

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

andykelley@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 *

Andy Kelley

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley 94702

What is your campaign website address?

www.andykelley.org

What is your campaign email address?

andykelley@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, District Director, Area 2

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.

15 plus years since I moved to Berkeley and registered with the Cal Berkeley Democrats to support Barack Obama in the primary!
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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

The APA Caucus is an important ally and stakeholder in Alameda County. I want to earn your support to help reach your communities and also to be accessible as an ally and advocate for the APA community if elected. I've been honored to receive the APA Caucus endorsement 4 times for Alameda County Democratic Central Committee previously and would be honored to earn your endorsement again as I seek public office for the first time.

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

Controller Betty Yee, Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Councilmember Rigel Robinson, Councilmember Dianne Martinez, Alameda Labor Council

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?

15 years

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

University of California Berkeley, BA in Political Economics of Industrialized Society, minor in Public Policy.

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

California League of Conservation Voters, Communications Director, 4 years. Democracy for America, Online Programs Manager 2 years, Courage Campaign, Digital Organizer 3 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.

Sierra Club (8 year board member), Alameda County Democratic Party (10 year board member), East Bay Young Democrats (10 year board member and past President), East Bay Stonewall Democrats, League of Women Voters, Alameda County Planning Commissioner, Berkeley Public Works Commissioner and past Chair.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I'm running with broad community support and a track record of serving our city.

I served on our Public Works Commission for 5 years and have been very active in civic activities. Many of our opponents have not been involved in the city and are running out of a financial motive to profit from serving on the Rent Board. I'm running to be an advocate for renters and homeowners to have their right to affordable, safe housing preserved.

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

Homelessness and lack of housing are major issues in Berkeley. In 2018 I was Co-Chair of the Measure O&P campaign which raised \$135 million for affordable housing and homelessness prevention services. It was a very difficult measure to pass at the 2/3 level and required mobilizing a broad and diverse coalition, but it was necessary and our efforts are paying off with expanded programs and new housing opportunities.

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

The City of Berkeley as a whole is approximately 19% APA, but UC Berkeley students are 43 percent APA or South Asian. Rent Board has a role in representing both long term residents as well as our current student populations who are some of the most impacted individuals by rent and housing regulations.

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

Chinese, Indian, Korean for the city; South Asian, Chinese and Korean for the University.

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

Undocumented immigrants throughout the APA community are among the most vulnerable as predatory landlords may target them thinking they will not be able to access support or legal protections. (Berkeley is a sanctuary City so this is not true, but it is a common practice.)

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

Homelessness, access to affordable housing, improving infrastructure and public safety particularly around wildfires.

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 Central Committee Member I have spoken out publicly against incidents of hate in our community. I have also made it a habit to check in with APA elected officials in the cities I represent to offer support and encouragement while they are confronting these actions head on.

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

Not currently. There are currently 4 APA elected officials in Berkeley out of 23. But that is under represented especially considering the diversity of the APA community. As an individual i have supported many APA candidates for election and commission appointments, as an elected official I will continue to do so. We are about to redistrict and I think considering support for the APA community as part of that process is key. But the most important thing is to be accessible and open to meeting with and creating space for the APA community to share concerns with me and act to support in the ways that I can as a commissioner in the future, while working to improve representation over time.

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.

Betty Yee, Dianne Martinez, Malia Vella, Rigel Robinson, Gabe Quinto, Sheng Thao, James Chang, Shawn Kumagai, Jane Kim (who have all endorsed my campaign), Aimee Eng, Phong La, John Chiang, Fiona Ma, Rob Bonta, Mia Bonta, Debbie Watanuki, Jamie Yee, Lena Tam, Malia Vella, Raj Salwan, Yogi Chugh, Anu Natarajan, Lance Kwan, Jamie Salcido, Mark Takano.

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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