

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

yogichugh@gmail.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 *

Yogi Chugh

City and zip code of residence.

94539

What is your campaign website address?

What is your campaign email address?

yogiforfremont@gmail.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

Ohlone Community College

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.

27 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am a proud member of the APA Democratic Caucus as well as a longtime supporter of many causes important to API families and communities of color. I would be honored to receive the endorsement of your club, whose values of advancing opportunities for the APA members of our community I share.

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

Ca State Controller Betty Yee, Congressman Ro Khanna, Congressman Eric Swalwell, Assembly Member Kansen Chu, Assembly Member Ash Kalra www.yogiforfremont.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?

I have lived in Fremont for 35 years and have lived in D6 for 15 years

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

BS University of Delhi BS 1986, Business Management SJSU 1993

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

Self Employed - Commercial Real Estate Advisory Services
Executive Managing Director S5 Advisory 8 years, Executive Sr Management, Sony Computer Entertainment
America 16 years

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

APAPA Tri Cities
Associate Board Member Fremont Education Foundation,
Advisory Board Member Drivers for Survivors,
Federation of Indian American Associations and Festival of Globe, Northern California, Fremont 4th of July
Parade Committee

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have a lot of respect for the other candidates, but several considerations set me apart:

1. The APA Dem Caucus will have a seat at the table. The APA Democratic Caucus and CDP API Caucuses are special institutions to me.
2. I refuse to take contributions from corporate PACs and developers. We are a people powered campaign.
3. Experience matters. I have served on the Fremont Planning Commission for two terms, I am currently a Commissioner on the Fremont Economic Development Commission. I have served on numerous Non-profits and have worked with various API Issues over the last 3 decades.
4. Along with Labor and the Democratic Party I've walked picket lines, chaired multiple commissions, and spoken before the City Council on a variety of issues. During this I have worked with various coalitions and stakeholders to work on solutions to many of Fremont's challenges we have faced over the last 30 years.
5. For my election we have built a broad coalition of elected leaders, business and community leaders and residents from the D6 supporting my candidacy.

I have been endorsed by the Tri City Democratic Forum, South County Young Dems, Muslim Democratic Forum of Alameda County and the Bay Area Association of Realtors. I am on the consent calendar for the Alameda County Dem Party endorsement for D6.

I have devoted my life to serving on non-profits public service, to helping my neighbors, and to listening to the concerns of the community. With District 6 now an open seat and with the blessing and support of my family I am ready to hit the ground running on the Fremont City Council. I am the candidate in the race most equipped and experienced to handle the many challenges facing our city and our region.

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

Covid-Economic Recovery - There is no recovery unless we do it safely but still provide small businesses the cushion they need to stay afloat during this very challenging times.

This is an issue I am very passionate about and an issue that our City Council will have to focus on. In preparing for my City council D6 race and the conversations I am having during my literature drops in neighborhoods I consistently hear about the challenges small businesses are facing in protecting local jobs. I have worked with numerous small businesses in helping them complete their PPP applications and connecting them with lenders who could help. I have also helped many small businesses to apply for grants and forgivable loans being offered by the city, county and public-private partnerships. As a small business owner myself I see the importance of helping small businesses during the next 6 months where many will face many challenges in staying afloat. Sometimes providing them access to resources is all it takes and providing them support and the reassurance that their survival is important to the City and we are here to help anyway possible.

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

40%

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

Asian Indian, Chinese, Korean

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

I believe that the most at-risk API community in D6 are those who have recently immigrated. They face a language barrier that prevents or deters them from accessing resources. Sometimes they also lack a social network that can connect them to resources. This leads to a lack of access to higher education, healthcare, employment, and housing services and a lack of representation politically. I would look to help those API members to refer them to the resources this city provides to develop a security net, allowing them to remain and thrive in our community.

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

Arguably the top concerns of members in the Fremont API community are

1. Economic Recovery, Jobs and protecting Small Businesses
2. Education - Schools and City Council Partnerships on reopening safely
3. Housing affordability, traffic congestion and lack of infrastructure which impacts our city and our schools/overcrowding in some of our districts

Two additional top concerns are around increased Homelessness in Fremont and API representation in politics. API members hope to increase representatives that serve and identify with the API community and increase the API voter turnout.

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 will speak up against hate and attacks on anyone. During the pandemic I have spoken against reports of Anti-Asian verbal and physical attacks. I have participated in conversations recently with APIA Leaders in gatherings and forums organized by CLUSA and 80-20 PAC to address the need to rise in solidarity to condemn the attacks on Asian Americans. And the need to collaborate more with the South Asian community to ensure we can speak with one collective voice at all levels - Federal, State, County and Cities. I have spoken up against hate, racism and implicit bias I were fortunate enough to be elected as something I would continue to speak up against hate of any form.

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

Yes but we can do better, We need to identify a bench of leaders and mentor them to serve on commissions, internships, and work in the offices of elected officials for both policy and political outreach to strengthen the breadth of experience needed to prepare to run for office. We need to introduce them to our fundraising networks and make introductions to elected officials who are allies of the API community.

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.

Former

BART Director Candidate Anu Natarajan, County Assessor Phong La, Harris Mojadedi UC City Council, Aisha Wahab Hayward City Council, Assembly Member Ash Kalra, Fahria Khan FUSD Trustee candidate, Congressman Ro Khanna, ACWD Trustee Candidate Aziz Akbari

Current Election Cycle -

Raj Salwan Fremont City Council D5

Teresa Keng Fremont City Council D1

Alex Lee, AD 25 Democratic Party nominee

ACWD Trustee Aziz Akbari

Congressional candidate Rishi Kumar

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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