

ABOUT STONEWALL

Tulare County Stonewall Democrats is a chartered organization of the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee and affiliated with the CADem LGBT Caucus and the CDC (California Democratic Council).

The purpose of the Tulare County Stonewall Democrats is to work within the Tulare County Democratic Party, providing a strong voice and representation within the party structure; securing full equal rights of LGBT+ citizens through affecting legislation and policies; and encouraging LGBT+ community to participate fully as Democrats at all levels of policymaking and public service.

We will help elect qualified, openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people to public office, as well as Democratic Party candidates that support equal rights for the LGBT+ community.

INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in Tulare County Stonewall Democrats and taking time to complete this questionnaire. In order to be considered for endorsement, candidates are required to complete this document. Answers are required for each question in Parts I and II; **Part III must be completed only if you are a school board candidate**. We encourage candidates to explain as many answers as possible. 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. Questionnaires that are not signed on each page are considered incomplete and will disqualify you from endorsement.

Please attach your latest biography, a list of current endorsements and any campaign literature, your website, and social media information. Email completed and signed questionnaires to tcstonewalldems@gmail.com.

It is strongly encouraged for the candidate to contact us and schedule time on a future meeting agenda to speak.

NOTE: Stonewall policies prohibit the Club from endorsing anyone other than a registered Democrat, even in non-partisan races. If not a registered Democrat, please do not submit.

PART I: CAMPAIGN INFORMATION [Portions of this part will be redacted]

Name:	Kimberly Ellis
Occupation:	N/A
Employer:	N/A
Office Sought:	California Democratic Party Chair
Campaign Committee ID Number:(FPPC/FEC)	N/A
Name of Campaign Committee:	Kimberly for California
Campaign Address (including city, state, zip):	3060 El Cerrito Plaza Suite 515
Campaign Address <i>con't</i>	El Cerrito, CA 94530
Campaign Phone:	310-975-9677
Campaign Email:	hello@voteforkimberly.org
Campaign Website:	https://www.voteforkimberly.org/
Campaign Manager:	N/A
Fundraising Consultant:	N/A

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PART II: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Goals and Purposes of Tulare County 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 Tulare County Stonewall Democrats, as outlined above?

Absolutely.

2. Identify one goal from the list above and elaborate on how you have helped to achieve it.

- **Work within the Democratic Party to advance LGBT+ equality and full recognition of LGBT+ families.**

All four Regional Campaign Directors with my campaign are LGBT+. I have always striven to include LGBTQ in my workforce and among staff, including when I served as Executive Director at Emerge California.

3. Are you a member of the Tulare County Stonewall Democrats? If yes, when did you join? If no, do you plan to join?

No, I am currently not, but I am happy to join.

4. Have you been endorsed by Stonewall before? If yes, for what race?

Yes. The Tulare County Stonewall Democratic club endorsed me in the 2017 Chair’s race.

5. Have you endorsed a Republican over a Democrat for an elected partisan race? If yes, when and why?

No, never.

6. Are you openly LGBT+?

No, I am a straight / cisgender woman

7. Are any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT+?

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Yes, as it happens, the majority of my staff are openly LGBT+, including all of my Regional Campaign Directors.

8. Would you support mandatory diversity training that includes LGBT+ issues for public employees?

Yes, absolutely. Within the Party itself, I will see to it that that a top to bottom review is conducted with an analysis of where we need to augment, expand and/or establish a system that puts into place best practices adopted by organizations that have been more proactive with respect to LGBT+ issues.

And on another front, we ought to consider a 'Truth, Accountability, and Reconciliation' Commission for instance, to help all affected by the revelations of sexual assault, harassment and bullying that have recently plagued the Party. Many, if not most of the victims were LGBT+.

9. If your place of employment has diversity training, did you advocate for inclusion of LGBT+ issues? Why or Why not?

At Emerge, I was responsible for instituting cultural diversity and inclusion training as a permanent component of its curricula, making sure it was lead by LGBT+ activists. Jona Olsson, Director of Cultural Bridges to Justice, provided programs which addressed confronting the systemic oppressions in our personal lives and within organizations or institutions. Nearly half the program was about confronting challenges and injustices experienced by the LGBT+ community.

10. Would you support mandatory diversity training for all law enforcement, including correctional peace officers, that includes LGBT+ issues?

