Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus  
of Alameda County  
www.apacaucus.org

2016 Endorsement Questionnaire

Candidate/Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Francis "Matt" Hummel

City of residence, State, Zip (no street address please): Oakland, CA 94612

Office Sought: Oakland City Council

District: At-Large

Are you the incumbent?  No

Campaign Website:  
Matt4thePeople.com

Campaign Email:  
Matt4thePeople@gmail.com

Campaign Phone:  
510-228-5063 (it's my cell)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Are you a registered Democrat? Yes

b) Are you an APA Caucus member? No

b) Why are you seeking the Caucus’s endorsement?

The Asian/Pacific community is one quarter of the population. But, under represented in our local and federal governments. As a white man, my presence wouldn't address that. I think Bruce Quan is a great candidate, I would be honored to be endorsed by you as the second choice in a ranked choice endorsement.

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

Space Cat Voter Guide
The cannabis community
Robert A. Raich, attorney
Max Allstadt
Trevor, leader of the East Bay Rats
Chris Davis, owner of Lois the Pie Queen
Mo, owner of Telegraph Quality Market

e) If we endorse you, will you use our name in your campaign materials?

Yes, but only with your permission.

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

I have lived in Oakland for over twenty years. I have been privileged to live in Downtown, Montclair,
Fruitvale, West Oakland, San Antonio, and North Gate.

g) Educational background: Schools you attended, date graduated, major and degree(s) earned

I have gone to Catholic schools for most of my life. I moved to Oakland to attend Holy Names College. I
studied Philosophy and Business. After years in school, my experiences in Oakland were so vibrant it
inspired me to drop out and start building intentional art communities in Oakland's derelict buildings and
factories. There people could live together very inexpensively and pursue social and artistic goals.

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

I'm often brought in as a consultant on projects. I'm a member of (what has been called) the gig economy.

I was hired by Phil Tagami to work on restoring the Fox theater.

Debra Taylor hired me to work for EBALDC. For a year I promoted the great work they do. I helped them
bring awareness to their anniversary celebration to the public.

Just before this campaign I converted a detached garage into a mother-in-law unit. It involved all the
trades. Including plumbing, electrical, and carpentry. The money from that job has gone all into my
campaign.

Politically, I was a campaign coordinator for Gov. Jerry Brown's first mayoral campaign and Strong Mayor
charter initiative. I ran campaign headquarters and GOTV for BART Board member Tom Radulovich's SF
Supervisor run. I fought to get the Renewable Portfolio Standard (SB 1078) passed in California. It was
stuck in a committee run by a powerful Republican politician. I drove to Orange County and talked with
his constituents and generated over 700 hand written letters to him. He recused himself from the next
vote and it became the model for the world to follow. I ran GOTV for the East Bay Regional Parks for a
parcel tax and second in charge of the Just Cause campaign. In 2008, I was hired by CALDEM to run
Oakland's campaign headquarters as well as it's GOTV. I have personally volunteered for Lee, Bonta,
Quan, Swanson and Chan. For over six years, I have served on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission and
was recently reelected chairperson for a second term. For the last two years, we have rewritten all of
Oakland's cannabis ordinances with the desire to bring that whole community, with equity in mind, out into
the light with legal safe jobs. Our commission has written a police information bulletin and set practices of
harm reduction including complaint based enforcement of cannabis ordinances and nuisance letters
instead of armed raids.

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

Our whole relationship to government needs to be completely renewed. That relationship determines how we police, the kind of jobs that are available and whether our fellow citizens have to continue to sleep in tents. Unfortunately, a base problem Oakland has right now is that corrupt politics and petty squabbles are getting in the way of progress. The job of the at-large position is to make sure there is open communication between the council members and that they each are shown the collegial respect they deserve. For far too long, we have accepted a standard of conduct beneath the dignity the position we are representing. I will hold myself to a high ethical standard and will hold my peers to the same standard. This is a team job, and it demands someone who doesn't need to take credit and will actually forgo it if it means getting the important work done. Government is supposed to be a tool that we use together, to improve all of our lives.

I hope to form a municipal bank where our city deposits can finance local initiatives, instead of whatever Wells Fargo invests in. We could refinance our citizens’ home and business loans and liberate the working poor from check cashing scams. Currently half of our spending on bond measures goes to service the bond's debt. It breaks my heart knowing we are giving millions of dollars to private banks that could be spent here.

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 only affects the Asian community.)

I am most passionate about radical inclusivity, and a city/community built for all of us. I have been serving as chair of Oakland's Cannabis Regulatory Commission for the last few years. My goal on the commission is to end the racist drug war and pursue justice and equity.

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

Oakland is 25% API and I hope I get a chance to represent all Oaklanders. Especially those of whom we have neglected, ignored or mistreated in the past.

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

Chinese, Korean, and South-east Asian.

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

Our youth are the most at-risk. They risk violence and depression through the strain of our economy and how we relate to each other. Alienation is prevalent as is PTSD. Oakland may loose the next generation if we don't take care of them and build the jobs and homes that will allow them to stay and thrive.

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

Loss of community as people flee to less dangerous or expensive cities, and the gentrification of our neighborhoods. There is a threat of creeping development that could endanger Chinatown.

Lack of city money for housing and neighborhood upkeep.
Under representation on all levels, including the police force and policing that doesn't always meet the communities needs.

7. Based on your observations, how well representative are members of the API communities in local civic activities? (in your district/city)

Cultural events
Very active

Health/services fairs
Very active

Current affair educational events
Very active

Political events
Very active

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.

Radical inclusion. Community meetings, multilingual outreach and going to where people live. We all need to work together to fix Oakland for everyone. That means inviting everyone to the table. The API community has been neglected or worse in the past. Without addressing the needs of everyone, we help no one.

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've supported and volunteered for Bonta, Chan and Quan. I support and appreciate Bruce Quan's campaign.

10. If you were faced with a situation that involved an Asian Pacific American community, would you seek consultation with our Caucus as a resource? Yes

Thank you for taking the time to seek our endorsement

Please email a pdf copy of your responses to mailto:karen.fong@sbcglobal.net
Revised Deadline: 5 p.m. Saturday, August 27, 2016