

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

lantzilla@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 *

Lance Nishihira

City and zip code of residence.

94587

What is your campaign website address?

<http://www.lance4nhusd.org>

What is your campaign email address?

lantzilla@gmail.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- City of San Leandro City Council
- City of San Leandro School Board
- City of Hayward City Council
- City of Hayward, Unified School District Trustee
- City of Fremont, Mayor
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 5
- City of Fremont, City Council, Dist. 6
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 1
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 4
- City of Fremont, Unified School District, Dist. 5
- City of Union City, Mayor
- City of Union City, City Council
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 1
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 2
- New Haven School Trustee, Area 3
- City of Newark, Mayor
- City of Newark, City Council
- City of Newark, School Board
- City of Newark, School Board, Short term
- Eden Healthcare District
- Washington Hospital Healthcare District
- Oro Loma Sanitary District

Ohlone Community College

Alameda County Water District

AD 20, State Assembly Representative

AD 25, State Assembly Representative

Ohlone Community College, 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.

2014

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

When my grandfather immigrated to the Hawaiian islands from Okinawa in 1915 at the age of 12, I don't know if he intended to participate in some kind of altruistic American experiment; I think he just needed to send money back home. But, things change. People change. Times and contexts change. I would like to think that his story and my story are the picture of the American Experience for Asian families, and I would love the for the caucus to continue it's important work of promoting the experiences of Asian American citizens and representing their interests.

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

Delaine Eastin, Phong La, Bob Wieckowski, Bill Quirk, Gary Singh. Please go to <http://lance4nhusd.org/endorsements/> for more info.

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?

22 years

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

Newark Memorial High School, High School Diploma, 1991; California State University Hayward, Mass Communication, 1996.

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

PayPal, Director of User Experience, 4 years

WePay, Head of Design, 1 year

Comcast Silicon Valley Innovation Center, Creative Director, 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.

Daily Bowl (President and Cofounder), New Haven Schools Foundation (Board Member)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have 4 years of school board experience which is critical for times like this. I have gone through the learning curve, earning my Masters in Governance from the California School Boards Association. If we elect someone new, we will be moving backward, not forward. The stakes are high right now; we need stable and confident leadership more than ever.

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

I have lead the charge in identifying communication and advocacy as a key area of focus for our district. When I first arrived on the board, we had no social media presence and a cripplingly bad website. We still have a lot of work to do, but I have pushed it to the forefront of our strategic action plan.

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

46.1%

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

Chinese American, Filipino American, Punjabi American

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

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

Large class sizes, low proficiency in English Language Arts and Math, school safety

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?

This issue has not surfaced as an area to address in our district.

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

Speaking for New Haven Unified, I would say that we have adequate representation. Currently, the NHUSD board consists of one Chinese American, One Filipino American, 2 Punjabi Americans, and one Japanese American.

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.

Gary Singh, Phong La, Sharan Kaur, Raj Salwan

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 South County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 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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