

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

greg4ohlone@yahoo.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 *

Greg Bonaccorsi

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont, 94539

What is your campaign website address?

N/A

What is your campaign email address?

greg4ohlone@yahoo.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of San Leandro City Council
- City of San Leandro School Board
- City of Hayward City Council
- City of Hayward, Unified School District Trustee
- City of Fremont, Mayor
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 5
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 5
- City of Union City, Mayor
- City of Union City, City Council
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 1
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 2
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 3
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Newark, School Board, Short term
- Eden Healthcare District
- Washington Hospital Healthcare District
- Oro Loma Sanitary District

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Alameda County Water District

AD 20, State Assembly Representative

AD 25, State Assembly Representative

Ohlone Community College, 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 been a registered Democrat since July 1981.

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the endorsement of the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County because I have been a long-time member of the Pacific Asian American Caucus of the California Teachers Association, and I have been supportive of the causes that this caucus represents as a leader in this union. As an elected Trustee, it is vital that I am not only aware of the issues concerning Asian and Pacific Islanders, but also advocate for greater inclusion and participation for API students and employees in our Community College District. As a father of a daughter we adopted from China, this is not a theoretical concept, but one rooted in the day-to-day reality of raising a well-balanced teenager. I would be honored to earn your endorsement.

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

Tri-Cities Democratic Forum
Southern Alameda County Young Democrats
Muslim Democrats and Friends Club
Senator Bob Wieckowski (SD-10)
Assembly Member Bill Quirk (AD-20)

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?

I have lived in Area 2 all my life, with the exception of the time I was attending Humboldt State University during the academic term (1981-1988).

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

Washington High School, Class of 1981, Fremont Unified School District

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences, May 1986

Minor in Mathematics, May 1986

California Single-Subject Clear Credential in Biology with Supplementary Authorizations in Mathematics, General Science, and Instrumental Music, May 1987

Graduate School, Department of Biological Sciences, 1987-1988.

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

7th and 8th Grade Science and Math Teacher, Fremont Unified School District, September 1988-Present.

I've been on Paid Leave of Absence since September 2015 as an elected member of the Board of Directors for the California Teachers Association. I am technically a Teacher on Special Assignment with the Fremont Unified School District.

All other work has been Fellowships I have earned with the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (since re-named Ignited) when I worked for Applied Materials (2009-2010) and Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company (2011).

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 have volunteered at the Alameda County Community Food Bank. I have also volunteered at the Fremont Festival for the Arts. Otherwise, my responsibilities in both my position on the Board of Trustees and the CTA Board of Directors usually take up a tremendous amount of time that leaves very little additional time for purely volunteer activities.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have served on the Ohlone Community College District Board of Trustees for 12 years, 7 of which as either the Board Chair or Vice-Chair. Currently, I am the second longest serving Trustee. I am a career public school educator in a junior high that is located in the District. I am also a union leader. The combination of these two attributes provides an understanding of the work that faculty and other education support professionals do with students as well as an appreciation of the role that collective bargaining plays in creating a positive working environment for our employees. I have built professional relationships with all our local legislators and with Trustees in nearby community college districts. I understand the issues facing our students and can effectively articulate those with our community. Given the uncertainties of our time, it is absolutely crucial that experience remains an integral part of the membership of our Board of Trustees.

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

As a Trustee, it is vitally important to find local and state sources of revenue that can augment the revenues provided to the District as part of the Proposition 98 formula as the baseline level of support. It also critical to support statewide initiatives that help to augment that funding. I have played a role in advocating that the Board of Trustees to support Proposition 30 (2012), Proposition 55 (2016), and currently, Proposition 15, the Schools and Communities First initiative.

I have also been proactive in working toward the passage of Measure G (2010), which helped to build the Academic Core buildings on the Fremont campus. Taken together, all of these provide a strategy toward reducing the impact of the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) that is potentially going to have a deleterious effect on the 2nd best community college in the state.

