

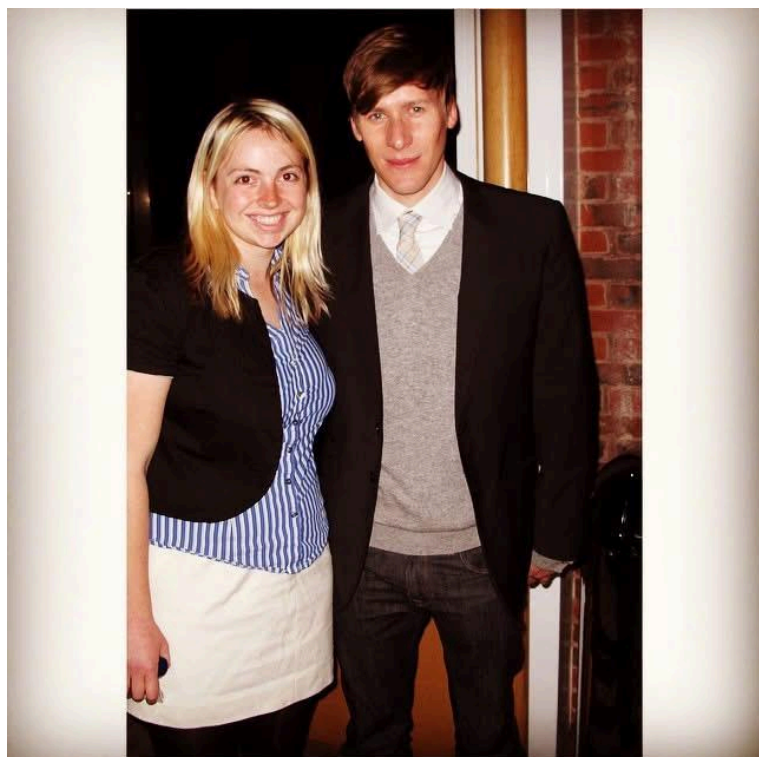


**Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club
April 2025 Oakland Mayoral Endorsement Questionnaire
(February)**

PART 1: Required Information

1. Full name and pronouns: Elizabeth Swaney

I've included two photos that I'm excited to share of me with *MILK* screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. The top photo is from 2009, after he spoke at the Harvard Kennedy School. The bottom photo is from 10 years later, in 2019, after he spoke at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, about his new book, *Mama's Boy*.





2. Campaign consultant / primary point of contact:

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5. Campaign email address: eswaney@gmail.com

6. Campaign website: www.standupoakland.com

7. Political party: None

8. Are or were you a member of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club? If so, please provide timeframe: No

9. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and / or queer (LGBTQ)?

I am an ally

10. See the Club's platform at milkclub.org/platform. Any disagreements?

I have reviewed the Club's platform and find that I align with many of its principles, particularly those advocating for LGBTQ rights and social justice. I recognize that some aspects of the platform are tailored specifically to San Francisco's unique context. While my campaign focuses on addressing the distinct needs of Oakland, I am committed to upholding the shared values of equality and inclusivity that resonate across both cities.

Also, I appreciate the Club's dedication to mental health support. While I advocate for integrating mental health professionals into emergency responses, I believe collaboration with law enforcement is essential to ensure public safety.

PART 2: Short-Answer Questions

(Please limit responses to 150 words or less.)

1. The residents of Oakland are seeking a strong leader as the City faces a budgetary

crisis. What are your qualifications to be the Mayor of Oakland?

I grew up in Oakland in a bilingual-bicultural English-Spanish household and have lived here for much of adult life. I am an Olympian and a graduate of UC Berkeley and Harvard. I was also a technical and non-technical recruiter for 7+ years for some of the top tech and non-tech companies, so I am able to build great teams and will also create the best team of people to help guide Oakland during this time. I'm also a stand-up comedian and producer, so I can occasionally bring moments of lightheartedness, which is helpful in creating unity across different viewpoints.

I interned during Gavin Newsom's San Francisco Mayoral Campaign and then in his Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS). During these times, I helped with Spanish-speaking voter outreach, and homeless outreach. I also assisted with the first same-sex marriages in the city.

2. Why is the endorsement of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ+ Democratic Club meaningful to you?

The endorsement of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ+ Democratic Club is deeply meaningful to me because of my lifelong commitment to inclusivity, leadership, and advocacy. As a two-time recipient of the Mark Bingham 9/11 Leadership Scholarship, I carry forward the legacy of a courageous leader who championed LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity. Working on Gavin Newsom's mayoral campaign, I contributed to Spanish-speaking voter outreach and was also on the team that initiated San Francisco's first same-sex marriages—an experience that reinforced my dedication to equality. Watching the film *MILK* was moving, and meeting its screenwriter, Dustin Lance Black, in 2009 and 2019 further deepened my appreciation for the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ rights. As a stand-up comedian and producer, I also understand the power of storytelling and unity. I would be honored to have the club's support in building a more inclusive and stronger Oakland.

