



# 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](mailto: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: James D. Martinez	
Occupation: District Representative	
Employer: California State Senate	
Office Sought: Fresno County Board of Education, Area 3	
Campaign Committee ID Number: 1428782	
Name of Campaign Committee: Martinez for Fresno County Board of Education Trustee, Area 3 2020	
Campaign Address (including city, state, zip): 608 E. Yale Ave, Fresno, CA 93704	
Campaign Phone: 559-824-5721	
Campaign Email: james@jdmartinez.org	
Campaign Website: jdmartinez.org	
Campaign Manager: N/A	
Fundraising Consultant: N/A	

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

8/15/2020

# Fresno Stonewall Democrats

## Candidate Questionnaire

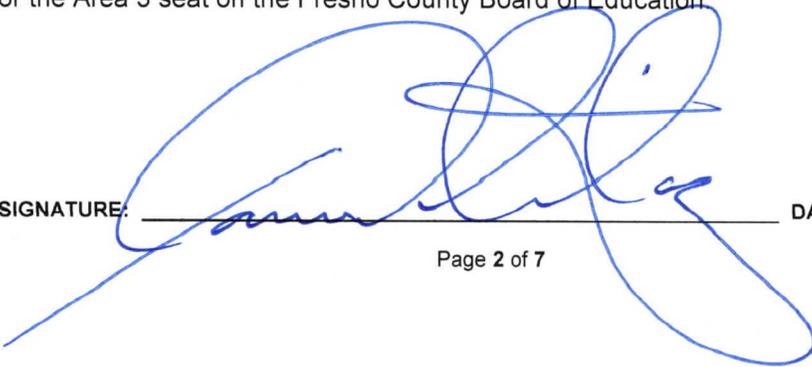
### PART II: CANDIDATE INFORMATION

**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?
  - a. Yes. The goals and purposes of Fresno Stonewall Democrats are the gold standard for advancing the protection, celebration, and diversity of LGBT+ people in our community.
  
2. Identify one goal from the list above and elaborate on how you have helped to achieve it.
  - a. Goal & Purpose: Work within the Democratic Party to advance LGBT+ equality and full recognition of LGBT+ families.
  
  - b. I spent four years on the Fresno County Democratic Central Committee where I was the only openly elected LGBTQ+ member during my tenure. Additionally, I was the first openly LGBTQ+ president of the Fresno County Young Democrats where I worked to include a more diverse membership and executive board that reflected the community at large.
  
3. Are you a member of the Fresno Stonewall Democrat Club? If yes, when did you join? If no, do you plan to join?
  - a. Yes, I have been a member since January 2020 and am proud to stand with an important and necessary organization that actively advocates and promotes the ideals and values of the LGBTQ+ community.
  
4. Have you been endorsed by Stonewall before? If yes, for what race?
  - a. Yes, I was endorsed by Fresno Stonewall Democrats for my Fresno County Democratic Central Committee race in 2016 and look forward to working with Stonewall again in my current campaign for the Area 3 seat on the Fresno County Board of Education.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



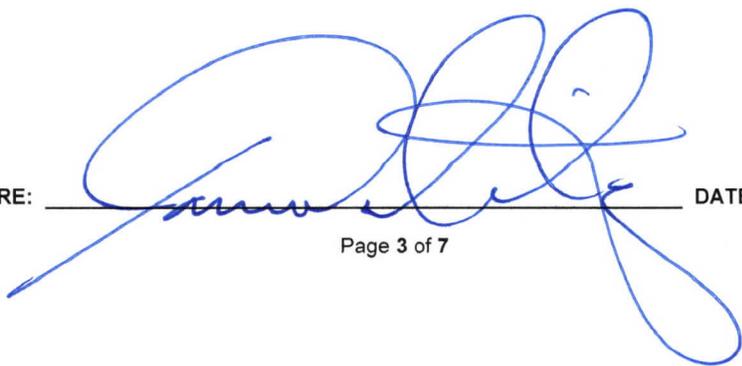
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

