

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

guntherjames@aol.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 *

James Gunther

City and zip code of residence.

Union City 94587

What is your campaign website address?

2726 Dowe Ave Union City CA

What is your campaign email address?

guntherjames@aol.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.

I recently changed from a Non-Desig to Democrat. I have served on the Board for many years now and have seen my views (environmental, labor, diversity, etc..) as far more Democrat than several of the registered Democrats on the Board so I decided to return to the Party. My first registration in 1978 was as a Democrat and remained so for many years.

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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I have strong ties to the Asian Community both in the Bay Area and throughout the Country. My wife is a Filipina and living in Union City I see how vibrant the Asian community is. The Asian Community needs a voice and I have been one of the voices now form many years.

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

ACWD Directors Judy Huang & Aziz Akbari, Union City Mayor Dutra-Vernaci, New Haven School Board Trustee Sharan Kaur, Fremont Council Teresa Keng. Others will be on Voters Edge.

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 from 1990 - 2002, then moved to Union City to present.

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

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 1981 B.S. Ocean Engineering. U.C. Berkeley Extension Certificate Hazardous Materials Management 1993

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

Transit America Services Inc. (Caltrain Operator) Rules Instructor, prior Train Crew Supervisor, 8 years, Amtrak (Caltrain Operator) Train Crew Supervisor 14 years, Amtrak Conductor 2 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.

Niles Canyon Railroad

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

Director Akbari and I are both working together in this race. We work well together and I feel it is important to send us back together. The most important thing an elected official can do is listen to everyone. We may not always agree but we need to listen. I truly believe this, and I see this same quality in Aziz as well. We also face an opponent who desires to almost double the existing service charge, speaks poorly of the staff, and does not support most of the environmental issues facing the District today.

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

I want to see our Fish Passage Projects completed. Back in 1997 Threaten Steelhead were identified in Alamada Creek and we had to make a decision. I chose to not ignore or fight the issue, but seize it head on and work with the Regulators rather than against them and thus get the best deal for both the District and the Environment. I have carried this position and advocated for it since then.

While the project has taken too long, not due to the District, it has resulted in over \$21M in grant money to the District to help offset the cost and the various projects are almost complete today.

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

Union City 55%, Fremont 58%, Newark 32%

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

Chinese, Indian, Filipino

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

The Indian community probably gets the most discrimination, Chinese are well established. The Filipino community probably has the largest undocumented immigrant community. We need to ensure that not one group is left out at the expense of another. The communities diversity and differences must be a strength not a weakness.

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

The high cost of Housing. Traffic concerns through out the District. Rising homeless populations in the Tri-City area effecting both the homeless and the adjacent local communities.

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?

Back in January I flew to and back from the Philippines, my wife returned in February. I my wife and I flew through Taiwan my in-laws flew via Hong Kong. The last restaurant my wife and I visited before the lock down was HK Top in Union City.

Luckily I haven't witnessed any of the verbal or physical attacks that have been reported because if I did the outcome would not have been pleasant. But I would gladly offer assistance if you know of a situation where it might be needed or useful. I have little tolerance to that type of ignorant behavior.

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

In the Tri-city area the Asian and Pacific Americans have a strong representation both first hand with multiple candidates and offices, and also through others with their partners Asian and Pacific American families like myself.

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.

ACWD Directors Huang, Akbari, & Sethy. U.C. Council Gacoscos, Singh, New Haven School Board Kaur, Nishihira, Canias, Cheema, Fremont City Council Teng, former council member Cho and now candidate Yogi Chugh. Union Sanitary District Lathi, Fernandez, may have left out a few.

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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