

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

soulmaz@redoakrealty.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 *

Soulmaz Panahi

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley, 94708

What is your campaign website address?

<https://transparentrentboard.com/soulmaz-panahi>

What is your campaign email address?

soulmaz@redoakrealty.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.

I got my citizenship recently and register to vote recently

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

APA Caucus is looking to create and influence Democratic policy to Asian American community. It is also supporting and promoting its community for leadership positions and it also endorses candidates.

As an immigrant I have been greeted with ample love and acceptance in Berkeley. The opportunities in Berkeley for its inclusion and a variety of viewpoints is what drew me to take part in civic discourse. Like APA I am trying to give back to my community and support those who need our help and actions.

I hope I can get APA endorsement in this journey!

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

<https://transparentrentboard.com/soulmaz-panahi>

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?

6 years.

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

Textile Design, University of Science and Culture, Tehran, Iran

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

Red Oak Realty, Real Estate Agent, 3 years
Marketing, Sale and Product management, ASUS Technology Inc, 10 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.

ROOF (Red Oak Opportunity Foundation)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am a real estate agent. I am dealing with the housing market on a daily basis. I work with buyers, sellers, Investors and tenants. I have to keep myself educated and update about the housing market and regulations all the time. It's important that I understand how supply and demands works, especially as to how supply will bring more affordability to Berkeley's housing.? The one-sided policies that come from the current Rent Board commissioners is destructive to our city's overall goal of providing more affordable housing options, expanding housing opportunities, maintaining rental housing quality and increasing supply. I believe my knowledge in real estate will be helping me in this mission.

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

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

I am not sure about District 6 but At UC Berkeley, the AAPI community includes 11,500 undergraduate and 1,981 graduate students, making up more than one-third of the student body, as well as 1,649 staff and 226 ladder faculty members.

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

Asian Pacific American Student Development (APASD), Asian American and Pacific Islander Standing Committee,

.....

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

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

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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?

Government should take urgent steps to prevent racist attacks and discrimination against Asians happening during Covid-19 pandemic not to encourage it. We should act immediately. Government should aggressively investigate and prosecute hate crime, expand public outreach, and promote tolerance. We need to adopt special public education initiatives, and offer support to communities victimized by discrimination. Social medias are responsible and should protect users against hateful and xenophobic content on their platforms. Government should make sure Social Medias are addressing those discriminating post.

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

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.

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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