3. Given the Trump Administration, what specific policies will you champion to ensure that Oakland remains a safe and affirming city for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender and gender-nonconforming people?

The state of California is already strong with LGBTQ+ rights, especially compared to the rest of the country. I would work to help Oakland ally with Governor Newsom and with the state on California on these policies.

Also, I value that the Harvey Milk LGBTQ+ Democratic Club has long been a champion for equality, justice, and progressive change, all of which I deeply respect. Your club's advocacy for housing as a human right, economic justice, and more aligns with my commitment to making Oakland a more inclusive and equitable city. I appreciate the Club's dedication to uplifting marginalized communities, and I look forward to working toward shared goals that

benefit all Oakland residents.

4. Data shows that a significant portion of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. What is your plan to address this type of homelessness and to significantly decrease homelessness overall (short- and long-term)?

I see that LGBTQ+ youth face unique challenges that contribute to homelessness, including sometimes family or workplace lack of support. I will work to expand access to emergency housing, strengthen partnerships with LGBTQ+-affirming shelters, and increase funding for mental health and job training programs.

In the long term, my focus is on building more affordable housing, preventing evictions, and investing in supportive services that address the root causes of homelessness for all Oakland residents.

5. How will you work to address health disparities within Oakland's LGBTQ+ communities, including access to mental health services, HIV/AIDS prevention information and medicine, and gender-affirming healthcare?

I would like to help Oakland strive towards an Olympic standard of healthcare. For example, at my 2018 Olympics, any participant could access healthcare, dental care, and sexual health resources. A total of 50,000 condoms were offered to a total of 2,800 athletes over the month. Similarly, Oakland should always have a supply of sexual health products to offer to all residents.

Funding places like the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center would also help support the LGBTQ+ population.

6. Describe your work addressing the climate crisis, and what specific steps you think Oakland will need to take to confront climate change and environmental injustice.

I believe Oakland should offer incentives to all residents to use public transportation or bike to work. Contra Costa County and the state of California are offering similar incentives.

I also believe in protecting Oakland's parks, wild animals that live in Oakland, and supporting Oakland Animal Services.

7. How have you addressed racial injustice and police brutality? What actions will you take to implement meaningful police reform in Oakland, reduce police violence, and promote alternative community safety models?

I believe that the Oakland police needs more diversity in its police force and needs to communicate with and understand its residents more. Community policing or community safety officers would also work as a complement to the existing police officers. I would also work to better understand what the police unions want, so a compromise can be reached on how they can better connect with the community.

I applied twice to be an officer and wanted to offer my perspective and help with reform. I was ranked as the #1 candidate two years in a row, but was ultimately not offered a position. I will also work to eliminate roadblocks to avoid bureaucratic obstacles so that more diversity can be achieved in the Oakland police force, to better reflect its residents.

8. How will you work to reduce incarceration rates and promote restorative justice practices, particularly for LGBTQ+ individuals and communities of color?

I plan to expand diversion programs, invest in community-based alternatives to policing, and advocate for restorative justice to reduce incarceration. For LGBTQ+ individuals and communities of color, I'll push for equitable policies, end discriminatory policing, and prioritize rehabilitation over punishment.

9. How much have you raised so far and what percent of that amount comes from low-dollar donors (<\$200)?

\$200

10. What qualities do you seek when appointing your prospective City Administer?

Either continuing Jestin Johnson or someone similar to him would be ideal; someone with an extensive background and passion in municipal government.

11. How will you ensure transparency and accountability in your administration while amplifying the voices of Oakland's marginalized communities? How will you work to ensure Limited English Proficient (LEP) community members have access to government services?

My mother is a Spanish-English interpreter, translator and voiceover talent in Oakland. I am constantly aware that Oaklanders may have a preference in a language other than English. I would work to ensure access to government services in multiple languages for all Oaklanders.

I understand that members of the community can already speak at many city meetings at City Hall. It would be helpful though to bring more city meetings to more locations around Oakland, or at least livestream them in community centers so more Oaklanders can have access to watching and participating in these meetings.

12. Given the weak mayoral system in Oakland, how will you leverage your charter-granted power to make any of the changes you discussed above?

