

# Albany Democratic Club Endorsement Candidates Survey

Your name (as it will appear on the ballot) \*

Elizabeth Echols

Preferred email address \*

elizabeth4parks@gmail.com

Office sought including jurisdiction (for example "Albany City Council" or "Alameda County Superior Court Judge, Seat 2") \*

Berkeley

Party registration \*

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Green Party
- Libertarian Party
- American Independent Party
- Peace and Freedom Party
- Not registered for a political party
- Other: .....

Your ballot designation as it will appear below your name on the ballot (usually occupation or current office) \*

Appointed Director, East Bay Regional Park District, Ward 1

List of your prominent endorsers, both organizations and individuals \*

Elected/Appointed Officials:

- Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
- Eleni Kounalakis, State Lieutenant Governor
- Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Schools
- Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Schools (ret.)
- Betty Yee, State Controller
- Nancy Skinner, California State Senate
- Harry Stern, California State Senate and Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources
- Bob Wieckowski, State Senator
- Rob Bonta, State Assembly
- Buffy Wicks, State Assembly

Bill Quirk, State Assembly  
Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor  
Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor  
Richard Valle, Alameda County Supervisor  
Alice Lai-Bitker, Alameda County Supervisor (ret.)  
Ellen Corbett, President, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Dee Rosario, Vice President, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Colin Coffey, Treasurer, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Beverly Lane, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Dennis Waespi, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Ayn Wieskamp, East Bay Regional Parks District Board  
Lateefah Simon, President, BART Board and Civil Rights Leader  
Peggy McQuaid, Albany Vice Mayor  
Michael Barnes, Albany City Council  
Rochelle Nason, Albany City Council  
Lori Droste, Berkeley City Council  
Rashi Kesarwani, Berkeley City Council  
Susan Wengraf, Berkeley City Council  
Laurie Capitelli, Berkeley City Council (ret.)  
James Chang, Berkeley Rent Board Commission  
Gabe Quinto, El Cerrito City Council  
Dianne Martinez, Emeryville City Council  
Ruth Atkin, Emeryville City Council (ret.)  
Raj Salwan, Fremont Vice Mayor  
Anu Natarajan, Fremont Vice Mayor (ret.)  
Myrna de Vera, Hercules Mayor (ret.)  
Libby Schaaf, Oakland Mayor  
Dan Kalb, Oakland City Council  
Roy Swearingen, Pinole Mayor  
Pete Murray, Pinole City Council  
Tom Butt, Richmond Mayor  
Rosemary Corbin, Richmond Mayor (ret.)  
Myrna Lopez, Richmond City Council (ret.)  
Harpreet Sandu, Richmond City Council (ret.)  
Kathy Chao Rothberg, San Pablo Mayor (ret.)  
Rita Xavier, San Pablo City Council  
Meredith Brown, Peralta Community College District  
Elsa Ortiz, Vice President, AC Transit District  
Mister Phillips, West Contra Costa School Board  
Cesar Zepeda, West County Wastewater District board  
Neil Tsutsui, EBRPD Park Advisory Committee  
Bruce Bayaert, Chair, Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC)

Organizations:

Alameda County Democratic Party  
Democratic Party of Contra Costa County  
Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
AFSCME Council District 57  
AFSCME Local 2428  
IBEW Local 595  
Berkeley Democratic Club  
East Bay Young Democrats

\*Titles for identification purposes only.

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Brief description of your campaign – include the names of any consultants or campaign managers you will use, funds you have raised to date, and how much to expect to have to raise to win. \*

I have built a strong campaign with the support of a wide range of environmental, community, and labor leaders. I have a strong professional and volunteer team in place, including Angela Ramirez Holmes (consultant) and Carina Franck Pantone (fundraiser). I am on track to raise my goal of \$75,000 to win this race. As an experienced candidate, I know what it will take to win.

In January, the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District voted unanimously to appoint me to fill the vacancy left by Director Dotson's retirement. As a Board Member, I have worked tirelessly to expand parkland and open space, increase access to trails, preserve wildlife habitat, protect shoreline, prevent wildfires, expand environmental education, increase access for underserved communities to our parks, and ensure a safe, just and equitable workplace for our employees.

What sets me apart as a candidate is my commitment to addressing social justice and racial equity issues. I am focused on increasing access to parks and recreational opportunities for underserved communities, especially underserved youth. As a Board Director, I am proud to have successfully championed the need to take specific steps to address systemic racism and other bias that prevents people of color and LGBTQ employees from reaching their full potential.

