



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: **Lee Thomas**

Home City, State, Zip: **San Leandro, CA 94578**

Office Sought: **San Leandro
City Council**

District: **3**

Are you the incumbent? **No**

Campaign Website: **LeeThomasforCityCouncil.com**

Campaign Email: **Leethomasforcitycouncil@gmail.com**

Campaign Phone: **415-722-5789**

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? **No**
- c) Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

With a large and growing Asian American population in San Leandro, it's important to continue to develop diverse relationships with cultural organizations to support people. I have firsthand experience of the importance cultural organizations bring to ethnic communities as my wife is Chinese/Burmese. An endorsement from the APA Caucus will help to showcase APA's diversity and help support my campaign and relationships with multiple Asian cultures as commissioner and an elected official.

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

- San Leandro Mayor Stephen Cassidy**
- San Leandro Police Officers Association**
- San Leandro Chamber PAC**
- Ursula Reed, San Leandro City Councilmember**
- Former Mayor Tony Santos**
- Former City Council Member Kent Myers**

- Former San Leandro School Boardmember Jason Toro**

- Louis Heystek, San Leandro Personal Relations Boardmember and Former San Leandro Unified School District Trustee.**

- Lance James, San Leandro School Boardmember**
- Ron Carey, San Leandro School Boardmember**
- Ed Hernandez, San Leandro Planning Commissioner**
- Phillip Daly, San Leandro Board of Zoning Adjustments Boardmember**
- Janice Woychesin, San Leandro Senior Citizen Commissioner**
- Carol Rinaldi, San Leandro Library-Historical Commissioner**
- Jennifer Heystek, San Leandro Library-Historical Commissioner**

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 for eight years, my wife has lived in San Leandro for 19 years.

g) Education background: Schools you attended, date graduated, major and degree earned
University OF San Francisco, B.S Degree in Organization Behavior and Leadership, 2008
Golden Gate University, Master Degree in Public Administration, 2011

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

- East Palo Alto YMCA, Sr. Program Director- April 2014-Present**
- City of East Palo Alto, Youth and Family Service Manger July-2013 to March 2014**
- San Francisco Unified School District, After School Director, October 2008- to January 2013**

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

Member, San Leandro Police Chief's Advisory Board, Boardmember San Leandro Board of Zoning, Health and Human Services Commissioner, The San Leandro Education Foundation, The

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 have spent years in leadership positions in San Leandro, serving on the San Leandro Human Services Commission, the Marina Shoreline Citizen Advisory Committee, San Leandro's Board of Zoning Adjustments, the Police Chief's Advisory Board and as President of San Leandro Floresta Homeowners Association.

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.)

I am running for City Council because I want San Leandro to provide the best for all of our families. San Leandro has incredible potential but to ensure our long-term stability we must decrease crime, proactively focus on economic development, and strengthen local schools. As a former Human Services Commissioner, and current Sr. Program Director for the YMCA I, understand how import services are to families, especially families that have immigrated to provide a better life for their children. I will work hard to improve program availability and access in our community.

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

While San Leandro has district City Council seats we run at large. If elected I will represent all of San Leandro. The API population in San Leandro is nearly 26,000 according to the 2010 census.

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

The three largest API ethnicities in San Leandro are Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese.

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

Based on my experience the most at-risk API community in San Leandro are new immigrants. New immigrants can sometimes be overwhelmed with assimilating to a new culture while trying to provide for their loved ones.

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

API concerns in San Leandro are quality of education, crime and economic development.

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.

- a. **As a City Councilmember I will work to build a more effective communication plan with organizations to increase awareness of community events at city events such as the Cherry Festival , Famers Market and community fairs and at neighborhood churches.**

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

I have not held an elected office. Therefore I have not been asked to endorse any API candidates.

10. How can the Caucus help you better understand and represent API constituents? List three strategies.

- a. **Hosting meetings that share the organizations mission and vision.**
- b. **Hosting an open house or professional mixers for people to meet each other.**
- c. **Emailing a monthly or quarterly newsletter.**

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

I would like to learn more about the resources of the Caucus. Any assistance you can provide to reach out to API's in San Leandro so we can work together to get them involved in the community would be appreciated. Working together to find API community members and assisting them in increasing their involvement in San Leandro would be a positive experience for all involved.

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.