



## Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County

[www.apacaucus.org](http://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: David Anderson

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

Office Sought: City Council

District: 1

Are you the incumbent? No

Campaign Website: www.votedavidanderson.com

Campaign Email: andersondavel1@aol.com

Campaign Phone: 510-290-4698

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a) Are you a registered Democrat? Yes.
  - (The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)
- b) Are you an APA Caucus member? Not at this time.
- c) Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

*The APA Caucus represents and serves our changing diversity in the East Bay. San Leandro is a city where over three-quarters of the population represent different ethnic diversities and over a third are Asian Pacific Americans. I believe our diversity is what ties our communities together so I'm seeking the Caucus' endorsement to continue this mission.*
- d) List the top 10-15 endorsements ONLY. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

None at this time.

- 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? 8 years.
- g) Education background: Schools you attended, date graduated, major and degree earned  
High School Diploma from McClymonds High School, Graduate of Laney College in Oakland from the apprenticeship program in Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning, and I studied mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley extension program.

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

Worked 34 years as a journeyman sheetmetal worker, Local 104, retired in 2005.

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

I currently serve as BOVIA (Bay O Vista Home Improvement Association) and have been in this position for two years.

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### 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? *All of my opponents have done public service for our schools by serving on school boards or organization except they did it many years after I had already served on the Oakland School Board. During my tenure, the budgets were balanced and the school district was sound. This was at a time when the recognition of diversity was not as strong as it is today. My opponents are still focusing on doing things in the same way as before while I'm the only one who's actually put in my ballot statement that we need to tap into the strengths of our diversity.*
2. What percentage of the district you [or intend to] represent are of Asian or Pacific heritage?  
*At least a third of our population are Asian Pacific American heritage.*
3. Please identify the three largest API ethnicities in your district.  
*Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese.*
4. Please identify the most at-risk API community in your district and describe why.  
*The most at risk would be the elderly API who are under the care of their family. There's a lack of services for them in their native tongue and that needs to change. I've watched API families working hard to continue to support their elderly parents so we need to provide services that assist these families or provide services that allow these elderly parents to enjoy their independence.*
5. List the three top concerns of members of the APIs in your district  
*-Public safety is the number one concern for everyone which includes the API. As BOVIA HOA President, we've addressed these issues and have involved more API in our National Night Out this year more than any other years.*  
*-Services for our elderly API population. Service cuts in 2011 to 2012 affected everyone but the ones who spoke most about this were the elderly populations which included API.*

*-Services available in the native languages of the elderly parents of many API. The API are profoundly multi-generational family oriented and services in other languages needs to be better.*

6. 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	<i>The City sponsors a Chinese New Years' festival and is co-sponsoring the Mid Autumn Moon Festival with the Asian Community. Attendance is from several hundred to over a thousand.</i>
Health/services fairs	X			<i>I've not seen much attendance of APIs at these Health and Service Fairs. Kaiser had its Grand Opening recently and most of those in attendance was hardly representative of San Leandro's diverse ethnic population.</i>
Current affair educational events		X		<i>Some schools have cultural events but that's infrequent. They are well-attended those days by families of the school children.</i>
Political events		X		<i>This has been visibly changing as more involvement is happening. The City Council was divided when Asian residents spoke their voice on flag raising. Chinese speaking residents spoke in their native languages to support their requests to have a flag day celebration of culture.</i>

7. 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. *First, we need to recognize our changing demographics and be open to adapt to cultural differences. Denying residents of their cultural requests simply because that's how it's always been done is not sustainable. We've come a long way since the Civil Rights Movement and we need to continue on this trajectory. I grew up during this era and participated in making the changes. Second, we need to consistently welcome our diversities to share their cultures. The Summer Olympics happens every four years and that is the only time we get to see how majestic the culture is in the hosting country. I will push for activities that will involve more of our API. Third, invite our API to events and activities for their families by promoting these in their native language. Some families don't know about events or activities because the English language is foreign to them. We change this by increasing outreach in different language publications.*

8. 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 endorsed Jean Quan, current mayor of Oakland and Wilma Chan, Board of Supervisors for Alameda County. Based on my experience with them as a board member, I believed them to be good candidates. I also supported Gary Yee for interim superintendent of Oakland Public Schools.*

9. How can the Caucus help you better understand and represent API constituents? List three strategies. *First, API is a broad categorization of many ethnic backgrounds and micro-cultures. To say Chinese does not represent one class of people but many different classes residing within our communities. The Caucus represents these many classes which would be helpful to better understand cultural differences. Second, it's important to work with the Caucus on what legislation needs to occur to address gaps with our API community. Third, how can I work with the Caucus to better understand and represent our API residents.*

10. How do you see yourself utilizing the resources of the Caucus?

*By meeting the diverse membership and working together with them to address the issues dear to their API constituencies. As an African American, I fully understand the challenges of being viewed differently and I understand that this is no different for many API who experience being the perpetual foreigner.*

**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.***