



# 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:	David Paredes
Occupation:	n/a
Employer:	n/a
Office Sought:	Area 5 Trustee Fresno Unified School District
Campaign Committee ID Number:	Pending
Name of Campaign Committee:	David Paredes for Fresno Unified Trustee 2020
Campaign Address (including city, state, zip):	4528 W Yale Ave
Campaign Phone:	559-394-7990
Campaign Email:	info@paredes4fusd.com
Campaign Website:	www.paredes4fusd.com
Campaign Manager:	Elizabeth Lira
Fundraising Consultant:	Alexandria Ramos-O'Casey

### 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.*

**CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE: David Paredes DATE: 8/28/2020**

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1. Do you support the goals and purposes of Fresno Stonewall Democrats, as outlined above?  
Yes!
  2. Identify one goal from the list above and elaborate on how you have helped to achieve it.  
Goal #2 rings well with me. I fully support the LGBTQ+ movement. This movement is what first formed me into an activist and I would further fight for full equality for our LGBTQ+ folks.
  3. Are you a member of the Fresno Stonewall Democrat Club? If yes, when did you join? If no, do you plan to join?  
No. I would have to see whether I am at the capacity to join. I would love to be a member.
  4. Have you been endorsed by Stonewall before? If yes, for what race?  
N/A
  5. Have you endorsed a Republican over a Democrat for an elected partisan race? If yes, when and why?  
Never.
  6. Are you openly LGBT+?  
No.
  7. Is any of your staff or key volunteers openly LGBT+?  
Yes, at least one of our team members is openly gay.
  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?  
I have advocated for introductions with the mention of our pronouns to make introductions more inclusive of all genders and nonconforming members of our community.
  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.
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1. 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.
  2. Do you support an age-appropriate public school curriculum that teaches awareness and sensitivity regarding sexual orientation and gender identity?  
Yes.
  3. 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?

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Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

Yes.

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

I want to prioritize mental health, environmental justice, and to elevate youth voices. All of this would be to advance equity which would mean listening to our most marginalized community members including those who are LGBTQ+.

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

Yes.

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

Some of the youth I have worked with are LGBTQ+. I have worked with them about the idea of Wellness Centers on campuses to serve as safe-places for them and any other youth. This would also serve as the resource center for students who want to speak to a therapist or counselor.

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### PART III: SCHOOL BOARD SUPPLEMENTAL

1. Why are you running for school board? What is your background in education?  
I was encouraged to run by the youth I worked with. I was a campus organizer for a local nonprofit educating youth on civic engagement at South Fresno schools.
  
1. 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?  
To my knowledge, the district does not currently have a task force on LGBTQ+. I would bring together leaders and youth of our LGBTQ+ community to create a commission who would come together to address the district on how we can be better allies and promote a better school environment.
  
2. Does your district have anti-bullying policies that include LGBT+ students?  
Our district has in the past partnered with LGBT+ community groups to ensure that the district is a welcoming place for people of all creeds. There are not any policies that address bullying but I am aware of high school clubs known as "Don't Laugh at Me" for high schoolers presenting skits to elementary school students on anti-bullying! I love that!
  
3. What have you done to help make schools safer for LGBT+ students and staff, both classified and non-classified?  
I have participated in LGBTQ+ workshops when I was in high school to serve as an ally to the community and to learn more. I also follow LGBTQ+ social media accounts to stay educated and involved.
  
4. 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?  
Yes.

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