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

Asians are the largest ethnic group in both the district (which represents Fremont, Newark, and parts of Union City at 43.1%) and the college (at 37.9%). This is data compiled through the Ohlone CCD Environmental Scan study in 2019.

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

Chinese, Filipino, and Asian Indian

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

The data that is provided by the 2019 Environmental Scan by Ohlone CCD does not disaggregate the Asian demographic that finely. In other words, there may be other populations of Southeastern Asians that are not represented in the data who could present evidence of at-risk behavior for success in our college. These would include, but not be limited to, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, and Taiwanese.

That said, I would suggest that students from Chinese background may, in fact, be at-risk, particularly in light of the fact that the students are pressured by their families to be "A+" students when they personally have more well-roundedness in their educational background that pits them against their parents and grandparents. It is conceivable that going to a community college may seem like a "failure" when it actually is economically the smartest decision students can make.

As a Trustee, I would welcome additional data collection along these lines to see if our college is doing all it can to support our at-risk Asian population.

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

1. Racism and prejudice of Asian students by Caucasians based on white privilege and stereotyping as described in the previous question.
 2. Immigration and possibly being DACA recipients may play a role in their general well-being. Related to this is an increasing amount of interest in registering to vote.
 3. Mental health due to the pressures outlined in the previous question, plus the burden of being highly proficient in speaking English, earning top salaries once they have obtained their professional goals, and becoming civically involved could create the basis for being sensitive to the mental health of our Asian student population.
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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?

As an incumbent, I have been listening carefully to reports of this nature. It is fortunate to note that I have not personally received a communication from Asian students nor has the Board of Trustees heard from Asian students regarding any activity that appears to be verbally or physically abusive toward Asian students.

My background as a public school teacher and my racial and social justice work with the California Teachers Association provide me with the framework for calling out and shining light on this behavior. There is no place for this, especially at an institution of higher education. I would, in concert with the rest of the Board of Trustees, demand that our Superintendent/President address such behavior using the Code of Conduct that all students subscribe to when they are accepted for admission.

I have heard this kind of verbal abuse directed toward my daughter from those who feel that COVID-19 was brought to our shores from China. As a parent and a teacher, that behavior is totally unacceptable. This virus doesn't stop at borders nor does it care what the political affiliation is of the host it invades. We really need to do better as a society.

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

Given the demographic information you provided as background, there clearly is not enough representation given the increasing number of Asians in our community. I am fortunate to be currently serving on the Board with Trustee Suzanne Lee Chan, and, in the past, with Trustee Garrett Yee. I am proud of the fact that our Board is diverse. After this election, it will certainly be more so.

To address your question, it is a matter of being welcoming and making the transition from citizen to elected official as easy as it possibly can. In Trustee Chan's case, she had experience being a Fremont Planning Commissioner and a City Council member. As Board Chair at the time Trustee Chan was sworn-in, I kept an open channel of communications with her throughout the transition process and advocated for her to be nominated for, and eventually elected to the Community College League of California Board of Trustees, where she provides a two-way communication link between our Board and the state. Also, I listened to and pushed for her desire to increase the funding for all Trustees to attend professional conferences. My experience here and in my work in CTA provides me with superb grounding in this area.

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.

In the past 5 years, I have personally endorsed Kansen Chu, and I will do so with Alex Lee as soon as we complete this process. As a Director on the California Teachers Association, I have supported these two candidates and other Asian Pacific American candidates through our organization. I focus on these two because they are in our local area.

Also, in my role as a CTA Director, I am known by others as being very supportive to Asian Pacific American candidates for our offices. In fact, a program in CTA is called the Ethnic Minority Early Identification Program (EMEID), is one where I get to work with Asian Pacific Americans, Black, Native American, and Latinx educators who want to learn how to become leaders within their local and regional levels. One Asian Pacific American candidate I worked with 2 years ago is now a member of our statewide policy-making body, the State Council of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I truly hope I can earn your endorsement, and I would proudly include the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus of Alameda County in my list of endorsements.

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 South County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 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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