I am proud to be endorsed unanimously by my colleagues on the East Bay Regional Park District Board and have the strong support of our labor union, AFSCME 2428. My strong social justice and environmental values is why so many prominent community, environmental, and labor leaders have come together in support of my campaign. I am honored to have the support of State Superintendent for Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, State Controller Betty Yee, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks and Rob Bonta, BART Board President Lateefah Simon, and many other respected leaders. I also am proud to have the support of both the Alameda County Democratic Party and the Contra Costa County Democratic Party, as well as the Alameda Labor Council and the Contra Costa Labor Council.

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Brief description of your history of involvement with and support for the Democratic Party and its candidates and ballot measure positions – include Democratic clubs/organizations to which you belong or which you have supported financially \*

I have been an active supporter and participant in the Democratic Party throughout my life. My Democratic activism began in childhood beginning with anti-war protests and labor boycotts. In high school, I helped lead efforts to get the first ever student representative on the school board.

I have served as an elected member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee since 2006, and served on the Executive Committee from 2006-2010. I also have served as an appointed member of

the California State Central Committee since 2005.

I have volunteered on numerous campaigns at the local, state, and federal level. In 2008, I co-chaired the Oakland United Democratic Campaign and recruited over 400 volunteers to successfully elect progressive Democratic candidates and support/oppose ballot measures.

I served as a political appointee of President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration responsible for the western region of the U.S. I also served as a Member of the Obama-Biden Transition Team. I previously served in the Clinton White House. In addition, I have served under both Governor Gavin Newsom and Governor Jerry Brown.

My Democratic club and organizational affiliations include:

California Democratic Party Delegate (2005-present)

Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member (2006-present)

National Women's Political Caucus, Executive Board Member (Alameda North Chapter) (2002-2013) and Member (1993-2014)

East Bay Women's Political Alliance Leadership Circle (2015-2016) and Member (2015-present)

EMILY's List (1993-present)

Sierra Club (2008 - present)

California League of Conservation Voters I have been an active supporter and participant in the Democratic Party throughout my life. My Democratic activism began in childhood beginning with anti-war protests and labor boycotts. In high school, I helped lead efforts to get the first ever student representative on the school board.

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EMILY's List (1993-present)

Sierra Club (2008 - present)

California League of Conservation Voters (2012-present)

Equality California (2013 – present)

Alameda County Democratic Lawyers, Board Member

Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County

Black Women Organized for Political Action, Oakland/Berkeley Chapter

Albany Democratic Club

Berkeley Democratic Club Board Member

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club

El Cerrito Democratic Club

John George Democratic Club

Metropolitan Oakland Democratic Member and Former Board Member

Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

West County Democratic Club

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Albany prides itself on its waterfront, public schools, small town feel in a large metro area, local shopping and restaurant scene, and our city and its bodies are often debating how to make our policies and our modest city budget meet the diverse needs of our community and the needs of the region and beyond. Please provide a brief description of any impacts you have already had on the city of Albany and its residents and how, if elected, you see yourself balancing the needs of Albany with the needs of the greater region. \*

As the East Bay Regional Park District Board Member representing Ward 1, I am honored to serve the people of Albany and ensure that the Park District is working for you. I'm excited that after many years of collaboration and partnership with local community members and elected leaders, we were able to complete the Albany beach expansion and close the one-mile gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail between Albany and Berkeley. People can now walk, bike or run along this beautiful shoreline all the way from Oakland to Richmond. This project significantly improves public access to the shoreline and is a wonderful accomplishment for the Albany community and neighboring communities.

In addition, throughout my years of service on the County Central Committee, I have worked to ensure that the interests of Albany are represented. In fact, for my last two terms, I appointed a former Albany Mayor and Councilmember to serve as my Alternate on the County Central Committee. I also made sure that Albany City Councilmember candidates were included in the endorsement consideration by the Alameda County Democratic Party.

Finally, on a personal note, I spend a lot of time in Albany. I enjoy spending time at Albany Beach and the Albany Bulb. My six-year old daughter has spent several years in swim classes at the Albany Aquatic Center and likes to play at the Veterans Memorial Park. We also frequent restaurants nearby on Solano Ave. and San Pablo Ave. These personal experiences have further enhanced my appreciation of Albany and its people.

The East Bay Regional Park District provides parks that are intended for the people of the entire region. However, I know the importance of listening to the local community and users of the District's parks to understand concerns, build support for stewarding the parks, and develop plans to make them even better. I also understand the importance of green space in the development of children and strive to continue to make the parks more accessible to the East Bay's diverse children and families. As a Board Member, I will listen with care to the Albany community and the users of the Albany waterfront as we make challenging decisions about the allocation of resources and the uses of the parks.

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