

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

jim@oddie4alameda.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 *

Jim Oddie

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda 94501

What is your campaign website address?

www.oddie4alameda.com

What is your campaign email address?

jim@oddie4alameda.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.

Since moving to California in 1996. I registered to vote on my 18th birthday in Illinois, but we did register by party there. Always voted in the Democratic primary.
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Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I've been honored to earn the Caucus's endorsement in my 2014 and 2018 campaigns. The Caucus's endorsement is valuable and earning it again will indicate that the API community appreciates my record and experience, trusts my leadership for another four years, and recognizes that I have been inclusive of the entire community.

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

Fiona Ma, Betty Yee, Rob Bonta, Wilma Chan, Phong La
<https://www.oddie4alameda.com/endorsements>

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?

Since 1997

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

B.S. (Finance), Indiana University, 1986
M.B.A., Loyola University of Chicago, 1991
J.D., University of San Francisco, 2006
L.L.M., Golden Gate University, 2010

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

VP Finance/General Counsel, Variphy, Inc. (since 2019)
District Director, Assemblymember Rob Bonta (2012-2019)
Previously practicing attorney (firm no longer in business)

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

Board Member, Cypress Mandela Training Center
City of Alameda Democratic Club
Alameda County Democratic Central Committee
StopWaste.org (board member)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

Serving as Alameda's Councilmember for the last 6 years has been an honor. I'm proud that together, we've improved emergency operations, made significant investments in safe streets for all, and secured landmark advances in affordable housing, tenant protections, and compassionate solutions for our unhoused neighbors. I have a strong record of accomplishment in all of these areas that the three non-incumbents simply do not have. My record on supporting the safety of all our residents, social justice, tenants, the environment, working families, small businesses, and expanding transit alternatives and housing opportunities is unequaled by any of the challengers. Now is not the time for learning on the job. Now is not the time to abandon our progressive values and elect someone from the party of Donald Trump. And, now is not the time to return to the dysfunction of two years ago.

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

Right now, it's protecting our residents and small businesses during COVID-19. While Alameda has fared better than most of our neighbors in this pandemic, vigilance, foresight, and preparation are critical. I've worked closely with my Council colleagues, City staff, and public health experts to put protection and safety first. We've prevented commercial and residential evictions and been responsive to our treasured small businesses with direct grant funding and easing of permit restrictions as we forge a local economy that can weather this storm.

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

30.4% (per the link provided) - was 32% in 2014 when I first ran.

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

Chinese, Filipino, Korean (#3 used to be Vietnamese)

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

I think the most at-risk APA community in Alameda would be recent immigrants and their children, regardless of their country of origin. Our Filipino community has been hit hard by the housing crunch, the eviction of Filipino/Filipino American students and their parents from 475 Central catalyzed support for increased tenant protections. Job opportunities can be hard to find, and many members of our APA community are essential workers, putting them at risk during the COVID pandemic. Many of our small businesses are APA-owned, and are struggling to survive, which is why I've been a leader on providing financial assistance for our small business owners.

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

COVID-19, Housing, Safety. If it wasn't COVID, I would have added education.

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?

Early on, I reached out to our local Assemblymember to involve the API Legislative Caucus in condemning these attacks. In 2017, Councilmember Malia Vella and I co-authored a council referral to provide reporting to the council on hate crimes/potential hate crimes. While reports of anti-Asian attacks have increased since Trump falsely blamed China for the pandemic, we have thankfully not seen an uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes in Alameda.

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

No. Elected officials can support APA candidates for office. To the extent we have the ability, we can also amplify APA representation on city boards and commissions. Our new Mayor, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, has been a leader on doing this in Alameda (board and commission appointments are made by the Mayor). We can also support his group, as I have for many years, which can provide a powerful boost to APA candidates and their allies. We also can reflect our APA diversity in our direct hires, as Alameda did last year in hiring our first APA City Attorney.

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.

Fiona Ma, Betty Yee, Rob Bonta, James Chang, Benny Lee, Aimee Eng, David Chiu, Wilma Chan, Stewart Chen, Aisha Wahab, Gabe Quinto, Shawn Kumagai, Phong La, Raj Salwan, Justin Sha, Malia Vella, Yogi Chugh, Sue Chan, Brandon Baranco, David Lim, Margaret Fujioka, Amado Uno, Verna Castro, Gary Lym. Also donated to Nikki Fortunato Bas in 2019.

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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