



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: Kenneth Pon

Home City, State, Zip: San Leandro CA 94577

Office Sought: San Leandro City Council

District: One

Are you the incumbent? Yes No

Campaign Website: <https://www.facebook.com/kenpon4cc>

Campaign Email: kponcpa@sprynet.com

Campaign Phone: 510.895.2011

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- a) Are you a registered Democrat? Yes No
• (The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)
- b) Are you an APA Caucus member? Yes No
- c) Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

To show our Asian community that Asian Americans who have decided to become actively engaged in our political process support their fellow Asian Americans who share the same values.

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

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, Fmr San Leandro City Councilmember Joyce Starosciak, San Leandro Chamber of Commerce Past President Chuck Pershing, Peralta Community College

Trustee Nicky Gonzalez Yuen.

e) If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? Yes Absolutely No

f) How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent? 33 years

g) Education background: Schools you attended, date graduated, major and degree earned

University of California, 1971, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

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

Self-employed CPA 1987 – current.

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

APCaucus, Rotary Club of San Leandro, Wa Sung, Educate2Envision International, San Leandro Downtown Association, Bay-O-Vista Improvement Association, San Leandro Sports Foundation

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? We all mention the importance of a “thriving, vibrant downtown” but, I’m the only one with a visual - it’s called Downtown Mountain View. At one point, Mountain View had the high tech advantage attracting the young professionals, now, San Leandro has Lit San Leandro to attract those millennials which energize a Downtown and the local economy. I’ve been to Downtown Mountain View and seen the diversity of dining, entertainment, and local services, a blueprint we should be following for San Leandro. Patrick Kennedy Lit up San Leandro, it’s our job to make it shine!

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.)

During my 8 years as a San Leandro USD Trustee, we passed the first school bond in 1997 that began our reinvestment in San Leandro public schools, and, we hired the first Asian American Superintendent of Schools in San Leandro USD.

3. What percentage of the district you [or intend to] represent are of Asian or Pacific heritage? Asian Americans represent 30% (2nd largest ethnic group) of the San Leandro population.

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

Chinese, Filipino, Southeast Asian

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

Our children. Our schools have been on the decline for years with no real leadership from the current elected officials. The musical chairs of School Superintendent has put the focus of educating our students on hold as we continue to bring new leadership up to speed, over, and over again.

6. List the three top concerns of members of the APIs in your district
- a. Education of our children (see 5 above).
 - b. Representation in our elected officials; of the 14 elected officials in San Leandro, only one is Asian.
 - c. Cultural understanding; until there is cross-ethnic participation in the planning and production of Asian events, there will be a visible lack of understanding (and, perhaps acceptance) of the Asian culture.

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			Except for Asian Cultural events
Health/services fairs		x		This is a priority for Asians
Current affair educational events	x			Presentations are only in English, so, only English speaking Asians attend
Political events	x			Unless there is an Asian official involved

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.
- a. Visible Asian leadership participation
 - b. Directly connecting the importance of the activity to the Asian community, such as an Asian shopping center adjacent to the new Kaiser Hospital, or the Casino and Crematorium proposals a few years past.
 - c. Personal invitation.

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.

Wilma Chan and Rob Bonta. There are few Asian Americans who file for election here in San Leandro.

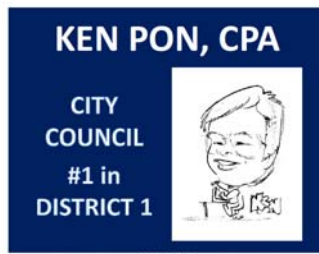
10. How can the Caucus help you better understand and represent API constituents? List three strategies.
- a. Feedback from fellow Caucus members who have their ears open to Asian concerns.
 - b. Exchanging experiences from other district Caucus leaders.
 - c. Sponsoring APCaucus gatherings in the local communities to bring together our politically active Caucus with the less active local citizens.

11. How do you see yourself utilizing the resources of the Caucus? I will continue to be an active member of the Caucus in order to reap the benefits of 10. Above.

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.



I have lived, worked, and played in San Leandro for over 30 years. My Certified Public Accountant practice has always been in Downtown San Leandro. San Leandro is my home.

I have:

1. Served as a **SLUSD School Board** Trustee for eight years, Board President 2001, seeing the passage of the first School Bond measure in 1997 that began our reinvestment in San Leandro's public schools.
2. Been an active Director of the **San Leandro Downtown Association** for 20 years. We've produced many community events, including the Sausage and Suds Music Festival, It's a Wonderful Night, and BikeSL celebrations, as well as hosted the Downtown Farmers Market.
3. Served on the **Bay-O-Vista Improvement Association** Board for over 25 years to help preserve and improve our neighborhoods.
4. Worked with the **Community Education Foundation of San Leandro (CEF)**, the predecessor to the San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED) to provide additional funding to our local teachers.
5. Worked with the **Asian Community Cultural Association of San Leandro**, and the **Wa Sung Community Service Club** for the past 10 years to promote the Asian cultural heritage, bridging the gap between Asians and the East Bay community. In 2007, I traveled to China as part of the Yangchung Friendship Delegation representing the ACCASL, the **San Leandro Chamber of Commerce**, and the **City of San Leandro**.
6. Served as President of the **Rotary Club of San Leandro** to support the Boys & Girls Club, Davis Street Family Resource Center, Building Futures for Women and Children, SLHS students, and Educate2Envision International (a local non-profit bringing education to the most rural parts of Honduras).
7. Worked with the **San Leandro Sports Foundation** to promote the renovation of Burrell Field so our local youths would have a venue to hold the Citywide Track Meet.
8. Served as a Chartering Director of the **Asian Pacific Democratic Caucus**, created to encourage and promote Asian Americans for public office.

As your City Councilmember I will:

1. Work to **preserve and improve our police, fire, and City services**
2. **Get our roads fixed**
3. Push for the **transit-oriented development** and **pedestrian friendly sidewalks for our millennials**
4. **Implement the Shoreline plan**
5. **Recruit innovative businesses**
6. **Make Downtown a Local Community Destination**, THE place to be.

It takes proven leadership on the City Council to make this happen. I have a proven leadership track record.

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