



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: MIA OUSLEY

Home City, State, Zip: SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577

Office Sought: CITY COUNCIL District: 5

Are you the incumbent? NO, there are no incumbents running this election

Campaign Website: www.Mia4Council.com

Campaign Email: Mia4Council@comcast.net

Campaign Phone: 510-384-5457

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? I'd like to think I could serve as a liaison with the API community, and your endorsement would help API voters who have no knowledge of the candidates to see me as someone for whom they could vote.
- d) List the top 10-15 endorsements ONLY. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

I have no institutional endorsements yet. I am hopeful to receive endorsements from California Nurse's Association (CAN), Teamsters Union, PACE (which promotes women in office) and National Political Women's Caucus, but they have not made their decisions yet.

School Board Trustee Mike Katz and former School Board Trustee Hermy Almonte have publicly endorsed me.

I have received endorsements from about 50 individuals, some business owners

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? 17 years

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

Bachelors' Degree in Economics, with Minor in Women's Studies – Humboldt State University
Much of undergraduate work done in community college in Sacramento and at UC Berkeley, before I went to Humboldt State

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

I'm self-employed as a Financial Consultant/Analyst. I do court accountings and bookkeeping for small businesses, and provide financial management services for them to help them prosper.

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

The Broadmoor Neighborhood Association (15 years)

The Coalition to Save San Leandro Hospital (past 6 years)

Alameda County 4-H youth development program (15 years)

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team (3 years)

Volunteer Editor of a statewide bi-monthly educational magazine (4 years)

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 my 17 years here being active in addressing problems and engaging the community to take action with me. I was a co-found of the successful Coalition to Save San Leandro Hospital; I formed a committee which addressed blight in our neighborhood and took a petition to City Council which the City acted upon; I've been a community mediator; and more ... in short, I walk my talk.

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.)

Saving San Leandro Hospital. Plug my name and the words "San Leandro Hospital" into your favorite search engine and you'll see videos of me speaking at public rallies, before the Board of Supervisors, in front of the Eden Township Healthcare District. I rallied people to the cause and gave them the energy – and belief – that we would prevail . . . and we did.

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

About 22% of SL registered voters

4. Please identify the three largest API ethnicities in your district.
Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese – in that order
5. Please identify the most at-risk API community in your district and describe why.
I couldn't say by race, though I believe the seniors would be the most at-risk due to the gentrification occurring in San Leandro and the increased likelihood of them facing language barriers.
6. List the three top concerns of members of the APIs in your district
Having resources available in their native language, especially with communication to/from schools.
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health/services fairs			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Current affair educational events		<input type="checkbox"/>		School issues are primarily English, and the API community seems to face the most language barrier issues.
Political events		<input type="checkbox"/>		The Chinese community moreso; and overall more API as time passes.

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.
The City should have translators on hand in City Hall 1-2 days/week to assist residents in obtaining permits or answering other questions that would be brought to the City. I'd like the City to consider covering the cost of translating materials for the school district, as well.
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 personally endorsed and worked on the campaign of Hermy Almonte for San Leandro School Board and City Council (he won the school board campaign, he came close but lost the City Council race). Hermy has endorsed my campaign this season.
I have worked in the past with San Leandro City Councilmember Benny Lee in neighborhood issues, though I have since come to disagree with his political stances and would not support his re-election.*
10. How can the Caucus help you better understand and represent API constituents? List three strategies.
Easy – I'd love to set a time to talk with you, whether or not I win this election. Only through communication can we achieve understanding, then hopefully collaboration. I don't pretend to know even 1/2 of the issues Asian/Pacific Islanders may face; I'd welcome the education.
11. How do you see yourself utilizing the resources of the Caucus?

If you mean regarding an endorsement, I'd use your name show members of your community that I have your support and hope that it would encourage their vote. If you were to provide money as well, that would go to printing flyers and lawn signs. I'm trying to locate Mandarin and Tagalog translators for my current walking piece hand-out – I'm asking for references from people who I know have had translations done in the past. I have no connections to find a Vietnamese translator. Perhaps your Caucus could provide the translations as a means of endorsement, as well.

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.