By understanding the needs of the City Council members and their constituents, and other members of Oakland's government, we can all become more aligned and understand the needs of Oakland's residents.

PART 3: Yes or No Questions
(Please "X" Yes or No for each question.)

GENERAL	YE S	NO
Have you ever sought elected office before?	x	
Have you previously sought a Milk Club endorsement?		x

LGBTQ ISSUES & SEXUAL LIBERATION	YE S	NO
Do you support codifying various relationship structures as a protected class; e.g., a law that would prohibit discrimination against people in consensual non-monogamous relationships in employment, housing, education, and healthcare?	X	
Do you support public funding for workforce programs, specifically for transgender job-seekers?	x	
Do you support public funding to expand access to PrEP?	x	
Do you support decriminalizing sex work?	x	

TENANTS, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS	YE S	NO
Do you support independent oversight of agencies responsible for services to the homeless?	X	
Do you support the split-role repeal of Proposition 13?	x	
Do you support the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act?	x	
Do you support the repeal of the Ellis Act?	x	
Have you ever evicted a tenant?		x
Do you support requiring the consent of homeless encampment residents prior to their displacement by the city government?		x
Would you support a licensing system for landlords?	x	
Do you support the creation of a public municipal bank?	X	

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE ISSUES	YES	NO
Should the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement be abolished?		
Do you support sanctuary cities?	x	
Do you support due process protections for immigrants (including youth) accused of crimes?	x	
Do you support allowing the undocumented to serve on city / state boards and commissions?	x	
Do you support increased funds for immigrant defense services?	x	

RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE	YES	NO
Do you support the death penalty?		X
Do you support the use of tasers by law enforcement?	x	
Do you support requiring an independent investigation of all police officer-related shootings?	x	
Does your campaign accept contributions from law enforcement associations, unions, or organizations?		
Should the local Police Officers Association be disbanded / have its political influence severely curtailed?		x
Do you support qualified immunity for police officers?		x
Do you support reparations for Black people?	x	
Do you support the implementation of overdose prevention sites?	x	
Do you support extending voting rights in local / state elections to currently and formerly incarcerated people?	x	
Have you ever crossed a union picket line or ignored a union boycott?		x
Do you support the right for public sector employees to go on strike?	x	
Do you support repealing California Proposition 209?	x	

Did you support California Proposition 22 (App-Based Drivers Regulations Initiative; or would you have, had you been a California voter)?		
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you support dissolving Pacific, Gas, & Electric and replacing it with a publicly-owned utility agency?		
Do you support the expansion of local clean power programs partnered with local utility providers?	x	
Would you support a plan to provide free public transportation?	x	
Would you support a national ban on fossil fuel extraction?		

PUBLIC CORRUPTION & POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY	YES	NO
Do you support expanding public financing to all elected offices?	x	

PART 4: Support of Other Candidates / Propositions

(All races unless otherwise noted. As applicable, please fill in who you supported, or yes / no for the indicated proposition. If you made a ranked endorsement or voted for more than one candidate using IRV, please indicate the rankings.)

Elected Officials	General 2024
Assembly, District 14 (Oakland)	
Recall on Mayor	
Recall of Pamela Price	
Oakland Ballot Propositions	
MM- Fund Wildfire Prevention	
NN- Fund Violence Prevention	
OO- Strengthen Public Ethic Oversight	

California Propositions	
3 - Protect the Freedom to Marry in the California Constitution	
6 - Ban Slavery in California	
32 - Raise the minimum wage to \$18/hr	
33 - Prohibit state limitations on local rent control	
34 - Restrict spending by certain health care providers	
36 - Allow felony charges & increase sentences for certain crimes	
Elected Officials	Primary 2024
U.S. Senate	
Assembly, District 14 (Oakland)	
Oakland Ballot Measures	
B - Charter Amendment to Save Millions on Recall Elections	

California Propositions	
1 - Behavioral health services	
Elected Officials	General 2022
Assembly, District 14	
Oakland Mayor	
Alameda County District Attorney	
Oakland Ballot Measures	
W - Election Campaign Funding (Democracy Dollars)	

Q - Creation of 13k Low Rent Residential Units	
V - Expanding Evictions and Just Cause Protections for Tenants	
S - Opens door for Non-Citizens to Vote in Oakland	
R- Removal of Gender-Specific Language Measure	
U - \$850 Million Bond Measure Towards Affordable Housing and Infrastructure Improvement Projects	
California State Propositions	
1 - Safeguards for Reproductive Freedom	
28 - Increase Annual Arts Funding for K-12	
30 - Millionaire's Tax to Fund Incentives for EVs	