8/15/2020

**Fresno Stonewall Democrats**  
Candidate Questionnaire

5. Have you endorsed a Republican over a Democrat for an elected partisan race? If yes, when and why?
- a. I have never endorsed a Republican over a Democrat for an elected partisan race. My work in the Democratic Party and as a legislative staffer for multiple elected officials at the local, state and federal levels of government has always been focused on driving and promoting the values and principles of the Democratic Party's agenda for economic justice and social equality.
6. Are you openly LGBT+?
- a. I've been out and proud for the last 15 years. Being an openly gay member of the LGBT+ community has been one of the richest, most important parts of my life.
7. Is any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT+?
- a. Yes. Over 50 percent of my campaign staff and key volunteers that are openly LGBTQ+. It is important to me to begin fostering the development of young LGBTQ+ members of our community to participate and engage in the democratic process.
8. Would you support mandatory diversity training that includes LGBT+ issues for public and private employees?
- a. Yes. I believe that diversity is at the center of any successful organization. We can only be better for knowing, understanding, and celebrating what makes us all unique contributors to our shared successes.
9. If your place of employment has diversity training, did you advocate for inclusion of LGBT+ issues? Why or Why not?
- a. I was proud to find that the diversity training I received included LGBT+ issues and did not have to be advocated for the addition of them.
10. Would you support mandatory diversity training for all law enforcement, including correctional peace officers, that includes LGBT+ issues?
- a. Yes. As I stated, diversity is at the center of any successful organization and that should be included in the training for those entrusted to ensure members of our community and individuals remain protected at all levels.
11. Do you support marriage equality laws permitting same-sex couples to marry under state law?
- a. Marriage Equality is and should always have been the law of the land across the United States. Making this a State issue is not only too small, but discriminatory and wrong. Now that we have achieved marriage equality under the law, we are one step closer to becoming a more perfect union that treats all people equal under the law.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



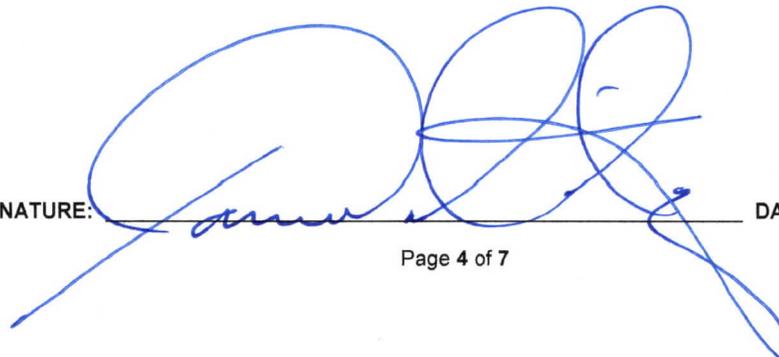
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

8/15/2020

**Fresno Stonewall Democrats**  
Candidate Questionnaire

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?
- a. No. Discrimination in any form is harmful and wrong.
13. Do you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity?
- a. Yes. Our children deserve to grow up in an environment that fosters and promotes comprehensive sexual education and that includes awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.
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?
- a. The transgender members of our community deserve protections from discrimination everywhere. Creating programs where training is given at any level of any organization that could find itself serving transgender, gender non-conforming, and questioning youth is crucial to the continued protection of this very important part of our community.
15. Do you support requiring health insurance companies to cover medically necessary gender reassignment surgeries and follow-up care for individuals identifying as transgender?
- a. Yes. Transgender members of our community experience poverty, joblessness, and homelessness at alarmingly higher rates than any other group of people in our country. We owe it to them to ensure that they have access to the same quality healthcare that many others enjoy.
16. Do you support allowing transgender Americans to serve in the U.S. military?
- a. Yes. Transgender men and women and gender non-conforming people are part of the beautiful fabric of America and deserve the right to serve in the U.S. military with dignity and respect.
17. Do you support local funding for HIV/AIDS services, including, but not limited to, needle-exchange programs?
- a. Yes. People living with and affected by HIV/AIDS should be treated with respect and dignity and that includes providing locally funded supportive services.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