Absolutely, without a doubt! Bigotry, discrimination, insensitivity, indifference and ignorance against members of the LGBT+ community has resulted at times in tragic and unacceptable outcomes. Not only should there be training, but anyone who is found to have engaged in such behavior needs to held accountable.

11. Do you support marriage equality (laws permitting same-sex couples to marry under state law)?

Yes, of course. It's sad the question has to be even asked still.

12. Did you publicly oppose Proposition 8? If not, has your position evolved?

I publicly opposed Prop 8.

13. 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, and I never would. I am proud that California has been on the forefront of LBGQT rights. It is absolutely wrong to deny couples that love each other the right to marry, or to deny housing, employment or anything else to someone because they are LGBT+, but as we know, the fight doesn't end there. We know from every day occurrences that anti-LGBTQ sentiments still motivate the hatred of an extreme religious right wing agenda. We must be ever vigilant and reject any attempts to normalize and codify such bigotry.

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14. Do you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity?

Yes! It is vitally important that we do all we can to show LGBT+ children and young people that we are there to support them. Sexuality is a part of being human and without inclusion of a curricula and overall awareness that demonstrates their inclusion, they will never feel as 'normal' as cisgender identities - and this carries over into society. Fear of harassment and bullying, fear of how friends or family might react, are all the more reasons why schools and teachers have an important role to play, so that LGBT+ kids can do well, feel valued and empowered, and do better as students and later as adults, in life.

15. 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, and for the reasons given at the end of the last question. It's heartbreaking that in a society that is so technologically advanced that we still have archaic attitudes about humanity.

16. Do you support protections for transgender individuals covering areas such as name-choice, facilities access and work place rules (e.g., non-discriminatory dress codes)?

Yes, absolutely.

17. Do you support requiring health insurance companies to cover medically necessary gender reassignment surgeries and follow-up care for individuals identifying as transgender?

Yes, and I am proud of the fact that one of my campaign staff was instrumental in getting a resolution passed by the CDP which called on the Party to support it.

18. Do you support allowing transgender Americans to serve in the U.S. military?

YES! An estimated 15,000 or more serve in the military, but since the Supreme Court's vote siding with President Trump to lift the lower court's injunction against a ban which bars transgender from serving, how else can we see this other than an attack on all transgender in our nation? The consequences are ugly and backward: going back in the closet, greater danger to trans soldiers who have to fear for their health and safety, abuse, discharge for reasons they should never have to suffer and most of all, another signal that society doesn't accept them.

19. Do you support local funding for HIV/AIDS services, including, but not limited to, needle-exchange programs?

Yes.

20. Do you support the rights of women to access reproductive healthcare, including abortion?

Yes. The right to reproductive healthcare has been the hallmark of the Women's movement for decades. Now in the era of Trump, we are seeing the denial of reproductive healthcare as a central weapon in the attack against working class families and recognition of equal rights. We have seen that women's reproductive rights are under attack. Many states have passed burdensome and restrictive laws to prevent women from exercising their constitutional right to choose. And we have also seen the extreme lengths Republicans in Congress will go to appoint anti-choice judges to the Courts.

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The times call for a massive and deep commitment to an organizing approach if we are to save our hard fought rights and finally realize a constitutional amendment guaranteeing equal rights for all, including making it clear that reproductive rights are human rights.

21. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship?

To underscore my agreement with our state party's platform, I believe we must establish an immigration policy that stops the criminalization of communities of color and keeps families together. Since it is a fact that over 85% of undocumented immigrants have resided in the U.S. for over 5 years, we should expand President Obama's DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program accordingly, so we can provide relief for those children who arrive to our country unaccompanied as well as the DREAMers; and for the parents of citizens, legal permanent residents, and others who have no such protections under current law.

The nation and world witnessed the astounding cruelty of Trump's zero-tolerance policy as traumatized and crying children were ripped from the arms of their parents and then placed in internment camps. A January 2019 report by the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services states that the total number of children who were separated will probably never be known, or if all of them can ever be reunited with their families. The thought of such a thing is unimaginable, but the nightmare is that in fact, it's a reality. Though a federal judge ordered HHS to identify and reunite all separated children and to stop the separations in June 2018, an 118 additional children were separated from their families.

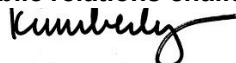
In addition to the inhumane policies at our Southern border, ICE's deportation programs have unjustly turned local law enforcement into immigration enforcement officers. As it's currently constituted, we must abolish ICE, demand the resignation of Secretary Nielson and call to account, anyone who was involved in the implementation of this cruel and morally repugnant policy.

