

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 *

victoria@fierce.vote

Name (First, Last) *

Victoria, Fierce

Are you a registered Democrat? *

Yes

No

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

Director

Jurisdiction? *

AC Transit

District? *

At-large

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? *

Yes, I've participated in previous Stonewall endorsement activities, both as a member and as a Democratic Central Committee Candidate. I regret that I'm not able to stay more involved than that! However, much of my energy goes towards increasing LGBTQ+ membership and power within my own advocacy group, East Bay for Everyone. This year, I won my election to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee! Other clubs I'm involved with include the East Bay Young Democrats and the John George Democratic Club. I'm a regular supporter, participant, and volunteer with Oakland Pride; In 2019, I earned myself a VIP badge for helping Oakland Pride turn my office at 2044 Franklin St. into their event HQ for two years in a row and going.

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. *

East Bay for Everyone was built by queer people; we've always been intentional about creating a welcoming space for our members in uncommon ways. The first self-governing protocol we adopted was a Code of Conduct specifically to ensure that our vulnerable members, including LGBTQ+ members, would not be put at risk or subject to abuse. We wanted to build a welcoming and inclusive space for those outside the hegemony of cisgendered straight men in urbanism. That included functional ways to hold ourselves accountable to each other should it be needed. In our advocacy we include chosen family, not just birth family, because we know that not everyone has a supportive family of origin.

Because of my work in building East Bay for Everyone, we've become a driving force in making urbanism, urban planning, transportation advocacy, bike advocacy, and all number of other fields more welcoming and supportive of queers like myself. That work is not yet done, and we continue to lead in untokenizing urban advocacy spaces locally, statewide, and nationally. When we say we're building an East Bay that is for Everyone, we truly, passionately, honestly mean Everyone. With this same ethos I baked into our culture's foundations, I'm working to build a bus system that works for everyone, and not just the few.

Finally, my candidacy for AC Transit represents an opportunity for the district's board of directors to have its first transgender member. The simple fact that I'm running is giving hope and optimism to LGBTQ+ people everywhere. I'm carrying on in the footsteps of my hero Sandra Kurt, by showing the world that queer and trans people can thrive in Democratic politics and win elections.

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

Yes! Growing up in Akron Ohio, I looked up to my friend Sandra Kurt; back then, she was a Democratic County Supervisor in Summit County, Ohio. Today, she's the clerk of courts. As an open and visible lesbian elected to public office, she inspired me to be who I am today, and to ultimately show me that there really is an LGBTQ+ space in politics, and that it can be ours to shape if we seek it out. Other candidates I've supported both financially and in my advocacy for their campaigns include John Bauters, Rebecca Saltzman, Janice Li, Lateefah Simon, Lori Droste, Victor Aguilar, Terry Taplin, Scott Wiener, and countless others.

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

*

I've been endorsed by Victor Aguilar, San Leandro City Councilor, and Terry Taplin, Vice-Chair of the Berkeley Transportation Commission. I have not yet received any organizational endorsement. You would be the first!

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

I've been officially endorsed by:

Alfred Twu, Berkeley politician, architect, and commercial artist.

Frank Ciglar, co-Founder of Oakland Pride

Many of my donors and the volunteers supporting my campaign are queer themselves.

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

As a trans woman, I need reliable and affordable access to my medications and healthcare to live my life. My partner, a queer nonbinary trans person of color, is no different here. I'm lucky that my employer is able to provide full coverage for the Kaiser health insurance my partner and I rely on, but that wasn't always the case. Before we entered into one of California's first non-binary domestic partnerships, they were on Medi-Cal. Their biological need for testosterone doesn't wait for Medi-Cal's bureaucracy, they need it every day. On Medi-Cal, their access to healthcare was extremely limited. The only psychologist they could see to manage their mental health medication that Medi-Cal would cover was in San Leandro, quite a far distance from our downtown Oakland apartment. Neither of us drive or even own a car, so they had to take public transit.

Their appointments were an entire day-long affair, even before COVID-19 limited transit frequencies. Adding the multiple transfers needed to get there meant multiple points of failure. If they missed their bus transfer or BART train, they'd miss their entire appointment. Medi-Cal is overloaded to the point where if they missed their appointment, they might have to reschedule as far out as an entire month. During that month, they're not receiving the care their body needs to survive and to thrive. Because of these gaps in care and the toll it took on their body, they're no longer able to eat foods containing gluten, garlic, onion, and a laundry list of other common ingredients. Our region's failure to provide quality public transportation is a trans health issue that hits incredibly close to home for me.

This story is not unique. Trans people are extremely likely to find themselves homeless through discrimination, or even hostile parents who kick them out of their own homes. Finding a job is just as hard and faces many of the same discriminatory barriers. Having reliable access to a social safety net, including healthcare, housing, employment and more, is truly a matter of life and death. When our transit prevents LGBTQ+ low-income people like myself and my partner from accessing the things we need to live, their entire world could fall apart in an instant.

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

I am the only queer trans woman running for this position, and if elected, I would be the first trans person on the board of AC Transit in its 60 year history. There hasn't been LGBTQ+ representation on the board in over a decade. The At-Large district represents nearly one million people, and this is an incredible opportunity for us to show the world the most literal meaning of transgender representation in local government.

That's pretty unique, but it isn't the only thing that sets me apart.

I'm running for the Board of AC Transit because I want a transit agency that works for everyone, not just the few. We need leadership that ensures the district won't just merely survive the COVID pandemic, rather, we need leadership that can guarantee it will thrive once we're out on the other side.

I can be that leadership. I have a decades-long background in community organizing, leadership, fighting for equity, and urban issues. I'm one of the original founders of East Bay for Everyone, a 2000+ member urban justice organization with activities throughout the entire east bay. My work there was more than organizing letter writing or running an endorsement process; I made sure that we were building an organizational culture of love and respect.

A guiding principle I brought to the organization is that if we want to change the world, we cannot possibly seek to replicate its inequalities and structures in ourselves. We embody the ideal of radical inclusion by making our decisions online over a period of days, instead of the usual requirement that you vote in person; not everyone has the luxury to take hours out of their days and spend them in meetings every week. Because of this, we also hold our discussions in public for all to see. We avoid rigid structure that cannot respond quickly in times of need, instead planning for transparency and honesty between ourselves as organizers.

I have a vision that a better world is possible; it's there for the taking, if we want it. I'm bringing my enthusiasm, my energy, my optimistic spirit to AC Transit, but most of all: I'm a queer trans woman organizer bringing my deep passion and love for bus stuff.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms