

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

kaplanforoakland@gmail.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 *

Rebecca Kaplan

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94607

What is your campaign website address?

www.KaplanforOakland.org

What is your campaign email address?

kaplan4Oakland@gmail.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.

12 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

It has been my honor to work together with you to achieve vital community interests, including supporting APA leadership and advancement. As I now face an important re-election, I would deeply appreciate having your endorsement, to support our continued work, to improve air quality, support our small/local businesses, protect workers, improve affordable housing, and continue to ensure that all in our community, including our APA members, are fully involved in leadership and decision-making.

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

California Nurses Association, Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, Sierra Club, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Councilmembers Sheng Thao, Nikki Bas.

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?

22 years

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

Bachelor's degree from MIT, major in psychology, minor in women's studies.
M.A. from Tufts University in Urban and Environmental Policy
J.D. from Stanford Law School

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

Oakland City Councilmember At-Large
Boardmember, Alameda County Transportation Commission
Boardmember, Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Bible Teacher
State Assembly Legislative Aide

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

ACLU, Kehilla Synagogue, community cleanups and tree planting efforts with varied groups.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have a track record of successful accomplishment of important results for our communities and advancing our shared values. This includes my ability to move important efforts through Council and build coalitions to pass important legislation and budget actions. This includes, for example, fighting for and winning funding to help and support our local businesses in response to the COVID pandemic, providing funding through our ethnic chambers of commerce, expanding affordable housing funding and acquisition of dorms and hotels to help house the homeless. I have won funding for Oakland's communities for pedestrian safety improvements, upgrades to clean the air with better engines for trucks, trains and cranes, and improved transit, including the free Broadway shuttle. This session, I was the lead author of a successful measure to provide independent oversight of police misconduct issues, and a measure to allow youth, aged 16 & 17 to vote in local school board elections, encouraging civic participation and expanding our democracy. Both of these items passed the Council unanimously, and have strong grassroots community support. This term, I was unanimously elected Council President by my colleagues, and am the first Council President to assign a Committee Chair position to every Council member, thus providing collaborative leadership that welcomes everyone's contributions.

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

One of the challenges that has faced Oakland, and other cities, is the reliance on only police officers to respond to calls for people facing mental health needs. Mental health calls end up taking a significant amount of police time and money, which is then not available to fight serious crime -- and people with mental health needs often don't receive meaningful help. By sending someone with a gun -- but not with mental health training -- to respond to mental health calls - situations often go badly, people end up hurt or killed, and it is costly for our community. I brought my science and research skills to this issue, and I explored better solutions being used in other communities -- to provide trained civilian mental health responders for those needs. I worked together with community and my colleagues to propose and win funding in the Oakland budget, to design and launch a program of providing trained civilian mental health responders -- to better meet these important needs. For more, see eg: <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2019/7/1/20677523/mental-health-police-cahoots-oregon-oakland-sweden>

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

Oakland is reported to be 16.1% of APA heritage. In addition, it possibly could be higher, due to under-counting of the APA community, etc.

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

Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino

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

Our APA community is broad and diverse, and includes people of many different nationalities, and of different levels of income and education. In some cases, those who are of lower income are particularly at risk, including risk of displacement and challenges with affordable housing.

Some of our recently-arrived APA community members are at increased risk, including those who do not have documentation, with expanded risk due to the hateful activities of ICE and the Trump Administration, which have subjected APA members to wrongful threats of deportation. In this COVID pandemic and related issues, there have been increased hate crimes directed against APA community members, as well as increased struggles facing small businesses, and workers who are deemed "essential" but who may not be receiving adequate protections.

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

Affordable housing, need for support for small business and local economic opportunity, concern about being targeted for crime including hate crime.

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?

Yes, I have denounced hate crimes and worked together to help protect our APA community, and to speak out against racist hate. I recognize also that from the top of the Federal government, messages of hate are being encouraged, to deflect blame and encourage scapegoating. I am aware of the dangers of this kind of targeting, and will continue to be in support and solidarity against hate and attacks.

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

It is vitally important that Asian and Pacific Americans be fully included and represented at all levels in our government, and I recognize that the levels of representation have not been sufficient. I have worked personally and directly, to support, hire, promote, encourage, endorse, vote for, and help to win -- for local APA representation in elected office, as well as in Boards and Commissions.

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.

Yes, I have worked actively and directly, to provide opportunities and support to expand Asian Pacific American candidates, including through hiring, mentorship, direct campaign support, endorsements, and more. Together, we successfully helped elect Council member Sheng Thao to Oakland City Council District 4. In addition, I have supported other APA leaders, including Phong La, Betty Yee, Danny Wan, Lily Mei

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.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms