

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire East County

Email address *

klmokashi@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 *

Kelly Mokashi

City and zip code of residence.

Pleasanton, 94566

What is your campaign website address?

www.voteKellyPUSD.com

What is your campaign email address?

klmokashi@gmail.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of Dublin Mayor
- City of Dublin City Council
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 1
- City of Dublin, Unified School District Trustee, Area 4
- City of Livermore, Mayor
- City of Livermore, City Council, Dist. 3
- City of Livermore, Unified School District
- City of Pleasanton, Mayor
- City of Pleasanton, City Council
- City of Pleasanton, Unified School District Trustee
- AC Board of Supervisors, District 1
- AD 16, State Assembly Representative
- 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.

My entire life- 1990

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I would be honored for the consideration of the Caucus's endorsement not only as a Democrat, but I have a bi-racial family - my husband is from India and I have three children who are bi-racial- I advocate for all of our children's voices to be heard - representing all racial, cultural and ethnic backgrounds- and I am teaching my children to embrace their unique cultural heritage- I embrace these core values and beliefs as a PUSD candidate as well.-

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

Valerie Arkin, Trustee of the PUSD School Board, Mark Miller, Trustee of the PUSD School Board, Karla Brown, Pleasanton City Council Member, The Tri Valley Democratic Club, Donalyn Harris, Parent, Pleasanton community member. Please check out my website for additional endorsements- www.votekellypusd.com

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?

2 3/4 years

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

Rutgers University, NJ, Masters in Education, Administration 2005, Houston Baptist University, TX, Masters in Curriculum/Technology, 2001, Simpson College, IA, Bachelors in Art Education, 1990

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

TKL (TeachnKidsLearn, Inc.) Curriculum Developer/Course Facilitator, 10 years, contract work with QSky.Inc, Curriculum Developer for Chinese students learning English as a 2nd language, 1 year (contract work)RODS (Racing for Orphans with Down Syndrome), Executive Director, 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.

Troop 910 Boy Scouts of America, Troop 911 Boy Scouts of America, Art in Action Volunteer for Walnut Grove Elementary (PUSD), RODS (Racing for Orphans for Down syndrome), Reece's Rainbow Special Needs Adoption Support

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am the only candidate that has 10 years of eLearning curriculum experience as a online curriculum developer/course facilitator, I know what it takes to keep learners motivated with eLearning instruction (both in practice and pedagogy), I have a double masters in Education (admin and curriculum), I have 3 children actively enrolled in the district, I am the only candidate with over 15 years experience working in districts nationwide - professional development training and implementation specialist working with educators and administrators on reform change. I have a bi-racial family that represents multiple ethnicities (Asian Indian American/White). I also have Executive Leadership experience, as serving as an Executive Director for a nonprofit- My education experience and leadership experience provides a broad background that makes me a unique PUSD candidate.

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

Cultural responsiveness is a nationwide initiative that has become a movement in the education sector over the past few years. I have over 2 years of experience working as a content course professional developer to overhaul professional development in districts to help their teachers become more aware of implicit biases, 'whiteness' and racial disparities with instructional practices and with their own curriculum. I am very passionate about this initiative and is part of my campaign platform as well.

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

29.5 % in Pleasanton

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

Chinese & Asian Indian, others are small percentages (i.e. Korean)

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

Although it seems that the Asian Indian and Chinese subgroups have their own strong networks, I do think some of the other subgroups are at greater risk (i.e. Korean) due to their smaller percentages. That said, I think all subgroups of the APA community are at-risk to a degree (i.e. unintentional biases from peers/and from others)

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

I can only speak on my own behalf, which would include 1) continue to advocate for mutual respect of the diversity of all of our students including school activities and appropriate professional development and resources for our teachers, 2) due to the significant changes of demographics in the school district in recent years, it does not always translate into updates to represent the diversity in all curricula (math, science, in addition to ELA/history, literature, etc.), 3)- provide additional student/peer resources and awareness about bullying of students of minority

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?

Ongoing communication with PUSD, the Police department, and the city of Pleasanton is essential, including seminars, trainings, presentations with parents/community members to bring about awareness as well - resources to equip community members, residents, and the school community to help diffuse and prevent these types of situations.

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

I think there are always opportunities for improvement for more diversity with local government- Elected officials need to continue to embrace diversity through their actions, involvement with diverse organizations and by encouraging Asian and Pacific Americans for their participation in school, city, and other local initiatives and programs.

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.

NONE, I am new to the Pleasanton PUSD community.

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 East County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 17 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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