

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

popelawrence4ousd@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 *

Sheila Pope Lawrence

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94602

What is your campaign website address?

popelawrence.com

What is your campaign email address?

popelawrence4ousd@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

[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.

40 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I'm seeking your endorsement because I know that there is a large APA population in district 5 and I would like to have your organization's expertise in addressing the needs of the community.

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

Incumbent Rosie Torres, Director Gonzales D6, Planned Parenthood, Black Young Dems of East Bay,

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?

25 years

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

Reseda HS 1983 diploma, Holy Names University BA Spanish & Psychology 1983, University of LaVerne MS School Counseling 2001, St. Mary's College MA Educational Leadership 2006

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

Asst. Director, Eden Area ROP in Hayward 3 yrs. School Counselors

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

Catholic Charities, SSC @ UFSA

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

The strengths that I will bring are multiple lenses because I am a parent, I am currently working in schools to address the challenges of COVID 19 that our families are facing, and I have a proven record of collaborative leadership that has led to sound solutions. As an educator of 29 years, I've worked at all levels as a bilingual-teacher, school counselor, and administrator.

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

One issue that I am passionate about is keeping our neighborhoods clean and safe. In my district I helped to organize the neighbors to get petitions signed so that safety bumps and stop signs were added to our block.

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

Close to 10% based on last census and the information that APA provided

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

Oakland District 5 has a diversity of ethnicities that originate from across China. The second largest group originates from Vietnam.

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

Our most at risk APA population are our students who are migrants and new arrivals. Too often this community has little access to adequate translation services in our school system or the wrap around services they deserve to succeed. I will direct more resources to serve high needs students and improve our schools to be safe, clean and welcoming environments for our students and families

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

Our campaign has engaged with hundreds of Asian Pacific American voters and families in District 5 who are concerned with the status of school sites, quality of education and school safety. I have the experience and leadership skills required to address these issues directly.

I will work to Improve all school sites. A key function of the school-board is to make sure every school site is clean, safe and welcoming for all students. These improvements to school environments are essential for the health and well-being of our students, parents, teachers and surrounding communities. This will improve OUSD enrollment that will increase revenue that can be used to make further improvements.

We must prepare our students to compete globally and thrive in tomorrow's ever changing world. This means prioritizing student educational needs -- improving student literacy, increasing STEAM programs, creating smaller class sizes and providing more counseling services to get students into colleges and onto careers. We must create more CTE pathways and expand vocational education starting at an earlier age to promote student interest and readiness for careers.

If elected I will empower our diverse communities. We need leadership to be a voice for people often unheard and overlooked. This means working closely with students, teachers and families to address specific needs within our community. Our schools must provide better services for students who are English learners and expand culturally relevant curriculum. Research shows Ethnic Studies plays an important role in the development of students of color and improves academic achievement. As a bilingual teacher and school counselor I have seen first hand that when students identify with the material they are taught their academic retention increases.

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?

My top priority is to ensure that school sites are safe, clean and welcoming environments for students and families. This is only possible if we take specific measures to protect and serve our Asian Pacific American community. I have the experience necessary to prevent racist harassment, bullying and attacks towards our API students and families. For example, I created programs that reduced bullying with improved training of school-staff and teachers. We must expand Restorative/Transformative Justice programs by investing in counselors and training programs for school-staff. These types of programs proven to make schools safer by reducing behavior problems.

When I was in school, I was teased and bullied for being a tall, dark-skinned Black girl who spoke differently from other kids and wore glasses. What allowed me to persevere was being surrounded by a community of career adults that believed in me and gave me the attention I needed to succeed. If elected to the school board I will increase student support services, and put programs in place that increase school safety and reduce behavioral problems such as bullying.

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 don't believe that they are adequately represented in local government. Be vocal in supporting Asian & Pacific Americans when they run for office.

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.

I voted for Jean Quan and Wilma Chan in previous elections.

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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