

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

wayne@wayneformayor.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 *

Wayne Hsiung

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley, 94710

What is your campaign website address?

wayneformayor.com

What is your campaign email address?

wayne@wayneformayor.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.

Twenty years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I seek the Caucus's endorsement because I want to partner to make Berkeley a model for the kind of society we need everywhere: an inclusive city that provides housing for all, brings its carbon emissions down to net zero, and divests from the industries that are compromising the future of every living thing on earth. We call it the Green New City. Our aim is to end homelessness within 10 years, reach net zero GHG emissions within five years, transform our police department into a public safety force, and pass a wealth tax on the ultra-rich. We want a political system — and city government — built on empathy rather than power and profit.

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

Please see my endorsements here: <https://www.wayneformayor.com/supporters>

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 Berkeley since April 2016.

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

I received my BA (2001) and JD (2006) from the University of Chicago. I was also a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at MIT from 2001-2002.

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

Co-Founder and Partner, Current Law Group (2014 - present)
Corporate Associate, DLA Piper LLP (2012-2014)
Litigation Associate, Steptoe & Johnson LLP (2010-2012)

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

Climate Defense Project, Member, Board of Directors
Direct Action Everywhere (DxE), co-founder
Compassionate Bay, co-founder

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

First, I am taking public financing, while the mayor has opted for the private option. Unlike the incumbent, then, I am not taking any money from corporations or PACs, which means that I will be free to be fully accountable to the people and the community.

Second, I have a more robust understanding than the incumbent of issues surrounding our food system and the urgency of switching from animal to plant agriculture -- for our health and safety and the mitigation of future pandemics, for the environment, and for the interests of the animals themselves.

Third, on just about every issue, I am more willing to take the bold action our time requires. The incumbent is a fair-minded and decent person, but his vision for Berkeley is modest, incremental, and risk averse. He is a career politician who is reluctant to rock the boat, and who, I suspect, is careful to protect his political future. That is not good enough for this moment. We're in the midst of a global pandemic, with climate shocks right around the corner, and we're in a region that is leading the world in the acceleration of economic inequality. We need transformative leadership just to survive, let alone thrive. Berkeley, of all places, should be demonstrating to the world how to build a green economy that puts human needs before corporate profits, and that flattens economic inequality as both an end in itself and also as a tool for achieving that resiliency.

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

I provided key leadership in making Berkeley only the second city in the United States (after West Hollywood) to ban the sale of fur in 2017, which was followed by bans in San Francisco (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/03/20/san-francisco-fur-sales-ban/444519002>) and the state of California (<https://theintercept.com/2019/07/10/california-fur-ban-bill-opponents/>).

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

8.4%, based on the 2010 census.

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

Chinese, Japanese, and Tibetan.

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

Probably the Tibetan community, for whom affordable housing is a very pressing issue.

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

Housing

Education

Inclusivity

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?

We need to openly confront anti-Asian sentiment, and we want to create political norms that challenge implicit bias against Asian people within our community.

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

No, I do not. We have been left out of policies for far too long. I'll be the first Chinese Mayor of Berkeley, and I will expand opportunities for Asian and Pacific Americans - both by cultural influence and by making sure we get Asian individuals in positions of power.

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.

Endorsements have not been part of my political career thus far, given that I have been a grassroots activist.

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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