

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

tringo@votetri.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 *

Tri Ngo

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94608

What is your campaign website address?

votetri.com

What is your campaign email address?

tringo@votetri.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 Assembly, 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.

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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

My campaign is focused on ensuring all voices are heard, which means focusing on underrepresented voices. I am the only Asian-American candidate in this race and hope to represent the interests of Asian-Americans and all underrepresented voices in Oakland.

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

None thus far. While we are seeking endorsements, our campaign's focus is to reach out to individuals rather than groups. We are creating a local government accountable to ALL people.

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?

Four Years

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

BS, M. Eng. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science - MIT - 2007

PhD Biomedical Engineering - Johns Hopkins University - 2020

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

Enphase Energy, Engineering Consultant , 11 months

Best Beverage Catering, Bartender, 6 months

Tesla, Senior Firmware Engineer, 4 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.

Formed a team that is creating an online liquid democracy voting platform.

North Oakland Restorative Justice Council

East Bay Community Law Center

Oakland Catholic Worker

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am different because I am focused on expanding participation and engagement in local government in order to create real change. I do this by 1) Limiting campaign contributions to \$35/person to ensure equal representation. 2) I will also create an online voting platform to enable residents to weigh in on council votes.

Additionally, my background as a refugee, growing up in inner city Philadelphia and Atlanta, then eventually getting degrees from MIT and Johns Hopkins inform my principles and commitment to ensuring Oakland is a city of Love and Belonging for all.

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

As a Vietnamese-Cambodian immigrant, born in a refugee camp, I find homelessness to be a defining problem in my district. We see folks in need everywhere. The problem has become significantly worse in the past 3 years, and we are likely to face even worse outcomes as the long-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic take hold. We have created CampAssist, a four-step, 2-3 year program, to permanently change the trajectory of the unhoused in Oakland. See plan details here https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LF-_6lxbRDUzGPPdtmLymuyWXb5uhSZidmVrvlq7jJ4

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

Approximately 15% of Oakland District 1 is APA

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

Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino

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

The economic threats from closures and mis-directed fears from the COVID-19 pandemic threaten the small business communities within District 1. Many of these businesses are restaurants and other service based businesses that face disproportionate impacts because of closures and owners' APA heritage. As a council member, and representative of APA heritage, I will work to support commercial area growth through housing policy that focuses on densification, small business support, and detailed efforts to help reduce homeless populations that often pose challenges to small business.

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

There are a multitude of concerns amongst the APA community in Oakland. Amongst them is 1) increase in hate speech mis-directed at the Asian community, 2) lack of representation amongst the judiciary and public safety representatives 3) loss of economic security during the pandemic. Each of these provides unique opportunities for changing the status quo - to bring representation to APA heritage voters.

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?

There have been over 800 reported attacks on the Asian community in California since the start of the pandemic. In June, CA state representatives declined funding specifically to combat this problem. While Oakland may not be able to solve the entire problem I certainly support efforts to engage and educate the community and will support citywide efforts at education that combats mis-directed hate speech and attacks on the APA heritage community.

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

Currently there is a mismatch between the APA population and its representation in local government. As a candidate of APA heritage, I committed to be part of the solution.

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. This is my first political race and I have not endorsed ANY candidates thus far.

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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