

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

beth@aney4schoolboard.com

APA Democratic Caucus of Alameda County



PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BY SEPT. 9, midnight. Please take time to review the questions before filling in the boxes since you cannot save the responses for later completion. Thank you for your interest in being considered for an endorsement by the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County. Please answer each question in 250 words or less. Be honest and direct. Please note: your questionnaire will be posted on our website for Caucus members and the public to review.

Personal Information

Candidate Name *

Beth Aney

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda 94501

What is your campaign website address?

www.aney4schoolboard.com

What is your campaign email address?

beth@aney4schoolboard.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- Alameda City Council
- Alameda School Board
- Berkeley, Mayor
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 2
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 3
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist.5
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 6
- Berkeley, Unified School District Trustee
- Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 1
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 3
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 5
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 7
- Oakland, City Council, At-large
- Oakland City Attorney
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 1
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 3
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 5
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 7
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 1
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 2
- AC Transit Bd. of Directors, At-Large
- EB Regional Park Dist. Bd. of Directors. Ward 1

Regional Council, Bd. of Directors, Area 1

AD 15, State Assembly Representative

AD 18, State Assembly Representative

Peralta Community College District, Bd. of Director, Area 2

Other:

Are you the incumbent?

Yes

No

Are you a registered Democrat? The APA Democratic Caucus can only endorse registered Democrats

Yes

No

How long have you been a registered Democrat? If less than 5 years, please explain your reason for becoming a Democrat.

35 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

As the fastest growing sector of voters in the country, having the support of Asian American voters is critical to my campaign. I want Asian American voters in Alameda to know that I will listen to them and advocate for them to ensure their needs are addressed and students have equitable access to tools and resources for success.

List ONLY the top 5 endorsements that you have received. (Please reference your website if you want to alert us to more).

1. Mia Bonta, President AUSD School Board 2. Margie Sherratt, former AUSD School Board member 3. William Schaff, former AUSD School Board member 4. Mike McMahon, former AUSD School Board member 5. Christine Whitfield Chilcott, CEO Girls Inc. of Island City. See also my website at www.aney4schoolboard.com

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

Yes

No

Maybe

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

15 years

Educational background: What schools have you attended, date graduated, major and degree(s) earned.

University of California, Santa Barbara - BA Political Science (1989); Golden Gate University School of Law - JD (2000)

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

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith - Partner/attorney (Aug. 2020 to present)
Gordon & Rees - Senior Counsel (Nov. 2018 to July 2020)
Lorber, Greenfield & Polito - Senior Counsel (Sept. 2017 to Nov. 2018)

What are the names of any community or nonprofit organizations with which you have been an active volunteer in the past 3-5 years.

PTA Council of Alameda; Otis Elementary PTA; Lincoln Middle School PTA; Bay Farm Elementary/Middle School PTSA; Alameda High School PTA

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

1. What differentiates you from your opponents for the elected office that you are seeking?

I have a depth of knowledge and deep ties to this community that no other candidate has. I served as PTA President for 2 terms at our neighborhood elementary school where I:

- Worked collaboratively with school staff, parents, and teachers to provide greater social-emotional learning support for students, with additional training and education for teachers and families;
- Started the first Equity & Inclusion Committee at any AUSD school, with recognition as a "No Place For Hate" school by the Anti-Defamation League;
- Launched a STEAM lab so students have hands-on access to 21st Century learning opportunities;
- Enhanced the Safety Patrol program to provide safer access routes to the school for students, and educated families about safe driving, drop-off, and parking practices around the school;
- Managed a large budget and was accountable to parents, teachers and staff in how those funds were spent, and;
- Worked tirelessly to create community and partnerships with all families so that students had the best educational experience possible.

I am now in my second term as PTA Council President where I work with all PTAs in Alameda to facilitate collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources among our public schools. In that role, I also work closely with district staff to identify areas of community concern that demand discussion and attention, and provide engagement and support opportunities for our families.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, I have been serving on several working groups under the AUSD Redesign Task Force, working with community partners and PTA leaders to support students and families during this unprecedented and uncertain time. This work focuses on providing childcare to essential workers, teachers and working parents when "normal" school and childcare options are not available. I am also working with PTA groups and community partners to find creative ways to not only support student learning and social engagement in the remote learning environment but also foster community among our families because community is a cornerstone in our relationships with each other.

2. Describe one issue for the district you want to represent for which you have provided leadership and about which you are passionate.

I was the chair of the Yes on Measure A campaign which sought voter approval of a parcel tax to raise money to fund teacher and staff raises so that Alameda can attract and retain talent in this school district. This was on the ballot in March 2020 and was approved by voters. Being able to provide a dedicated source of funds is critical to ensure teachers and staff are paid a living wage and can afford to live in the community where they teach. Retaining teachers who have a history of teaching in this community is critical to ensure continuity and provide stability for students. Being able to attract new and talented teachers is also critical as we need to hire teachers who represent and look like the students they teach, and also bring new and progressive teaching methods that students will benefit from. Alameda students deserve to have the best and most qualified teachers to ensure they are ready for life after high school. I am passionate about having high quality teachers in the classroom so that students learn and grow, and also have good role models, and I am also concerned about chronic underfunding of public education and want to do everything I can to secure adequate financial resources so that students and teachers have every opportunity to thrive and be successful. I will continue to do this work when elected to the School Board.

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

Approximately 30%

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

I believe Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese

5. Please identify the most at-risk APA community in your district and explain why.

I don't know what APA community is most at risk, but I do know that any community that lacks sufficient resources is at risk. Those students need additional supports to ensure they attend school whether in person or online, have access to English language learning opportunities, and are embraced by the school community.

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

1. Accelerated learning opportunities and rigorous academics 2. Access to technology and internet during Covid-19 distance learning 3. Equity and inclusion

7. During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of anti-Asian verbal and physical attacks have arisen. If you are the incumbent, how have you addressed this? If you are a candidate how will you address this?

One of my goals is to bring community together so we can work to improve the educational opportunities and experiences for all students and families. Listening and responding to reports of abuse of any kind is essential. Providing more social-emotional supports is essential, and providing students and teachers with education and training to understand racial biases is absolutely critical. I will work to ensure that more resources are allocated to this work.

8. Do you believe that Asian and Pacific Americans are adequately represented in local government? What can elected officials do to improve participation?

No. Considering the number of Asians and Pacific Americans living in the Bay Area, more representation is needed in local government. As an elected official, I will work with Asian Pacific American students to encourage them to get involved in school government and will also encourage their parents to get more involved in PTA activities and advocacy issues.

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 supported Gary Lym for AUSD School Board when he last ran.

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

No

Thank you for completing our questionnaire.

Please submit your responses by Sept. 9, 2020 midnight. Our North County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 24 beginning at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Only those candidates submitting the questionnaire on time will be on our endorsement ballot. No changes to your responses can be made after it is submitted.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms