

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

Noel.Gallo@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 *

Noel Gallo

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94601

What is your campaign website address?

<https://www.noelgalloforoakland.com/>

What is your campaign email address?

Noel.Gallo@yahoo.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 Assembly, 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.

45+years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

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

Building Trades Council of Alameda County

SEIU Local 1021, #1 Choice

IFPTE Local 21

YIMBY Action

John George Democratic Club

Please go to: <https://www.noelgalloforoakland.com/> to see list as of September 2, 2020.

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 District 5 for over 60 years; raised my 4 children; I am a homeowner in the Fruitvale neighborhood

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

Graduated from UC Berkeley, Business Degree 1977; I have also taken have a number of professional certifications/trainings (budget, public policy, public ethics, race & equity)

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

City of Oakland - Oakland City Councilmember, District 5 (2012-present); City of Oakland - Oakland Parks & Recreation Agency - Parks Manager (2007-2011); East Side Union High School District - Director of General Services (2001-2007). I was also the elected District 5 Board of Education Director (1994-2012).

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 proud to share that I have been active volunteer in many District 5 community, non-profit organizations including: The Unity Council, Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation, La Clinica de la Raza, Native American Health Center, Lao Family Community Development Corporation, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, East Bay Youth Development Center and many others. My involvement and support of these and other Oakland based community organizations has been more than 5 years.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

- Experience - Experience-Experience

Additionally I have the knowledge of not only District 5 but the entire City of Oakland - its neighborhoods, businesses and industry sectors, and its community issues. I have budgetary, public policy, public ethics, and municipal government experience with direct 1st experience. Oakland needs responsible, experienced leadership to handle its COVID -19 Pandemic public health and economic recovery; expected budget deficits; and experience in preserving as well as creating economic development opportunities. I grew in East Oakland, raised my four children and have a strong and long-term network with many community residents, organizations and elected officials from various communities.

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

I strongly believe in a Clean, Safe and Healthy City for all. Not only do I volunteer each weekend for the past 12 years (Saturdays and Sundays) to work with community volunteers to beautify our neighborhoods, remove illegal dumping and directly address blight and homelessness related issues, I have advocated and sponsored legislation and funding to enhance public works; transportation improvements to increase pedestrian & bike safety; and promote comprehensive public safety services at the request of District 5 and other Oakland residents. I am supporting Measures RR; Measure S1; Measure QQ and Measure Y - all Oakland ballot measures.

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

up to 20 %

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

Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese

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

My district includes a large percentage of families that were refugees and immigrants from various APA communities, including Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian communities; they may have lived in Oakland for some time, however they experience: Language issues, crime, income inequality, and racism especially during this pandemic. This impacts housing, employment and quality of life.

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

In District 5 - affordable housing, crime against the person, small business support and employment opportunities are key issues.

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 have addressed by supporting an Oakland City Council Resolution, co-authored by Councilmember Sheng Thao in support of House Resolution 908, condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment related to COVID-19 and reaffirming Oakland's protection of Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities. I have spoken about the impacts with youth, community organizations, and have advocated for the API community with BART, AC Transit, OPD about the growing incidence of crimes against persons (robbery, assault, burglary, etc.) - which had increased especially near BART stations and bus stops.

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

The City of Oakland is a city of many ethnic communities and elected officials should be representative of these communities. As a person of color, I strongly believe in equity, partnerships amongst our various communities is very important to ensure fair representation and the equitable distribution of city, county and state resources. All elected officials should be held accountable to be representative of their constituents in commission appointments, district staffing and provide mentorship opportunities and support public policies that advance equity.

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 have endorsed Asian Pacific American candidates including: Sheng Thao, Oakland City Council; Jean Quan, Mayor, City Council and School Board; Rob Bonta for State of California State Assembly; Gary Yee, Oakland Board of Education; Betty T. Yee, California State Controller,

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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