

Fresno Stonewall Democrats
Candidate Questionnaire



Thank you for your interest in Fresno Stonewall Democrats. In order to be considered for endorsement, candidates are required to complete this document. Do not make changes to any of the questions. Your answers are public information, and you must sign each page of this questionnaire, including the first.

Please attach your latest biography, all current endorsements, and any campaign literature, your website, and social media information. Complete, sign, and scan the questionnaire to fresnostonewalldemocrats@gmail.com or send via regular mail to: Fresno Stonewall Democrats, 2037 W. Bullard Ave #253, Fresno, CA, 93711.

PART I: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

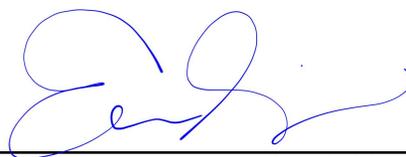
Name:	Esmeralda Soria
Occupation:	Councilmember and Professor
Employer:	Fresno City Council and Fresno City College
Office Sought:	Congress, District 16
Campaign Committee ID Number:	FEC# C00711911
Name of Campaign Committee:	Esmeralda Soria for Congress
Campaign Address (including city, state, zip):	1341 N Lucerne Ln Fresno, CA 93728
Campaign Phone:	559-761-6236
Campaign Email:	esmeralda@soriaforcongress.com
Campaign Website:	www.soriaforcongress.com
Campaign Manager:	Clara Varner
Fundraising Consultant:	In house staff

PART II: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Goals and Purposes of Fresno Stonewall Democrats

- ❖ Advance equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- ❖ Support public policies that advance lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender (LGBT+) equality at all levels of government.
- ❖ Elect qualified, openly LGBT+ people to public office as well as other Democratic Party candidates who support LGBT+ equality.
- ❖ Work within the Democratic Party to advance LGBT+ equality and full recognition of LGBT+ families.
- ❖ Educate the public at large about LGBT+ issues and concerns.
- ❖ Promote the Democratic Party's message of economic justice and social equality for all.

1. Do you support the goals and purposes of Fresno Stonewall Democrats, as outlined above? **Yes**

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE:  DATE: 12/01/2019

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2. Identify one goal from the list above and elaborate on how you have helped to achieve it.
I have been a proponent and have taken actions on all of the goals above. Whether it's helping Democratic LGBT+ candidates (Ex. Annalisa Perea, Alex Garcia) or fighting for policies that advance LGBT equality such as fee fairness for the Fresno Pride Parade.
3. Are you a member of the Fresno Stonewall Democrat Club? If yes, when did you join? If no, do you plan to join?
Yes, I recently became a member of the Fresno Stonewall Democratic Club.
4. Have you been endorsed by Stonewall before? If yes, for what race? *No*
5. Have you endorsed a Republican over a Democrat for an elected partisan race? If yes, when and why? *No*
6. Are you openly LGBT+? *No*
7. Is any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT+? *Yes, my campaign manager is LGBT+ and several of our campaign volunteers.*
8. Would you support mandatory diversity training that includes LGBT+ issues for public and private employees? *Yes*
9. If your place of employment has diversity training, did you advocate for inclusion of LGBT+ issues? Why or Why not?
Yes, the city provides diversity training for council offices which include issues impacting the LGBT+ community. I was a strong advocate for gender neutral restrooms at City Hall.
10. Would you support mandatory diversity training for all law enforcement, including correctional peace officers, that includes LGBT+ issues? *Yes*
11. Do you support marriage equality laws permitting same-sex couples to marry under state law? *Yes*
12. Do you support laws enabling individuals, such as property owners, businesses and government officials to disregard LGBT+ rights, such as marriage, employment or housing, on the basis of personal or religious belief exemptions? *No I oppose*
13. Do you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity? *Yes*
14. Do you support protections for transgender, gender non-conforming and questioning youth, regardless of sexual orientation, from discrimination in schools, foster care, juvenile justice and other institutional settings, including personnel training and zero tolerance for disparagement by peers? *Yes*
15. Do you support requiring health insurance companies to cover medically necessary gender reassignment surgeries and follow-up care for individuals identifying as transgender? *Yes*
16. Do you support allowing transgender Americans to serve in the U.S. military? *Yes*
17. Do you support local funding for HIV/AIDS services, including, but not limited to, needle-exchange programs? *Yes*

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: _____



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18. Please describe your top goals, if elected to office. [See below](#)

19. If you receive endorsement from Stonewall, will you list and disclose Stonewall as an endorsing organization?

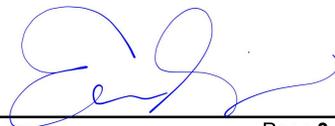
[Yes, I would proudly promote the endorsement of Fresno Stonewall Democrats on campaign materials.](#)

20. Please describe how your election to this office would benefit the LGBT+ community.

[At a young age, I made a commitment to myself and the community that I came from to be a fearless advocate for the working class and marginalized. As the Fresno City Councilmember who represents the First District home to Fresno's' LGBT+ community I've had the opportunity to work with advocates on many issues impacting them. The biggest challenge that faces the 16th Congressional District is the lack of economic security. Families are going bankrupt from medical expenses. Students are choosing to work instead of pursuing higher education. And, all demographics are falling into homelessness because of a lack of affordable housing. These issues impact the LGBT+ community disproportionately and as a member of Congress, I'll work tirelessly to champion policies that address these core issues and bring in federal resources that elevate our communities.](#)

[18. My three top policy priorities in Congress will be: working to achieve affordable and quality healthcare for all, improving the quality of our schools and college affordability, and working to solve our homelessness and housing affordability crisis. I am also very passionate about working to create comprehensive immigration reform where we can create a pathway to citizenship and success for those who are already here and streamline our immigration and asylum processes so that we will never again lock up immigrants and refugees in cages.](#)

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PART III: SCHOOL BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL

21. Why are you running for school board? What is your background in education?

22. Does your district have an LGBT+ Task Force to address the needs and challenges facing LGBT+Q students, parents and employees in your district? If not, what do you plan to do to protect LGBT+ students, parents and employees?

23. Does your district have anti-bullying policies that include LGBT+ students?

24. What have you done to help make schools safer for LGBT+ students and staff, both classified and non-classified?

25. Do you support full implementation of the Fair Education Act, which requires California K-12 schools provide Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful representations of people with disabilities and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in history and social studies curriculum including recognition of Harvey Milk Day?

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____