

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

samdavisforoaklandschools@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 *

Sam Davis

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94608

What is your campaign website address?

www.samdavisforoaklandschools.org

What is your campaign email address?

samdavisforoaklandschools@gmail.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.

20 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Asian/Pacific Islander Americans are the largest demographic group in Alameda County (according to 2018 Census estimates) and as such are a very important constituency. I am glad that the API community is lifting up its voice, and feel it is important not to overlook API concerns in the Oakland schools.

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

Oakland Education Association

SEIU Local 1021

Wellstone Democratic Club

Alameda County Superintendent L. Karen Monroe

Alameda County Office of Education Trustee Joaquin Rivera

Please see my website at www.samdavisforoaklandschools.org/endorsements for a complete list.

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?

9 years

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

UC Berkeley, BA in Math, 1994

Cal State LA, graduate coursework in education leading to a Adult Education credential, 2001

Cal State East Bay, MA in Applied Math, 2013

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

University of California Office of the President, Education Analyst, 2016-present

Oakland SOL Middle School (afterschool program at an OUSD school via various subcontractors),
Robotics/Coding Instructor, 2017-2020

Schoolzilla, Education Data Analyst, 2014-2016

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

Faith in Action East Bay (formerly OCO), member of the board and volunteer activist, 2011-present

Kehilla Community Synagogue, member of Economic Justice and Immigrant Rights committees, including the Let Our People Go organizing committee, 2017-present

Bread for Ed and solidarity schools, volunteer during the OEA 2019 strike

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

Unlike my opponents, who have very little to no previous involvement in the Oakland schools, I have been a volunteer and advocate in our schools for 17 years, first as a teacher and then as a public school parent. I have been deeply engaged in different school communities, as well as advocating at the school board on many issues, and working hard to develop parent leadership throughout that time. In addition, unlike one of my opponents I have refused to seek the endorsement of groups that have channeled enormous donations from billionaires into independent expenditures in recent Oakland school board elections. I am also different from my opponents in that I have worked hard to develop a grassroots network of support from families, teachers and school staff at all the public schools in District 1.

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

I feel strongly that one of Oakland Unified's biggest issues is poor budgeting and a culture of financial mismanagement. With other parent activists, I have advocated many times at school board meetings that school site budgets should be protected during the many waves of cuts, because OUSD needs to reduce its central administrative costs. One of our victories was a policy that limited these costs to 12% of the budget, requiring all other funding to go to school sites to support the adults who are closest to our students.

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

I don't know of any Census data for District 1. 7% of District 1 voters are of APA heritage. Approx. 17% of Oakland residents have APA heritage.

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

Among voters in District 1, the largest ethnicities are Chinese-American, Indian-American, and Japanese-American. I am not aware of data for Oakland as a whole, but in my experience in Oakland has a large and vibrant Chinese-American, Vietnamese-American and Laotian-American communities.

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

I am not confident for District 1, but in Oakland as a whole in my experience the most at-risk community is the Laotian-American community, because so many people were resettled to California from Laos in the 1970s without sufficient support to start a new life here, and so many Laotian-American families have struggled with poverty.

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

In relation to the school district, the biggest concerns for APAs are the same as for all students: some schools have concentrations of privilege while others have concentration of need; poor financial management at the district leads to waves of budget cuts; and high teacher turnover. If you are asking for concerns specific to the APA community, I would say services for long-term English Language Learners, language access for immigrant parents, and lack of APA visibility in the curriculum.

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 school board member, I would insist that as a sanctuary district, Oakland should include training on addressing anti-Asian stereotypes and bullying in our restorative justice trainings for staff, and that Asian Studies be included in the ethnic studies curriculum, as well as increased APA visibility throughout the curriculum.

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

No, as elected officials we will need to offer more opportunities for Asian and Pacific Americans to serve on committees, take prominent speaker roles in events, and connect them to other more experienced mentors from the community. I have been very lucky to be mentored throughout my campaign by David Kakishiba, former president of the school board, and would definitely suggest API parent leaders to get mentorship and assistance from him because his help has been invaluable to me.

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 am new to candidate politics as I was previously strongly identified with a 501(c)3 that did not endorse candidates. I did run on a slate for ADEMs in AD15 last year that included Alfred Twu, and also endorsed Alfred for Alameda County Central Committee this year.

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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