8/15/2020

**Fresno Stonewall Democrats**  
Candidate Questionnaire

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

- **Urban and Rural Communities:** I want to ensure every student, regardless of their zip code, has an opportunity to reach their full potential and have a pathway to success. It's our duty to begin addressing the cultural, economic, and educational fault-lines that impact student progress; particularly students in both urban and rural communities.
- **Equal Access:** We need to remove barriers and promote greater public-private partnerships, providing resources for student success: grants, technology, affordable internet access, increased funding for student support services like digital tutorial programs.
- **Trade & Vocational Programs:** Many pathways to success have been identified and that is why we must do better in promoting cradle-to-career and sequential enrollment programs at community colleges and universities that build a pipeline to trade, vocational and healthcare careers.
- **Student Health & Distance Learning:** This is an unprecedented time that presents many challenges for all of us, particularly students in our educational system. In the age of COVID-19 we need to begin adopting alternative learning tools to ensure student achievement and that starts with distance learning programs. This is an imperfect system and nothing can replace in-class instruction, but we need to begin to view this as a potentially permanent alternative to in-person instruction. I'm eager to address inequities that are associated with such programs; specifically with regard to financial, technological, and student needs, particularly ESL and special education students.
- **Student Support Service Programs:** Promoting programs such as AVID, Upward Bound and TRiO Programs advance student achievement, particularly first generation college students such as myself. Such programs are instrumental for first generation college students as these programs provide tutorial assistance, facilitate college campus tours, provide assistance with college and financial aid applications, and provide overall student support services.

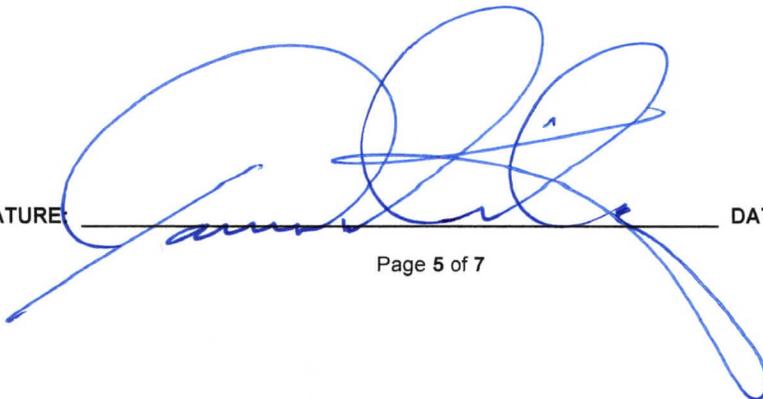
19. If you receive endorsement from Stonewall, will you list and disclose Stonewall as an endorsing organization?

- a. **Yes - and Proudly!**

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

- a. If elected to the Area 3 seat on the Fresno County Board of Education, I would be the only Latinx and LGBTQ+ representative on the board, and one of three openly elected LGBTQ+ officials in Fresno County. My election would send a strong and supportive message to other young, aspiring LGBTQ+ individuals that being LGBTQ+ is not prohibitive to electoral success or facilitating change within our communities.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE



DATE:

8/15/2020

# Fresno Stonewall Democrats

## Candidate Questionnaire

### PART III: SCHOOL BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL

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

- a. I plan to utilize my academic, volunteer and professional experience to ensure every student in Fresno County has a fair chance to succeed by equipping them with the necessary tools and skills to enter the workforce in Fresno County, the Central Valley and beyond.
- b. As a student, I experienced first-hand the barriers and obstacles Fresno County students face in and outside of the home. I'm running for the Fresno County Board of Education because I want to ensure every student has an easier path to success without enduring the same hardships I did. I intend to address the cultural, economic, and educational fault lines that impact student progress, and provide more technological, financial and educational support services to Fresno County Schools. I also want to ensure every student is skilled and equipped to attend a four year university, while building cradle to career programs at our local community colleges and universities for students who want to enter vocational and trade professions.

