

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 *

walshfortransit@gmail.com

Name (First, Last) *

Jean Walsh

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

AC Transit Director

Jurisdiction? *

Ward 2

District? *

Ward 2

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 Stonewall Dems as an ally and I have participated in several meetings and events, including the discussion, "How LGBTQ + People are Building Power in the Democratic Party" earlier this spring. I'm also a member of Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, in addition to other local groups with democratic values. I am president of the Longfellow Community Association. I have volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), working with at-risk youth in foster care, including LGBT youth.

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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'm a lifelong progressive, supporting and advocating for policies, legislation and organizations that advance the rights of the most marginalized, including LGBTQ individuals and families as well as immigrants, prisoners, seniors, the unhoused, people with disabilities, the poor, and animals. I have donated money, participated in events, spread the word, and promoted many causes that advance justice and equality. As one recent example, I wrote in support of Senator Wiener's bill, SB145, to reform inequities and injustices in the sex offender registry. I am eager to learn more about issues affecting the LGBTQ community and to be a strong voice of support and action.

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

I have contributed financially to the campaigns of Rebecca Saltzman, John Bauters, Victoria Fierce, Terry Taplin, Jane Natoli, and have also supported Scott Wiener and Alfred Twu by mobilizing in support of their campaigns and initiatives.

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

I've been endorsed by John Bauters, Jane Natoli and Alfred Twu. I expect to earn more endorsements from LGBTQ organizations and elected officials as the race goes on.

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

I've received support in various forms for my campaign from Jonathan Bair, Terry Taplin, Warren Logan, Chris Arvin, Victoria Fierce, Kiernyn Darkwater and many LGBTQ community members and friends inside and outside the region and state.

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

My vision is quite simple: excellent, enjoyable, equitable public transportation that makes our cities and communities better and serves everyone. Key ideas in my platform: transit prioritization so bus riders aren't stuck in traffic; expanded youth and low-income discounts; improved reliability so the bus comes when it says it's going to come. I will work towards creating a fast, frequent, seamless public transportation network that benefits everyone, especially our most vulnerable residents who rely on public transit.

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

I gave up my car years ago. I'm a transit and bike rider and I would bring that important perspective to this role. For decades I served as a community relations professional for public agencies and micro-mobility start-ups, advocating for the public and helping to resolve issues and find solutions. I will use my experience to improve AC Transit's communications with riders and community members, especially those who have been historically marginalized in transit planning. I'm a leader in sustainable transportation with East Bay Transit Riders and Transbay Coalition and an active member of the biking and walking advocacy organizations Bike East Bay and Walk Oakland Bike Oakland (WOBO). I've worked professionally to expand bike and scooter share and have built relationships with community groups, city staff at transportation departments, and elected officials throughout the Bay Area. My online presence helps me be accountable to the public and available to answer questions. I completed a Masters in Urban Planning at MIT, served in the Peace Corps, and am fluent in Spanish. I will apply my experience and energy to help get us through this climate and financial crisis and build a reliable, resilient and equitable transportation system for all.

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