

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address \*

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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 \*

Kristina Molina

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland, 94621

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What is your campaign website address?

[www.votekristinamolina.com](http://www.votekristinamolina.com)

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What is your campaign email address?

[votekristinamolina@gmail.com](mailto:votekristinamolina@gmail.com)

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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.

Over 20 years. ....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the APA Caucus endorsement because I want to be an ally to the APA community in OUSD who have been highly silencing due to the lack of disaggregation of the Asian demographic data into specific ethnicities. I am also seeking the APA Caucus endorsement because I have been an activist for 20 years working with communities of color. I also grew up in a school environment where it was equal parts APA, Black, and Brown and I have seen our APA population decreasing in East Oakland's public schools.

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

Oakland Rising Action, Plan Parenthood Mar Monte, Alameda County Assessor Phong La, OUSD Vice President Trustee Shanthi Gonzalez, and OUSD Trustee Rosie Torres.

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 flatlands of East Oakland for 35 years and three years in D7.

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

I have attended Melrose Elementary (1986), Calvin Simmons Jr. High (1989), Fremont High School (1992), UC Berkeley (in the process of obtaining BA in the Arts with Departmental Honors), CaDolfin University and Universita per Stranieri (1996, study abroad language program in Italy), and Peralta Colleges (successful completion of courses in psychology, math, and research methods).

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

Communications Coordinator for Alameda County Assessor's Office Phong La (4/2019-present), President of Coop Producciones Arcoiris LLC (2/2019-present).

Program Manager/Counselor/Advocate for Bay Area Women Against Rape (3/2006-11/2017).

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

Bay Area Women Against Rape, Parent Voices of Oakland, Bay Area Wilderness Training, Prospera Coops, Emerge, Emily's List, Sierra Club (clearcutting campaign), and Howard Elementary School Site Committee.

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am honored to run as the next District 7 Oakland School Board Trustee. I am a proud mother of four OUSD students, two who are special learners, and the daughter of California farmworkers that were unionized by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. As a resident of East Oakland for over 35 years, I attended Melrose Elementary, Calvin Simmons Junior High, and Fremont High School. As a youth mentor, I fought for the well-being of our most vulnerable children, including trafficked and sexually exploited students. I believe that a student's report card is a direct indicator of a child's mental, emotional, and physical well-being. We must begin to see F's and D's as a cry for help. I am calling for full transparency and accountability of the OUSD budget to address the issues of education inequity, racial segregation, privatization, special education, recidivism, sexism, homophobia, immigration status, and teacher attrition.

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

Children in the flatlands of East Oakland continue to be exploited by a racist system that ignores their cries for help. Most of the schools in District 7 are classified as highly stressed or stressed areas, meaning that they are high in environmental stress factors such as violent crime, unemployment, illegal dumping, poor air quality, and food insecurity. I plan to establish a First Responders Team at OUSD. The team will have the responsibility to attend to students who are not succeeding academically, who are showing adverse behavior, developing a substance abuse disorder, absent, or harming other peers. The team would be responsible for investigating what or who is hindering the student's success and providing the necessary wrap-around services they need to heal, learn, and thrive. I have been an activist for 20 years helping children heal from all forms of violence. I have worked collectively with Alameda County's non-profits to provide a web of support to survivors along with critical resources and extensive advocacy for more than a decade.

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

APA students in public schools range from 5% to 1% in the 14 public and 7 charter schools in D7.

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

Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. School data combines Asians and Pacific Islanders into one group which does not allow analysis by specific Asian ethnicities. To more fully understand the situation of Asian students, the Asian category should be disaggregated into specific ethnicities.

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

Arabic-Speaking students have reported that 66.6% of them experience physical bullying, which is above the district average and they also have the lowest literacy rates. Also, APA English Language Learner students are most-at-risk because parents are not receiving equitable information about their children's education due to lack of translation services in all of the APA home languages.

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

1) Low literacy rates and lack of targeted literacy work that brings culturally-relevant stories that uplift and celebrate APA students. I support AB331, introduced by Assemblymember Rob Bonta, that will mandate ethnic studies.

2) APA students suffer from bullying, bias, and discrimination. 58.5% of the Asian American student population surveyed by Oakland youth-centered community non-profits do not feel safe and protected while they are at school. Alarmingly, only 58.7% of the APA population would report to faculty and staff that they are being bullied or harmed. This raises the concerns of the number of unreported incidents and the lack of opportunities to restore justice and address trauma. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased hate crimes against the APA community. This has worried many students about what they might encounter when they return to school.

3) Cultural conflicts and double standards are barriers to attain education because APA women are more likely to be discouraged to pursue an education. This leads to low literacy rates, low retention, and high dropout rates.

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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?

Lift up the stories, experiences, and histories of our APA students to inform and create empowering, safe, supportive, and inclusive community schools. Make sure that when school reopens that this issue is addressed in the first week of school and that there is zero-tolerance for verbal and physical attacks against APA students.

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

The AAPI is not well-represented in District 7. As a result, their interests and needs are not addressed by past leadership. This creates a continuing disparity in education, income, and health. Despite the fact that the AAPI population is composed of numerous, diverse ethnic groups that have originated from 50 different countries and use over 100 languages, the dominant research literature tends to aggregate these groups together, often masking important differences and disparities within and between groups.

AAPIs are continually portrayed as being a successful minority, a misleading narrative that ignores their diversity and complexity of other racial groups. Until we are able to disaggregate the Asian category, we will continue to disservice APAs at OUSD as the "Model Minority" stereotype racializes APAs, rendering them as the "Invisible American" even though they are 6,000 APA students in OUSD and more in Charter schools. We can begin with language translation to support the parents of OUSD students to help us understand their needs. In doing so, we will need to first disaggregate the AAPI data in District 7.

The OUSD should include values prevalent to the students' cultures into their teaching curriculum. For example, we may be able to better engage the AAPI students through ethnic studies curriculum to help them enrich and embrace their cultures in their education.

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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 have personally endorsed Alameda County Assessor Phong La. Assessor La is the first Vietnamese American to hold the office of the assessor. I volunteered for his campaign as a field coordinator for East Oakland and Berkeley. I am also in support of Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Supervisor Wilma Chan, Oakland Councilmember Sheng Thao, Councilmember Nikky Bas Fortunato, Berkeley Councilmember Rigel Robinson, Peralta College Vice-president Trustee Cindi Napoli-Abella Reiss, Council-Member At Large Raj Salwan. As part of the Emerge sisterhood, I also support Fiona Ma.

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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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