**East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club**

**Candidate Questionnaire**

Thank you for your interest in obtaining an early 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 (with the exception of candidates for statewide or federal offices) must also complete a candidate questionnaire to be considered for an endorsement. An LGBTQQI candidate may be considered for early endorsement by the membership prior to the close of filing for a particular office provided 60 percent of the current Board members agree on the suitability of doing so. Candidates selected for early endorsement who complete a questionnaire by the deadline will be invited to appear at an early endorsement meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. Endorsements are decided by the general membership, and candidates must receive at least 60% of votes cast in order to be endorsed.

***The deadline to return your completed questionnaire is Wednesday, July 2nd*** for the July 9th East Bay Stonewall early endorsement meeting for the November general election.

1. *Are you a registered Democrat? If so, for how long? With which Democratic organizations are you affiliated? Yes, I am a proud registered Democrat for over 20 years. I have been a member or am currently a member of the following organizations:*

MGO Democratic Club

Asian Pacific Democratic Club of Alameda County

Stonewall Democratic Club

East Bay Young Democrats

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

1. *Are you a member of the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club? If so, for how long? If not, have you supported or contributed to the Club in some other way? What other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations are you affiliated with and in what capacity?* I recently joined the East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club a few months ago. I am a member of the following organizations, Human Rights Campaign, Equality California and the Victory Fund.
2. *What specifically have you done to advance LGBT rights and/or to nurture an inclusive and affirming community for LGBT individuals and families? Please give specific examples.* I introduced and authored a resolution against Proposition 8 at the Peralta Community Colleges Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, the Board voted to not vote on the issue and we did not officially condemn the measure but members of our community at Peralta thanked me for pushing the envelope. I have also been publicly supportive of our LGBT Studies program initiated by the College of Alameda.
3. *What other issues or causes have you advocated for that you feel are relevant to the LGBT community?* Generally, I have been an advocate for education that impacts the lives of all of our communities. Specifically, I have served as a financial sponsor of Oakland Pride Festival locally.
4. *Who are your LGBT supporters? What LGBT candidates have you supported, and did it include financial or campaign support?* My current LGBT endorsements include Brendalynn Goodall , Kriss Worthington, Darryl Moore, Jonathan Bair, Rebecca Saltzman, Carlos Uribe, Michael Colbruno, Lori Dorste and Ces Rosales among others. I have supported LGBT candidates for office like Darryl Moore, Rebecca Saltzman, Ces Rosales and Vicki Kolakowski and Lori Dorste.
5. *What makes you uniquely qualified for the office you are seeking? What differentiates you from the other candidates in the race?*

I know that I am the only candidate in the race with the necessary experience, financial background, and skill set needed for Oakland City Council. District 2 and Oakland need someone who is going to hit the ground running identifying solutions and working with community and neighborhood groups and residents. My proven track record of being able to build consensus with my colleagues and negotiate with others will be a valuable asset to the Oakland City Council. I have won District Council 2 both in my primary election and the general election when I ran for the 18th Assembly District. In addition, I’ve represented about 10,000 residents during my tenure as a trustee Area 7 of the Peralta Community College District.

1. *What do you hope to accomplish if you are elected? What would be your main policy goals? How do these goals relate to the LGBT community?*

Oakland boasts one of the highest rates of LGBTQQI families. The issues impacting the LGBTQQI community also impact other City residents. The issues I will focus on as a City Council member are public safety, meeting basic needs and financial viability and stability.

Public Safety- Our City must continue to make improvements to the way we not only police ourselves but how we deal with those committing crimes. We must approach public safety from a proactive stance and not a reactive approach- meaning we should work with community and youth leaders to remove the need for crime and address issues before they escalate into violence.

Meeting Needs- Across Oakland residents are looking to our City to provide basic services and we are currently failing them. Response time for services (including emergency, non-emergency, public works and infrastructure) must be improved.

Oakland’s Financial Long-term Obligations: I think that Oakland’s long-term financial obligations are some faced by many cities across the country. Locally, a two-pronged approach should be taken:

- Reduction of City waste. This means an approach to the way that we deliver services to residents, streamlining the process and working to prevent issues like illegal dumping that consume so much time.

- A better approach to development and business attraction. In partnership with industry leaders, I would work to ensure that we’re marketing Oakland correctly and reaching out to regional and statewide businesses about moving operations to Oakland. Right now is an ideal time for this, with San Francisco retail and commercial property values soaring, Oakland has remained affordable. Now, it is our responsibility to seek out businesses that share the values of providing good paying jobs to local residents.

1. *Why do you feel you can win this race?*

I am the only elected official in this race and am building a powerful coalition of neighborhood leaders, labor, faith leaders and the business community. I have a proven track record of getting things done and being an effective and ethical leader. I’ve won District 2 twice before and expect to win it once again with a strong field campaign. I intend to walk to every voter in the District to ask for the votes required to win.

**Please return you completed questionnaire to Joseph Greaves, East Bay Stonewall PAC Chair, by email at** **jsphgreaves@gmail.com****. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Greaves at 415-987-9639.**