



Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County

www.apacaucus.org

2014 Endorsement Questionnaire

Thank you for your interest in being considered for endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Brief answers are satisfactory.

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

Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Corina N. Lopez

Home City, State, Zip: San Leandro, CA 94577

Office Sought: San Leandro City
Council

District: 5

Are you the incumbent? No

Campaign Website: www.corinalopez.com

Campaign Email: corina@corinalopez.com

Campaign Phone: 510-332-1816

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a) Are you a registered Democrat? Yes, and I am an elected Alameda County Democratic Central Committee Member representing AD18
 - **(The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)**
- b) Are you an APA Caucus member? No
- c) Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the endorsement of Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus because it speaks volumes in terms of political viability and backing. I believe that it is essential in winning this election. I will use your endorsement in my campaign literature to show that I have broad based backing of the diverse community that San Leandro has become.

- d) List the top 10-15 endorsements ONLY. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Building Trades
Individual endorsements by SLTA union leaders Jon Sherr and Anita Waldron
Councilmember Ursula Reed
Lance James, President, San Leandro Unified School District Board of Education

- e) If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? Yes
- f) How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent? I have lived in San Leandro and in District 5 for 12 years.
- g) Education background: Schools you attended, date graduated, major and degree earned

I grew up in a migrant farm working family and credit my teachers with helping me see my potential through education. I attended the Head Start program and public schools through high school. I am the first in my immediate family to go to college attending Princeton University. In my 30's, I returned to school and received a Certificate in Finance awarded with distinction from the University of California, Berkeley.

- h) Employment: Last three (3) paid positions, indicating name of employer, job title and length of employment.

Trustee, San Leandro Unified School District Board of Education, 12-2012-Present
Partner, Pinnacle Vista Technology, LLC, 2008 – Present

- i) Names of any community or nonprofit organizations in which you have been an active volunteer in the past 3-5 years

City of San Leandro Measure Z Citizens' Oversight Committee
Former City of San Leandro At-Large Human Services Commissioner
Best Manor Homeowners Association (serving in various posts including President)
Former Member of the Leadership San Leandro Executive Steering Committee
Past Political Action Committee for Excellence (P.A.C.E.) Endorsement Committee Member

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please limit each response to no more than a total of 250 words.

1. What differentiates you from your opponents for the elected office you seek?

I am the only person in my race that serves as an elected official. I have the vision and experience that San Leandro deserves, and I have delivered results. I see my role as an advocate leading in vision and execution for the various stakeholders of our community. I am a collaborator, as one who can balance competing interests, and as an avid listener of the people I represent.

As a School Board Trustee, along with my colleagues, I've worked hard to improve the quality of our schools, support our teachers, build and renovate facilities, and foster the strong partnership we need with our City government. I believe that I have helped change the trajectory of the San Leandro Unified School District for the better to promote student achievement. For example, again along with my colleagues, I have reorganized our district office leadership, integrated technology, changed our curriculum, improved our facilities, adopted a new budget process, improved wages and benefits, focused on employee professional development, updated and changed Board policies, hired new leadership, and improved student discipline procedures. I am part of the effort to build a school-based health and wellness center.

As a founding partner of a San Leandro-based technology company, I know how to move our community forward into the digital age. I am in my 6th year of business having had clients throughout the world. Prior to that, I was an equity analyst on Wall Street, I have a strong analytical ability to review financial records. I have performed revenue, profitability, and margin analysis; earnings revisions; and comparative valuations of large multi-national corporations. I have developed sophisticated financial models and projections for institutional investor clients with more than \$3 billion in assets. I have worked on an IPO deal of \$100 million. I have conducted on-site due diligence visits of manufacturing facilities throughout the world.

As a member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee serving Democratic voters in Alameda, Oakland, and San Leandro, I work diligently to promote progressive policies and politicians. I considered this Committee to be my political family.

As a member of the City of San Leandro Measure Z Citizens' Oversight Committee, I ensure that tax dollars are spent as promised to voters in ballot language. I've shown I'm committed to fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency.

As a former City of San Leandro At-Large Human Services Commissioner, I have worked to promote local non-profits thru the dissemination of city, state, and federal monies. I am proud of my work to deliver services to the people in our community that need them most from youth to seniors alike. I grew up in poverty, so I am fully committed to enfranchising and empowering the humblest of my community. I have worked for various civil rights and non-profit concerns such as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the California Rural Legal Assistance, Clinica Popular, and a domestic violence clinic associated with the Los Angeles County Superior Court filing out legal paperwork for battered women to obtain restraining orders.

2. Describe one issue for the district you want to represent for which you have provided leadership and about which you are passionate (This does not necessarily need to be an issue that particularly affects the Asian community.)

As a School Board Trustee, I am very proud to serve the families - and especially the children - of San Leandro. It is such a noble role, and I take the responsibility of leading public education in my community very seriously. Along with my colleagues, I've worked hard to improve the quality of our schools, support our teachers, build and renovate facilities, and foster the strong partnership we need with our City government. I believe that I have helped change the trajectory of the San Leandro Unified School District for the better to promote student achievement. For example, again along with my colleagues, I have reorganized our district office leadership, integrated technology, changed our curriculum, improved our facilities, adopted a new budget process, improved wages and benefits, focused on employee professional development, updated and changed Board policies, hired new

leadership, and improved student discipline procedures. I am part of the effort to build a school-based health and wellness center.

3. What percentage of the district you [or intend to] represent are of Asian or Pacific heritage?

API heritage voters make up about 13% of the district.

4. Please identify the three largest API ethnicities in your district.

Chinese American, Filipino American, and Vietnamese American.

5. Please identify the most at-risk API community in your district and describe why.

All three are at-risk because all three groups are disenfranchised from the political mainstream. There has only been one Chinese American elected to the City Council. None of the three are represented on the school board.

6. List the three top concerns of members of the APIs in your district

Education, economic opportunity and viability, and the opportunity to participate equally in the community while being able to maintain cultural heritage are the top three concerns.

7. Based on your observations, how active are members of the API communities in local civic activities? (in your district/city)

	Rarely	Somewhat	Very active	Comments
Cultural events	X			
Health/services fairs	X			
Current affair educational events	X			
Political events	X			

8. What would it take to increase API community participation in these activities? List three strategies you have taken (or intend to take) to increase participation. I will use my position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics. I will make certain that those entities that form public policy in San Leandro such as City Commissions, Citizen Advisory Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees reflect the diverse community that San Leandro has become. Asian Pacific Americans deserve representation and to have a voice in San Leandro’s political arena. I am proud to have worked to elect the first Chinese American to the City Council, but we must continue to work more towards fair political representation and equality. As a Councilmember, I will be committed to this transformation.

9. Please identify all Asian/Pacific American candidates whom you have personally endorsed over the past 5 years including this election cycle. If there are none, please explain.

I not only endorsed City of San Leandro Vice Mayor Benny Lee, but I actively worked on his campaign.

10. How can the Caucus help you better understand and represent API constituents? List three strategies:
The three strategies are direct dialogue, bridging cultural differences, and sharing mutual interests. As a Latina elected, I understand and empathize why it is imperative that various groups be understood. I believe in fair representation of all groups. No one should be left out of the fold.
11. How do you see yourself utilizing the resources of the Caucus? It would be my sounding board to better understand the issues, be well informed, and be the best advocate I can be for API constituents.

Deadline for responses: 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, 2014

Please save your responses in a **pdf format** and e-mail your completed questionnaire to:
karen.fong@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for taking the time to seek our endorsement.