22. Please describe your top goals, if elected to office.

As Chair of the California Democratic Party, there are four specific priorities for the remaining two years of the term:

1. (Hold Electoral Gains from 2018) While there were certainly incredible gains in the 2018 midterms, specifically in traditionally Republican congressional districts, it will be unlikely that California Democrats retain these seats without tremendous investment by the CDP in infrastructure, as well as expanding coalition building with affinity groups like Our Revolution and others - partnerships that were critical in picking up these seats in 2018.
2. (Prepare for 2020 Presidential Primary) California's new oversized role on Super Tuesday has certainly changed the stakes for California Democrats. It's critical that our State Party ensures a fair playing field for all contenders and ensures that our Party remains whole after what is expected to be a hotly contested primary. California Democrats also need a Chair who can leverage California's new found heft on the national political stage to steer policy conversations towards the values articulated in the CDP's platform, such as Medicare-For-All and for the Green New Deal.
3. (Take Back White House) California Democrats have additional work to do in maintaining our seats and expanding our representation at the local, state and federal levels. And while the work of the State Party should be focused on building the bench at the local levels and state races and ballot measures, California must also ensure that our resources and efforts are put to strategic use in taking back the White House in 2020.
4. (Culture Change) Most pressing for the CDP is addressing the toxic culture and managing the pending litigation and public relations challenges. The CDP is in shambles with respect to legal

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liability, leadership vacuum, fundraising and public reputation. It's critical that we address the toxic culture that created these issues and build an organization that is inclusive and safe for all.

Finally, I am committed to the original vision I laid out for the CDP when I first ran in 2017. I am committed to getting our Party back to basics through organizing and investing in people, as well as expanding and democratizing our Party structure, as well as ensuring sound, progressive policies like SB562 get signed into law.

23. If you receive an endorsement from Tulare County Stonewall Democrats, will you list and disclose Tulare County Stonewall Democrats as an endorsing organization?

Proudly.

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

I have the professional and life experience of changing existing culture in the places I have worked – I will be comfortable in doing the same for the better in the CDP. This party should be about the delegates and those who look to our party (in all their diversity) for inspiration and vision to help enact a progressive agenda in our state. The California Democratic Party can set the standard for the rest of the nation and should, especially when we know from every day occurrences that anti-LGBTQ sentiments still motivate the hatred of an extreme religious right wing agenda.

Under my administration, a Head of People and Culture can shepherd a new era of training and accountability by first establishing channels of communication, then seeing to it that the importance of comfort and safety for all party members, employees and volunteers are made known throughout the party, down to the local level. A delegate handbook with 'rules of the road' and expected behavior articulated in plain language is a good start, as well as diversity and inclusion education and training at every level of our party.

About Kimberly Ellis

Named the most powerful, unelected person in California Democratic politics by the Sacramento Bee, Kimberly Ellis is a captivating orator and progressive movement leader who educates, motivates and inspires people to action.

As the former Executive Director of Emerge California, the state's most effective training program for Democratic women who run for office, Kimberly is a nationally recognized Progressive leader who has been credited with revolutionizing Democratic politics in California.

Today, more than 50% of Emerge California's alumnae currently serve in elected or appointed office including California's first female Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf and Board of Equalization Member Malia Cohen.

After running for Chair of the California Democratic Party in 2017 where she inspired thousands, this past summer Kimberly Ellis founded and launched Unbought - Unbossed (UnB2), an incubator for the next generation of political disruptors.

Kimberly has appeared on syndicated television and radio, and is frequently interviewed by leading political media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Associated Press. She is a frequent contributor to a number of online and print dailies, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, and Huffington Post.

With the vacancy created amidst scandal, Kimberly Ellis is again running to be the next Chair of the California Democratic Party.

Kimberly is committed to making sure that the California Democratic Party looks forward, not back; and builds broader coalitions with new allies; and most importantly, creates the culture shift within the Party that ensures the reported abuses never again occur.

Kimberly holds a law degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Jacksonville University.

Kimberly lives in the Bay Area and is a proud, single working mom of two teenagers – and their cat Agave. Kimberly enjoys washing dishes, Murder-She-Wrote reruns, ballet and hip-hop dancing, going to church, discount clothing stores and fancy restaurants that serve Crème Brûlée.