

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address \*

eliforoakland@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 \*

Elias J. Ferran

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, Ca 94605

What is your campaign website address?

www.eliforoakland.com

What is your campaign email address?

www.eliforoakland@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

[unclear] [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]

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've been a Democrat ever since I registered to vote when I turned 18. ....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I'm seeking the Caucus endorsement because our APA population has been growing but too often the community is left without allies in the halls of power. I want to be a partner and deliver better customer service to those who often don't have representation at city hall.

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

SEIU 1021, Alameda County Building Trades association, Supervisor Keith Carson, fmr. Assembly Member Sandre Swanson, and the Coalition for Police Accountability.

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've lived in Oakland for 14 years.

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

I received my B.A. in Sociology at Tennessee State University, an HBCU in 2001. I remained at Tennessee State University for an additional year to work on a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration where I was an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. I returned to Louisiana in 2002 to earn my Juris Doctorate degree at Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans. While attending law school, I had the opportunity to study law abroad in Brazil and in Europe.

Due to Hurricane Katrina, I moved to the Bay Area for the Fall semester of my final year and enrolled in classes at the University of San Francisco School of Law. In the Spring of 2006, I returned to Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans to finish my degree.

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

City of Oakland, Deputy City Attorney, 2008-2020 (June 30th), Self employed, Solo Practitioner March 2008 - September 2008, San Francisco District Attorney, Quality of Life Attorney, 6 months.

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

Charles Houston Bar Association  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.  
California Black Lawyers Association  
East Bay La Raza Bar Association  
Earl Warren American Inns of Court  
De Anza High School Law Academy (volunteer)

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

In this race, I am proud to be the labor candidate. My priorities put working families at the center, especially during these unprecedented times, when many are being crushed and further displaced by economic uncertainty.

As someone who served as Deputy City Attorney for almost 12 years, I had a front row seat to gaps and challenges within the office. As City Attorney, my first priority is to improve morale within our office and improve the working relationship of City Attorney staff by:

- Having an open door policy with all City Attorney employees.
- Personally meeting with the Labor Management Team Quarterly.
- Within 90 days of being elected, I will personally work with the Labor Management -Team to establish a written policy and procedure manual for attorneys and staff at the City Attorney's Office.
- Meet with every City Attorney employee within 90 days of being in office.

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 attended hundreds of community meetings during my tenure in the City Attorney's Office to resolve quality of life issues from illegal gambling, fire hazards, and code enforcement including through affirmative litigation which has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue for Oakland.

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

Approximately 15.7% of Oakland is of APA heritage according to the census.

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

Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino

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

The APA community as a whole is at risk of racism and harassment as a result of COVID-19. However there are different segments of the community such as Cambodian, Laotians, etc. who make a smaller portion but end up with worse outcomes because of the lack of resources provided to them.

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

Covid, public safety, and housing.

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 would file lawsuits and injunctions wherever possible to protect the APA community.

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

I think local government needs to do a better job of reaching out and collaborating with the APA community through its Chambers, local business districts, Bar associations, school organizations, places of worship, and community groups to get their direct insight on what their needs are and what solutions they'd prefer.

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'm not elected so I've never personally endorsed candidates but I have donated to Asm. Rob Bonta as well as supported Pelayo Llama for County Commissioner and have just finished filling out his questionnaire in support of him becoming an Alameda County Superior Court Judge.

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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