



## 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: Pauline Cutter

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

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Office Sought: San Leandro Mayor

District: City of San Leandro

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Are you the incumbent? No

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Campaign Website: [www.PaulineCutter.com](http://www.PaulineCutter.com)

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Campaign Email: campaign

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Campaign Phone:

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#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Are you a registered Democrat? **Yes.**  
(The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats)

Are you an APA Caucus member? **No, I am not a member.**

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

**I am seeking the APA's endorsement because endorsements communicate an organizations confidence in a candidate. The added credibility of the APA's endorsement would be a boost to my campaign, especially among our large Asian population who care deeply about what happens in our community.**

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

**Wilma Chan, Building Trades of Alameda County, San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, the majority of current City Council Members, the majority of current School Board Trustees in both San Leandro and San Leandro School Districts, IBEW 595, Northern California District Council ILWU, Operating Engineers Local 3. There are many more endorsements of a broad base of San Leandro elected officials and commissioners, community and business leaders, labor organizations and residents. Please see [www.paulinecutter.com](http://www.paulinecutter.com) for a listing.**

If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials? **Yes!**

How long have you lived in the district which you are seeking to represent?

**San Leandro has been my home for 37 years.**

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

**I attended Cal State Hayward for two years and I earned my Adult Education Teacher Credential at San Jose State. I have participated in continuing education, workshops and seminars. I also completed the Masters in Governance Program for California School Boards Association (CSBA).**

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

**Since 2012 I have managed the San Leandro School District's Energy Conservation Program. I have worked as an accountant, office manager, credit manager, and as teacher and director of a non-profit preschool affiliated with the Adult School in the San Lorenzo Unified School District from 1989-2013. As Director, I oversaw the school budget, recruitment, enrollment and compliance.**

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

**I am the San Leandro City Councilmember for District 5. Prior to my election to the City Council I served for 12 years as a Trustee on the San Leandro School Board, I currently serve as Vice-President of the Waste Management Authority of Alameda County as well as Vice-President of their Energy Council (Stopwaste.Org), as a Commissioner on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and as San Leandro's Representative on the AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit ad-hoc committee. I am a Commissioner on the Alameda County Fire Department's Advisory Committee, a member of San Leandro's Disaster Preparedness Council, member of California Teachers Association and belong to the State and National League of Cities.**

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

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

**San Leandro has made great progress in the last four years since I have been on the Council. I have worked hard to move our city forward. I am a proven leader in the community and have been on the ballot four times in 16 years winning every election with a large margin.**

**On the City Council I have balanced budgets, served the needs of my constituents and have made the hard but necessary decisions. For example, prior to my time on council the previous council was using reserve funds to balance the budget. Now we are rebuilding reserves and restoring cuts. I voted for the council to contribute their share of pension costs, worked with labor to find consensus to decrease the city's unfunded pension liability while not effecting employee's paychecks, and worked diligently to keep San Leandro Hospital open.**

**As a member of the School Board and Chair of the Facilities Committee, with my leadership and in partnership with labor we passed more than \$165 million in bonds to repair, construct and renovate our schools and provide quality union jobs. Together we solved a serious overcrowding issue at the high school and built an arts education center.**

**I also am a leader who can build consensus among diverse groups of people and ideas. I have made many relationships over my 16 years in elected office and I bring excellent people networking skills with me to this job.**

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.)

**The major issue in the Mayoral race is the direction of San Leandro's future. We must move San Leandro forward and continue building on the success of the past three years; we cannot allow our city to slide backwards or to stagnate.**

**Prior to my election to the City Council in 2010, budget reserves were being depleted to keep our city afloat and our city was in dire shape. Once elected I quickly got to work with the goal of restoring financial stability to San Leandro. Now, three years later the budget is balanced and reserves are being re-built. I led the efforts to balance our budget, first by leading the efforts for Councilmembers to pay their own share of pension costs and then working with employees to pay their full share of pension costs by negotiating fair, multi-year contracts**

**with all of our bargaining units. I was able to help negotiate contracts that were good for both the city and our employees. This has dramatically decreased our unfunded liabilities.**

**We have moved to a two-year budget cycle, which serves as an excellent planning tool for financial stability. Currently the city's budget is reflective of our values with increased funding to non-profits who supply a safety net to residents of our community and a designated amount set aside to help support our neighborhoods.**

**I've worked hard to renew interest and attract investment in San Leandro. We have succeeded in attracting advanced manufacturing and high-tech companies that have brought quality jobs to San Leandro. I want to continue building on this important start so the young people who grew up in San Leandro want to stay here to raise their families.**

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

**Based on the 2010 census data 30.5% of San Leandro's population of 84,950 identify as Asian/Pacific Islander.**

Please identify the three largest API ethnicities in your district.

**The three largest API ethnicities are:**

<b>Chinese</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>11,655</b>
<b>Filipino</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>7,935</b>
<b>Vietnamese</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>2,715</b>

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

**The most at risk community is the youth of our city. We are finding a trend for Samoan and Tongan youth who are being subjected to gang influences and see a higher than average dropout rate for Filipino youth. We also have over 55% of students where English is not their primary language. Most of those ESL students speak Spanish as their primary language but we are seeing increasingly higher numbers of ESL API students. This can create a situation where some families can be missing out on important services because of a language barrier.**

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

**I believe the top 3 concerns of API are safety as the number one priority, followed by education for their children, and affordable housing for their families.**

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			X	

fairs				
Current affair educational events			X	
Political events		X		

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.

**With a population of nearly 26,000 API residents it is disappointing to find only 9,104 are registered to vote. The most critical need is to communicate the importance of registering to vote and actually voting. To increase API participation in voting I am working with members of the API community to increase voter participation. We have a large population of API students attending our schools and as a Board Trustee I did outreach to register the seniors at the high school to vote.**

**On both the School Board and the City Council I have advocated for materials to be translated into the languages spoken by the community.**

**I have supported our library and school administrations by participating in and approving funding for cultural events for the whole community to teach about the API culture and celebrate successes.**

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.

**In the past five years I have endorsed Wilma Chan for Supervisor, Dr. Jennifer Ong for State Assembly, Betty Yee for Board of Equalization and State Controller, Rob Bonta for State Assembly, Alice Lai Bitker for Supervisor, Mary Hayashi for Assembly in 2010, Dennis Hayashi for Judge and Lena Tam for BART Director.**

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

**I would like to work with the Caucus to better understand how to motivate the API community to register to vote and to actually vote. I believe if we work together to target young adults to get them registered and voting it would get them voting early so they in turn can instill the importance of voting in future generations.**

**We can communicate with families to get them to offer feedback on community issues by holding the Town Hall meetings in different languages or having someone available for translation.**

**I can hold smaller Coffee with the Mayor meetings where constituents feel more comfortable to speak about the issues.**

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

**I would love to learn more about the resources of the APA Caucus so we can work together to best utilize those resources.**

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.