

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 *

info@melissa4newhaven.com

Name (First, Last) *

Melissa Shuen-Mallory

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

School Board

Jurisdiction? *

New Haven Unified School District

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: Non-binary femme

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 attended the fundraiser for transgender rights at the bar, I attended the Oakland PRIDE breakfast. I am a dues paying member. I have donated to the club. I am in the CA DEM LGBT Causus, the DNC LGBTQ and Transgender/GNC caucuses. I have lead or served on the Board for various LGBTQ organizations including Queer Sphere and Non-Binary and Intersex Recognition Project. I am the chair of Southern Alameda County Progressive Democrats, and a member of Tri-City Democrats. I am an associate member of the Central Committee and was recently elected as a regular member to begin in January 2021.

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. *

My very life as a queer, non-binary femme married to a butch lesbian is an act of political resistance. The first political campaign I ever volunteered for was Prop 8 for marriage equality, I have volunteered at the PRIDE Parade in SF for at least four years, in fact, I was a wheel monitor before I even watched the parade. I have marched, petitioned and fought for LGBTQ rights whenever I can. This past year, as Union City's first out LGBTQ commissioner and Chair of the Human Relations Commission, I wrote the Pride proclamation for PRIDE month and got my city to raise the rainbow flag for the first time. Then I started a PRIDE subcommittee and joined the Fremont City contingent as Union City's representative to the SF Pride Parade. When my goddaughter came out to her mom as transgender, I was there first person she called. As a single straight mother, she wanted my help learning how to support her daughter and advocate for her. I guided her through advocating for her daughter and finding resources to support her, in fact, her struggles inspired me to run for school board.

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

Yes and yes I gave money. I also regularly donate to LGBTQ non profits such as Trans Lifeline, HRC, and Project Ete Sen.

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

*

I am endorsed by Andy Kelley, Vice Chair of ACDCC, Alfred Twu, and Carolyn Wysinger, President of SF Pride;

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

Most of the non-profits I'm involved in don't endorse candidates. I am supported by many of my LGBTQ colleagues including those that serve with me on the board of the Democratic Club I chair.

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

I have a goal to raise the PRIDE Flag at all our schools every June. I will fight to ensure that all age appropriate sexual education is comprehensive to include representation from the LGBTQ+ community. I will advocate for gender neutral restrooms. I will ensure that all our school policies support the gender identities of all transgender and gender non-conforming students, that their safety and well-being is at the forefront. I will personally advocate for any LGBTQ+ student who is having issues at school, I will give them my phone number. Finally, I will ensure any students who wish to have an LGBTQ group have proper support.

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

I have been serving as the Chair of the Union City Human Relations Commission since 2019 and am also serving on the city's subcommittee for Policing and Community Engagement. As a former educator and current community leader, I believe we can work together to give our students a brighter future. Imagine a school district where students and the classroom come first, where all our students regardless of background have an equal chance of success, where we don't treat our students like criminals, where we have a safe and comprehensive plan for returning to the classroom after shelter in place, and where our city government and school district work together to better serve all of our families. I am running because I believe in these things. I have always fought for justice and equity. I started as an activist and community organizer just like many of you who are reading this statement. It takes all of us as a community to make change and progress. I would be honored to have your support as the only LGBTQ+ candidate for the school board.

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