ Maria Poblet/ Andy Kelly

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

Councilmember Lori Droste /Councilmember Kriss Worthington/ Director Andy Katz/ School Board President Judy Appel/ California Young Dems LGBTQ Caucus Chair & Rent Board Commissioner James Chang

What other LGBTQ+ community members and/or organizations support your candidacy? *

Local Business Owner Diana Days from Bueno Aires Cafe &
Tim Silard President of the Rosenberg Foundation

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

Housing is a human right, and I am committed to ensuring affordable and accessible housing for all, including LGBTQ+ individuals. In April 2018, a survey by Freddie Mac found that 49% of LGBTQ households were likely to own a home - considerably lower than the current national rate (64.3%). The study also found that when deciding where to live, LGBTQ renters cited price, safety, and a LGBTQ-friendly location as the most important factors. I am committed to cultivating an inviting and friendly environment for the LGBTQ community by increasing accessibility of housing and homeownership for LGBTQ individuals to build community here. Specifically, I plan to make 50% of new housing that is a product of my Adeline Corridor Plan affordable housing. As an incumbent, I have also already introduced the Open Doors Initiative, which aims to increase pathways toward homeownership for various community members, including first-time and low-income homeowners, who are disproportionately from marginalized communities.

Beyond housing, another top policy priority is to transform public safety. I demand police reform, including divestment from police funding to unarmed crisis workers and fundamental change at the academy level, to put an end to racial injustice at the hands of the police. In order to truly re-imagine public safety, we must also address the ways transgender communities, especially Black trans people, experience transphobia and anti-trans violence not only in their homes, in our schools, and on our streets, but also at the hands of law enforcement and government officials. My recent George Floyd Community Safety Act is composed of several targeted measures that reflects my commitment to divesting from the police and investing in the safety and needs of our communities, including LGBTQ+ people. One component of the act reallocates Berkeley police funding to the creation of a unit of unarmed crisis workers trained to address mental health crises and other noncriminal cases.

My office has also made vital progress towards protecting public health and promoting health equity. I have passed funding to create the Health Equity and Innovation (HEI) Zone, which works to improve the lives of the city's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents, including LGBTQ+ people. The LGBTQ community has suffered from government neglect when it comes to health care, and the HEI Zone aids in the development of universal health care for all. Additionally, I have a road map to guide our City through COVID-19, including protecting essential workers, achieving COVID-19 readiness, providing medical debt relief, and increasing testing/contact tracing. COVID-19 demographic data transparency is key to identifying the populations that need additional resources during this pandemic. To ensure we can better understand how the LGBTQ community is impacted by COVID-19, I am proud to support SB 932, which requires the state to collect and report voluntary COVID-19 data relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.

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

Not only am I a fifth-generation Berkeley resident and respected community leader, but also I am an incumbent City Councilmember for District 3 who represents South Berkeley values. Since being elected to the Council in 2016, I have demonstrated my innovative, untiring, and experienced leadership in achieving progress towards affordable housing, re-imagining public safety, and ensuring economic and health opportunities for all, including marginalized groups and communities most in need. The following are a few examples of my legislative achievements from my first term: 1) passing tenant protection ordinances, streamlining affordable housing developments, and funding anti-displacement programs, 2) reallocating Berkeley police funding to the creation of an unarmed Specialized Care Unit, and 3) funding the creation of a feasibility study for an African American Holistic Resource Center to help reduce health inequities, and passing a Health Equity and Innovation Zone.

What distinguishes me as the best candidate for this office is my ability to advance my efforts from my first term and in my potential second term, lead the implementation phases for the items I have written and successfully passed in Council. Legislation generally takes around three-and-a-half years to reach the implementation phase. As an incumbent and South Berkeley resident, I have the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to streamline future legislation and constituent concerns and ensure that the work I have done with the community comes to fruition. As an attorney, I also have years of experience reading existing laws and navigating through legal challenges. This gives me a distinct edge in drafting policies that will shape our community and help South Berkeley evolve. I know what initiatives need to be implemented because I wrote the items. I know what legislative advancements need to be prioritized because I have already built strong relationships with our constituents to discover the most pressing issues in the South Berkeley community.

Beyond my role as an incumbent, I have also served on numerous boards and commissions, participated in charity work, and volunteered at non-profit and community-based organizations. My relationships with thought leaders, the business community, local neighborhood activists, and the elected officials of Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, and San Francisco make me a trusted partner and coalition builder on regional issues impacting not just the City of Berkeley, but the entire region. My track record is exhaustive and supports my platform. The other candidates' records are not. One has no record, the other has a record that does not reflect her current stated goals.

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