

Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members to review.

CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Candidate Name:

Rick Bensco

Permanent Address:

City, State, Zip: Newark CA 94560

Office Sought: City Council

District: Newark

Are you the incumbent?

Yes ___ No *_ ___

Campaign Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rickbenscoforcitycouncil/home>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rick-Bensco-New-for-Newark/217350524977860>

Campaign Email: rickbensco@gmail.com

Campaign Phone:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Are you a registered Democrat? Yes ___ * _ No ___

(The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)

Are you an APA Caucus member? Yes ___ No* ___

Why are you seeking our endorsement? What does the APA Caucus endorsement mean to you? I am seeking your endorsement because I believe I am the best choice for City Council of Newark and think you will too. My heart and my campaign let it be known that I'll listen to ALL Newark residents. The APA Caucus endorsement means I have been vetted and scrutinized by some of our brightest concerned citizens and with their endorsement, conclude I would represent their needs fully and fairly. I welcome the opportunity to get to know you all better and more of your specific concerns.

List any endorsements you have received. I am honored to say I have the endorsement of the Sierra Club.

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? Yes_* ___ No ___

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words.

If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific. My campaign is focused on "Bridging The Gap Between City Hall And The School System". In Newark the town government and the school system have become dysfunctional. The policies of the town government affect the school system which could be a good thing if the town had that as a priority. I will make it a priority. Newark has a youth violence problem. My focus will be to form a coalition with the school system the Department of Parks and Recreation and Newark Police following a blue print laid out by the California Cities Gang Prevention Network. Addressing crime in this manner will have a positive effect on our schools as well as increasing property values and our business enterprises. I will seek out help in the form of grants and partnerships with other towns , county ,state as well as federal agencies to provide the services Newark so desperately needs.

How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics? I will be certain to inform the APADC of any upcoming appointments. I will also keep an open door to learn of those with political ambitions and their area of expertise. As an example I will be attending the social at Dr. Salwan's home. This meeting is the beginning in forming the relationships needed to be an inclusive governing member.

What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution): Having never sought political office in the past my resume' in these fields are weak to say the least. That said, they sure will not be in the future.

Education I am the only City Council Candidate with a college degree. This alone shows I have an appreciation for higher education and understand the value of an educated populace. Both my sisters are substitute teachers in the Newark School System and my brother in-law is a 30 year history teacher at Mt View High School. Further my Mother was a teacher in New Jersey. I am a father of two small children one in first grade the other in third grade. I help in their classrooms working on science projects. I am a member of the Graham School PTA. My entire campaign is focused on the values a town gets from a strong school system. I am not certain of any specific needs of the Asian Pacific American population and that is why I'm here. To listen and learn.

Health Care I don't know how much influence a City Council Member of Newark has on the big picture of healthcare in our country but I support health care for all. Washington Hospital is an important part of our community. I have a house in Ticonderoga NY and remember when the hospital closed. The effects on the community is life threatening. I also believe in first response training for all and should be taught in schools starting in grade school.

Civil Rights Having grown up in the sixties I can't believe this is still a problem in this country, but it is. It is important to address the rights of all our residents. Newark still has not made all sidewalks handicap accessible for example. Discrimination and prejudice has no place in our society.

Business I started and ran a small business for about 10 years. I think we can offer a mentoring program on a smaller scale than the Small Business Administration. Entrepreneur classes could be run out of the Silliman Center as a great way to get kids and parents alike in small business. I can see volunteers helping sprout cottage industries through out Newark. The internet has opened a world once unimaginable for at home

small business. The city can forgo business licenses fees for small start up companies. We can adjust our zoning laws to encourage some of our buildings to be incubators for start up companies. My business started in such a building in CT. The old Colt Firearms Factory Building. The building housed about 100 or so start ups. This is similar to enterprises zones developed in other towns. There are millions of great ideas waiting to come to life, with the right leadership Newark can help it happen.