

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

info@jovankaforactransit.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 *

Jovanka Beckles

City and zip code of residence.

Richmond 94530

What is your campaign website address?

jovankaforactranist.com

What is your campaign email address?

info@jovankaforactranist.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.

I have always been registered as a Democrat

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking this APA Caucus endorsement because I am trying to build a racial working class movement to transform public transportation in the Bay Area. Getting an APA endorsement would help build relationship with the important Asian-American communities in the Bay Area.

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

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?

For about the last 20 years.

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

I am a graduate of the Florida A&M University where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I also have an MBA.

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

I have spent most of my life in the mental health field as a social worker. I am currently employed by Contra Costa county as a social worker.

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

I am an active member of the Richmond Progressive Alliance and East Bay Democratic Socialists of America

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am the only candidate committed to building a Green New Deal for transportation locally in the Bay Area. This means lower carbon emissions, expanded, more reliable, and fare-free bus service, and more good paying union jobs. I'm running for AC Transit Board because I was asked to by the workers of Amalgamated Transit 192, representing AC Transit employees. I will fight for workers' safety and wellbeing and against cuts to public transit.

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

I have always been an advocate for labor. As a member of a union myself I know how important unions are for workers. In the past I have worked with local labor unions on important issues, such as passing a \$15 minimum wage while I was on the City Council in Richmond. I am excited to have the endorsement of over a dozen local unions in this election already.

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

The ward is almost 20% APA

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

Chinese, Japanese, Filipino

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

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

1. Reliable and expansive service
2. Climate Change and lowering carbon pollution
3. Fare Free Transit

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?

In the past I have been attacked for being a Black Lesbian woman, so I understand how devastating attacks on your identity can be. I know how serious these attacks can be and how they threaten the safety and well being of members of those communities.

I will address this issue by working with members of the APA to address these issues and to hold people who perpetrate these acts accountable.

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

I believe that Asian and Pacific Americans, like many other minority communities, are under represented in politics. We need to continue to support people from marginalized communities and give them a voice.

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.

Rochelle Pardue- Okimoto and Ruscal Cayangyang

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.

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