

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

info@xavierjohnson.vote

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 *

Xavier Johnson

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley, 94709

What is your campaign website address?

www.xavierjohnson.vote

What is your campaign email address?

info@xavierjohnson.vote

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.

For at least 7 years since I have been in California, and I believe since I turned 18 in Texas as well, but I cannot remember for sure.
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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the caucus' endorsement because I believe communities of color have to work together to address systemic racism and economic inequality across the East Bay and in the United States. So many of the injustices that affect the African and African American community also actually impact APA community as well.

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

Mayor Jesse Arreguin, SEIU 1021, Berkeley Tenants Union, Councilmember Lori Droste, James Chang, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board Commissioner

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 the City of Berkeley for 7 years.

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

I attended the University of Texas at San Antonio and received a B.A. in Sociology, as well as Law School at UC Berkeley, and received a J.D.

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

Legal Fellow, Centro Legal de la Raza, 2 years; Congressional Aide, Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee, 2 years; Intern, Grassroots Change, 1 year

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

East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club, Sierra Club, Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission, East Bay Young Democrats

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have worked closely with community groups within the City of Berkeley and I spend every day in my job at Centro Legal representing low income tenants at the Oakland Rent Adjustment program. I am one of maybe two total candidates who actually has experience practicing in the area of law that the Rent Board operates in. I have represented more than 100 tenants and successfully challenged more than 1 million dollars worth of illegal rent increases. I also recognize that as stewards of the laws, the Rent Board must understand that we need to make sure people have access to tools to understand how the laws operate in the City of Berkeley. The most difficult cases at the Rent Board that I have represented in usually involve property owners who do not know the law, who do not have legal representation, and who continue to violate the law mostly out of ignorance or a lack of access to explanations in formats they can understand.

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 worked hard in the City of Berkeley to push for more funding to address the housing crisis to protect renters, to produce more housing, and to preserve the affordable housing we have in place. I have supported and worked on Measures U1, Measure O, and Measure P within the City of Berkeley to provide additional financial investment in addressing homelessness and building more affordable housing.

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

19.1%

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

Chinese, Asian Indian, Korean

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

I would say the most at risk APA community members would revolve around lower-income APA community members, and renters who do not have the financial asset of a home. These groups are going to be subject to the most challenges within the City of Berkeley.

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

The incredible costs of housing, loss of income due to COVID-19, and concern about the growing climate and environmental crisis.

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 believe racism is something we all have to work together to address, and whenever I encounter it I try to work from the standpoint of what would I want done if African Americans encounter racism. As a candidate I will address this by aggressively speaking out against racism when it occurs, by actively and intentionally working to bring diverse community groups to the table, and by ensuring that all people have access to get information from their government regardless of their race, ethnicity, or the languages that they speak.

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

I do not believe Asian and Pacific Americans are adequately represented, and I think if we just started encourage the APA campaign staff and council staff who have worked to support a number of candidacies to actually become candidates themselves we wouldn't have such a shortage of representation.

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.

Jane Kim for Mayor and State Senate, Christina Murphy for Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board, Sheng Thao for Oakland City Council (also supported Pam Harris as well for the seat), Kamala Harris for California Senator, James Chang for Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board, Alfred Twu for ADEM District 15, Rigel Robinson Berkeley City Council,

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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