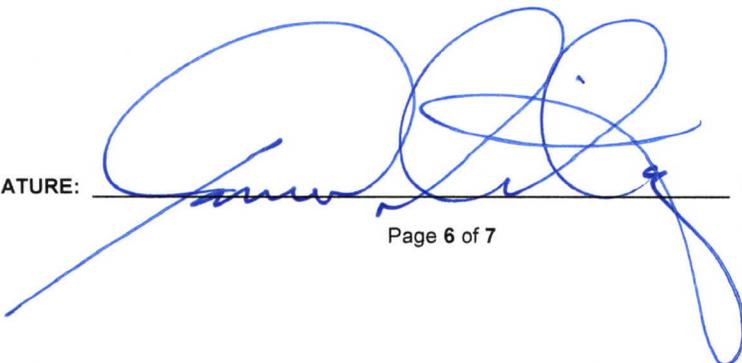
22. Does your district have an LGBT+ Task Force to address the needs and challenges facing LGBT+Q students, parents and employees in your district? If not, what do you plan to do to protect LGBT+ students, parents and employees?

- a. Not that I am aware of after researching the issue. Therefore, if elected, I would work with my fellow board members to draft language to incorporate such protections to ensure LGBTQ+ students, their families and employees have specific protections from discriminatory policies and provide them with greater representation to provide input on other related policies.

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

- a. Yes. The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.
- b. Additionally, the Fresno County Office of Education recognizes the right of every pupil to be free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, including physical, psychological and/or sexual harassment and discrimination, and bullying based on actual or perceived ancestry, age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, and declares its intent to act promptly, visibly and vigorously to eliminate such activity from the school environment. It is the Superintendent's policy to prohibit any form of harassment and to provide a mechanism for the reporting and resolution of complaints of harassment and discrimination.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE:



DATE:

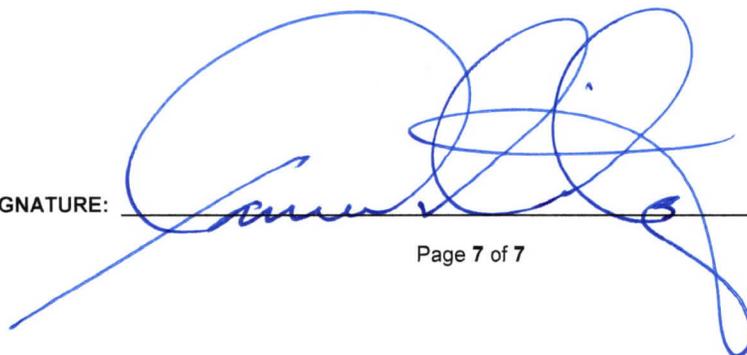
8/15/2020

## Fresno Stonewall Democrats

### Candidate Questionnaire

24. What have you done to help make schools safer for LGBT+ students and staff, both classified and non-classified?
- a. My educational journey has not presented me with the opportunity to affect safety for LGBT+ students and staff. However, if elected, I would ensure that the protections in place provide the safest environment for students to learn and staff to serve the interest of public education in Fresno County.
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?
- a. Yes. Inclusion belongs at the forefront of our community's focus. That means that people with disabilities and LGBT+ people of historical significance belong in our history books and in social studies programs.
- b. In the words of Harvey Milk, "Once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all." To me, that creates the very framework and instruction from one of the most pivotal figures of our community's history.

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE:



DATE:

8/15/2020