

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

jesse@jesse.vote

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 *

Jesse Arreguin

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley, 94709

What is your campaign website address?

www.jesse.vote

What is your campaign email address?

info@jesse.vote

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.

Since I was legally able to register, 18 years ago. I am a long-time Democratic Party activist and served on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, and as a state DSCC Delegate.
.....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the APA Democratic Caucus endorsement because I feel I am best aligned with the Club's values and priorities. With a large Asian American population in the City of Berkeley the endorsement of your caucus is important. During my 16 years in public office, I have advocated for issues important to the APA community, and I am proud to be endorsed by nearly all of the Asian American elected officials representing Berkeley (Auditor Jenny Wong does not endorse local candidates) - Parks Director Dee Rosario, Rent Board member James Chang, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Rigel Robinson, in addition to Betty Yee, Fiona Ma, David Chiu, Rob Bonta, Phong La and many others.

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

Alameda County Democratic Party; Sierra Club; Alameda Labor Council; Governor Gavin Newsom; 7 of 8 Berkeley City Councilmembers - www.jesse.vote/endorsements

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?

18 years

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

BA, Political Science, UC Berkeley, 2007

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

City Councilmember, District 4, City of Berkeley (2016-2008); Legislative Assistant, Office of City Councilmember Kriss Worthington (2007-2008); Berkeley Rent Board Commissioner (2004-2008).

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

Berkeley Progressive Alliance, Berkeley Citizens Action, Berkeley Tenants Union

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

What differentiates me from my opponents is my deep roots in the Berkeley community and my 16 years of public service experience. I have served on many Boards and Commissions, I chaired the Berkeley Rent Board, served on our City Council and now as Mayor. I know Berkeley, its neighborhoods and its needs. I have a proven track record of effective progressive leadership which has won me broad support in Berkeley and regionally. My main opponent has only lived in Berkeley for 5 years and has never served in public office. He has run an animal rights organization which uses extreme tactics like harassing local businesses which sell meat products. Berkeley needs a Mayor with the experience and without history of divisive actions.

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

While my top priority is keeping my community safe from COVID-19; I am most passionate about our housing crisis. Berkeley has seen an unprecedented amount of housing production. My leadership resulted in the largest investment in anti-displacement programs, and stronger eviction protections, including during COVID. We have been able to protect hundreds of households from displacement. My leadership resulted in the passage of Measures O and P in November 2018, providing critical funding to build permanently affordable housing and expand homeless services. As a result hundreds of new affordable units are underway, and we have been able to lever over \$42 million in state funding. My regional leadership as President of ABAG is critical to addressing racial segregation in our housing supply, and to expand affordable housing opportunities. I am recognized leader on housing and tenant rights issues, and if re-elected I will continue to fight for housing opportunities for all, including homeownership.

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

21,690 residents, or 18% total City population

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

Chinese American; Indian American; Korean American

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

Some of our most at risk communities include recent immigrants and refugees, particularly from Tibet and India. These communities may have language barriers, may fear accessing government services due to anti-immigrant rhetoric and attacks by Trump. As Mayor, I have made providing culturally responsive services a priority, and we have reaffirmed and strengthened our sanctuary city status, and expanded legal and other social services for immigrants and refugees.

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

Access to affordable housing; education; and safety (including from hate crimes)

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?

I am horrified by the anti-Asian hate speech and attacks occurring throughout the country, which is fueled by the racist comments of the President. Berkeley has sadly seen an increase in hate crimes during recent months, and I have made it a priority to improve our reporting and response to hate crimes. In addition, the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution early on in the pandemic condemning the use of the phrases "Wuhan Virus" or "Chinese Virus" and speaking out against the racist actions of the President:
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/City_Council/2020/04_Apr/Documents/2020-04-14%20Time%20Critical%20Council%20Item%20Condemning%20the%20Hateful%20Usage%20of%20the%20Terms%20Chinese%20Virus.pdf

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

While we are beginning to reach a better representation of Asian American's in Berkeley city government - with four elected officials holding office on the Rent Board, City Council and City Auditor, with Asian Americans representing 18% of Berkeley's population, we need to appoint and elected more Asian American's to public office. As a City Councilmember and now as Mayor, I have appointed many Asian American community leaders to Boards and Commissions and support APA candidates. As elected officials our job is to work with community groups to recruit qualified people of color to serve on local office, and to work in an ongoing basis on issues important to our diverse communities.

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.

Mike Chang for School Board 2020; James Chang for Rent Board 2018; Jenny Wong for City Auditor 2018; Rigel Robinson for City Council 2018; Phong La for Assessor 2018; Betty Yee for Controller 2018; Fiona Ma for Treasurer, 2018; Dianne Martinez for City Council 2018; Dee Rosario for Parks Board 2016; Raj Salwan for City Council 2016 and many others.

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