

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 *

sophie@sophiehahn.com

Name (First, Last) *

Sophie Hahn

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

CITY COUNCIL

Jurisdiction? *

BERKELEY

District? *

DISTRICT 5

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 have sponsored EBSD club events in the past

- I have always supported LGBT causes, legislation, candidates, etc., but am not an official member of other LGBTQ organizations.

Other Democratic organizations I have belonged to include:

- Democratic Party/CA DEM

- Berkeley Progressive Alliance (BPA)

- Berkeley Citizens Action (BCA)

- Berkeley Democratic Club

- John George Democratic Club

- East Bay Young Dems (Associate Member)

- Berkeley Democratic Club

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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 have always advocated for, supported, voted for and/or given money to organizations promoting equality for LGBTQ people in every context necessary to address violence, exclusion, and other discrimination and harms against LGBTQ people and communities. This has included supporting Marriage Equality (and domestic partnerships before that, which Berkeley pioneered), adoption and surrogacy, equal access to healthcare and family planning, workplace fairness/anti-discrimination, protections from bullying and harassment, HIV treatment, access to facilities, equal access to, and representation in, education, and more.

While a student at UC Berkeley I volunteered 24 hours a week for Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), staffing the crisis hotline. I counselled rape victims and assisted them in receiving crisis health services and, should they choose to report, in navigating police and criminal justice interactions. In all my time on the hotline (3 years), not one LGBT victim ever chose to report to the police.

At Stanford Law School I co-chaired the Women of Stanford Law, which included both LGBT and "straight" women. We partnered with the small LGBT student association to counter hostile attacks from conservative students who argued that places rightfully held by white men were being taken by women and other "diversity" students. Their organized attacks included "crashing" and disrupting our meetings and standing up to shout us down in classrooms and forums. I was a leader in pushing back against these hostile attacks, which were particularly difficult as we (women, LGBT, people of color) remained in classes with the men attacking us – at times being forced to sit next to them because seating was assigned and unchangeable. It was a very hostile environment and we worked in solidarity my entire 3 years at Stanford.

After practicing law for several years in New York City, I went to work for the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR), doing policy work around sexuality and reproductive health throughout Latin, Central and North America and the Caribbean. The plight of LGBT individuals in many countries where the IPPF/WHR operates was even more severe than in the United States, and many of our affiliates were constrained in their ability to openly address the needs of the LGBT community, which was largely underground at that time. With the AIDS epidemic raging in the United States and abroad, much of our work centered on supporting PP affiliates in their efforts to spread the word about the importance of using condoms, and in making condoms widely available.

After having my first child, we moved back to the Bay Area, and I had two more children. Through our preschool, elementary school and other communities we established a new circle of friends, including many LGBT families. Throughout the years we have remained close friends and have supported each other in raising children and confronting the challenges of relationships, family and life. It was exciting to watch Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier, who were in our circle of family friends, fight all the way to the US Supreme court to overturn Prop. 8.

As President of the PTA at King Middle School for six years, we organized special events for LGBT

families and funded an anti-bullying curriculum. In middle school, counselors are a lifeline for students who are developing their sexuality. When the School District threatened to cut one of King's Counselors, I led a fundraising effort to generate enough money to cover the cost of the Counselor's salary, shifted some afterschool program costs from the school budget to the PTA and freed up enough funding to keep the third counselor on campus, maintaining an important element of the support structure for LGBT teens.

In the 1990s I served six years (the maximum one could serve) on the Board of Planned Parenthood Shasta Diablo, which is now PP Nor Cal. In that capacity, I supported an organization providing reproductive and sexual health services throughout Northern California. Planned Parenthood is the most trusted service provider in America, and our affiliate was/is in the forefront of providing equal, supportive, nonjudgmental care to all who come through their doors, and developing policies and protocols for care of LGBT patients. Many of my LGBT friends have told me that Planned Parenthood is the only place where they feel safe seeking medical services and counselling. We were and are a primary source of testing for AIDS and for AIDS prevention. I was involved in advocacy at the State level, fundraising, review of policies and service protocols and safety measures for clinics and employees, and worked along with my board colleagues to ensure that the organization was able to thrive and to expand its outstanding services.

In 2010, our family hired a CAL student to help our teenagers with homework, sports and activities. Rian, who is transgender, quickly became a beloved part of our family. He worked closely with us in that capacity for more than a year, and when I decided to run for City Council in 2012, I hired Rian to be my campaign manager. I learned a lot from Rian about resilience and perseverance in the face of negativity. Having transitioned during High School, Rian had experienced a level of bullying and violence that made campaigns seem tame. Just over 20 years old, and having defended his right to be who he is in this world, Rian had more wisdom, clarity and freedom of spirit than anyone I have ever met. His level of maturity and compassion were, and are, unrivaled. Although he moved to Portland to pursue a nursing degree - and got married - we remain very close.

My campaign manager for 2016, Brandon, had a different experience growing up - gay - in a small, overwhelmingly Republican town in California's Central Valley. He has shared some of the hardships he faced as an LGBT youth. Once in office, I hired him to be my District Director. He worked with me for two years, and then went to graduate school - with my support and help - where he is now. It has been humbling to work so closely with young people who are facing the challenges of being LGBTQ in a still-hostile society, and world. Laws on the books don't take away all the challenges and negativity.

In my capacity on the Berkeley City Council, I have supported removal of gendered language from our laws and policies, and always support policies and programs to address the needs, or improve equity for, the LGBTQ community. I will continue to support laws and policies that address challenges the LGBTQ community faces locally, statewide and across the nation, and to support organizations and individuals with my participation and donations.

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

Yes. Yes.

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

I would be honored to have your endorsement. The only other LGBTQ organizations that endorse in Berkeley do not endorse straight candidates, so I have not been endorsed by them. I do not know the LGBTQ status of all of my supporters. Here are the elected officials who have endorsed to date: I do not know the LGBTQ status of all of my supporters. please visit www.sophiehahn.com/endorse for a list of all of my elected endorsers

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

I do not know the LGBTQ status of all of my supporters. I am not aware of any other LGBTQ organizations that support me.

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

Equal access to quality healthcare, mental health and sexual/reproductive health services, and single payer healthcare. I also support all forms of equity.

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

It has been an honor to serve as Councilmember for Berkeley's 5th District, and as Vice Mayor. I am running to continue the important work we have started to:

- Maximize affordable housing in Berkeley and move towards a Social Housing model
- Continue expanding our rehousing and shelter resources so no one has to live unsheltered in Berkeley

- Keep Berkeley on track to meet or exceed our climate, environmental and resilience goals
- Seize the opportunities presented by the current wave of protests against racism and police/societal violence, and reallocate resources away from police towards health, mental health, and other services that support wellness and help avoid emergencies.
- Stop the surveillance state and fight encroachment on civil liberties, privacy and democracy.
- Continue building a more just and equitable society in Berkeley, and beyond.
- Rebuild and support a local and green economy to turn around the current economic collapse, and
- Make sure everyone in our community is safe, housed and nourished in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

I am uniquely qualified because:

- I have a track record of successful legislation and action on all of these issues
- Prior to joining the City Council, I did decades of work in the community, and with not for profit organizations, to lift up Berkeley, and the values and initiatives I continue to work on.
- I have written and passed major policies and programs, and first-in-kind legislation, to support all of these goals, and more.
- I grew up in the District I represent, and raised my own family in D5. I have deep roots in Berkeley and know and care for my community.
- I have a track record of getting funds to support the policies and programs I champion - I know how to turn ideas into action and get real results.
- I have strong relationships with the Mayor and Council colleagues, and with City Staff.
- Have helped navigate the COVID-19 crisis and we have kept Berkeley largely safe from disease.
- I have continued to innovate and lead in the face of COVID-19, introducing legislation to help small businesses and restaurants, helping raise funds for struggling renters, arts organizations and businesses, and providing information and resources to my constituents on a regular basis.
- To take advantage of the great opportunity presented by the new wave of interest and protest to end racism and violence against African Americans, and all people of color, I co-authored legislation to rethink security for Berkeley, and find ways to defund the police and support more social services, mental health, and alternative crisis intervention policies.

I am fully committed to continuing my work on behalf of Berkeley, and to moving forward policies and programs that serve as models for other jurisdictions.

I am an incumbent, have raised funds necessary to win, am supported by a large number of state, regional and local elected officials, and am running a full campaign, reaching out to a community that voted me into office with over 60% of the vote.

I would be honored to receive your endorsement.

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