

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

derreck@Johnsonforoakland.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 *

Derreck Johnson

City and zip code of residence.

94612

What is your campaign website address?

Johnsonforoakland.com

What is your campaign email address?

info@johnsonforoakland.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.

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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I'm a proud Democrat and third generation Oaklander. One of Oakland's greatest qualities and strengths is our diversity. And one of the reasons I decided to run for this office is my strong belief in the need to bring more diverse voices to the table at City Hall. I'm a gay Black man who grew up in public housing. I'm proud to be building a diverse coalition in support of my campaign for City Council at Large and would be honored to bring the APA Democratic Caucus into this coalition.

I'm also running for this office because I believe this unique moment demands a leader who understands the struggles of Oakland's most vulnerable and has a proven ability to transform lives. My mom raised me in the Acorn projects in West Oakland. She worked three jobs so I could succeed. Thanks to a strong extended family, I graduated college and became an entrepreneur. The restaurant I started in Jack London Square has employed hundreds of Oaklanders. Most are formerly incarcerated people, folks who nobody would give a second chance. I have served Oakland from many perspectives, helping nonprofits, foundations, and City programs make a difference in Oakland. Now I'm ready to go to City Hall, to help lead a COVID-19 recovery that leaves nobody behind, bring real reform to our police department, build affordable housing, and tackle homelessness. I'd be honored to have the APA Democratic Caucus' support in this campaign.

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

Kamala Harris-Senator

Betty Yee- State Controller

Libby Schaaf-Mayor of Oakland

Buffy Wicks-State Assemblywoman

Nate Miley-Alameda County Supervisor

<https://www.johnsonforoakland.com/endorsements>

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?

The seat that I'm seeking includes all of Oakland. I have lived in Oakland over 50 years.

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

Fisk University, -BA in Business (1986)

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

Owner/Founder of Oakland Home and Chicken and Waffle since 2004.

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've served Oakland from many perspectives—helping nonprofits, foundations, and City programs make a difference in Oakland. I've worked to reduce violence through the Khadafy Washington Foundation for Non-Violence and oversaw violence prevention funding on the City's Measure Y Committee. I've overseen critical employment and job training programs that create opportunity for Oaklanders through my work on the City's Workforce Development Board. And I've provided scholarships to low-income youth through the Summit Bank Foundation. I also served on the Cannabis Commission for the City of Oakland.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

What I will bring to this seat if elected is real world experience and perspective. As a small business owner who has employed and created jobs in Oakland for over 30 years, I understand how legislation directly affects people in their everyday lives. I don't have to hear anecdotal stories to connect to the current crisis we face in Oakland; I have lived it. I've made tough decisions as a small business man and as a Black man who grew up in the projects, I know what it's like to live in poverty and to have a fear of law enforcement. I believe I am uniquely positioned to help bridge the differences between our diverse communities, between Black and Brown people and law enforcement, and bring people together to lead a COVID and economic recovery that leaves nobody behind.

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

While over the years, I have created hundreds of jobs, I'm most proud of the fact that 70 percent of my employees are formerly incarcerated people, folks who nobody would give a second chance until I did. Nothing inspires me more than helping turn someone's life around, and seeing them get that first paycheck, that first apartment, or even that college degree. This has been one of the most satisfying aspects I've come away with in my years of running a business. And I believe we should attempt to model this type of program--providing second chances via job opportunities to formerly incarcerated people--via other businesses throughout the city, and I would be proud and eager to lead that effort at City Hall.

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

The Oakland-at-Large Seat covers all of Oakland. The percentage for this is 16.1%

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

(1)Chinese, (2) Vietnamese (3) Filipino

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

Even in progressive Oakland, the racial animus emanating from Washington DC--namely the president and his enablers repeatedly referring to the coronavirus as "the China virus"--has had an impact. Business and commerce in Chinatown and other neighborhoods have been impacted and we have seen several incidents of public xenophobia and hatred during this pandemic..

Vietnamese Americans- The Eastlake Area in particular faces poverty and some neighbors have fears of deportation. These fears lead to avoiding things like signing up for Medi-Cal, CalFresh, etc.

Disproportionate levels of poverty and a lack of language access can also lead to less opportunity and lower employment rates.

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

1. Safety for the Elderly Asian Community
 2. Business Development for the Chinatown Community
 3. Equal representation at the City Council and in government
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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 a candidate, I have held listening sessions with diverse groups from throughout our city. I don't have the public platform of an elected official yet, but when I do, I would speak out on this issue actively and publicly, in press conferences and community events, and do all that I can to spread awareness and provide the support our Oakland Asian-American community needs to get through this difficult time. I

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

I don't believe that the APA community is adequately represented in local government, in much of the same way that African Americans are not represented enough in local government. Increasing diversity in city government is part of why I am running. I'm a Black third generation Oaklander who is in love with my city. I've shown my commitment to Oakland through leadership for various Oakland nonprofits, foundations, and the City itself. I am committed to appointing more African American, Asian and LGBTQ+ people to boards because I believe their voices are essential to ensure that the people making decisions at all levels of City government are considering many different outlooks and perspectives. In order to truly make progress, we must feature diversity as the centerpiece of the table.

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.

No. I have never been asked for my endorsement from any APA elected official. I was a supporter of Jean Quan and I'm endorsed by Betty Yee.

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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