

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address \*

ainparker@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 \*

Barbara parker

City and zip code of residence.

Oakland 94610

What is your campaign website address?

<http://www.parkerforoakland.com>

What is your campaign email address?

[ainparker@gmail.com](mailto:ainparker@gmail.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 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.

I am a life long Democrat .....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking the Caucus' endorsement because democratic support and validation are important to me personally given my commitment to protect and advance the rights of all Oaklanders and the values I believe the Caucus and I share to root out and end racial discrimination and systemic racism and secure equity. The Caucus' endorsement also will speak volumes in terms of confirming my commitment and support for the Caucus' goals .

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

My full list of endorsements as of Friday, September 4th can be found at <http://www.parkerforoakland.com>. I receive endorsements on an ongoing basis. It is difficult to determine the "top 5" endorsements because I have a broad base and wide range of endorsements, including elected officials at the state and local levels, labor unions, progressive organizations, overwhelming support of the attorneys in my office and other legal professionals, democratic clubs, civil rights luminaries, community activists and leaders, and other supporters. I will comply with your request to list 5 individual endorsers in no particular order; however, I have many very important endorsements. Assemblymember Rob Bonta, State Controller Betty Yee, Mayor Libby Schaaf, Councilmember Sheng Thao, Senator Nancy Skinner.

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?

The Oakland City Attorney is a city-wide office. I have lived in Oakland for 39 years.

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

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of Washington; Law degree, Harvard Law School

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

Oakland City Attorney - July 2011 to present

Chief Assistant City Attorney, second in command, September 2000 - July 2011

Supervising Deputy City Attorney, Labor & Employment Unit, 1999 - 2000

Senior Deputy City Attorney IV, 1991 - 1999

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

Sankofa Holistic Healing Institute, co- president

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I am the only candidate in this race with a demonstrated, consistent, and strong record on many issues important to our city. For example, I

- (1) continue to fight in court to uphold the City's coal ban and stop Wells Fargo's mortgage discrimination against Black and Latinx borrowers;
- (2) have vigorously protected tenant's rights and prosecuted unscrupulous landlords;
- (3) successfully fought chemical giant Monsanto to clean up our environment;
- (4) am suing big oil companies for the ravages of climate change they've caused;
- (5) visibly and actively have worked with and supported our neighborhoods through my Neighborhood Law Corps;
- (6) fought Trump on multiple fronts, including the Muslim Ban, separating immigrant children from their parents, caging children, and we won our lawsuit stopping Trump's plan not to count undocumented immigrants in the 2020 Census, and recently sued to stop Trump's plan to only count citizens in determining seats in the House of Representatives and allocation of federal funds;
- (7) resolved nearly three fourths of claims and nearly two thirds of lawsuits for zero dollars; and much more.

My record confirms that I am the progressive Democrat in this race. In fact, I've been a fighter for racial justice and equity throughout my legal career with progressive roots that date back to my youth, when I led a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.

I have deep union roots, grew up in a strong union family (father a member of the Marine Cooks and Stewards union, mother in the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Workers union, two uncles in United Auto Workers and another in Postal Workers union); and was previously a member of Local 21; and I was a leader in organizing the Local 21 Deputy City Attorney I-IV bargaining unit in the City Attorney's Office when I was a Senior Deputy City Attorney and I led organizing Oakland's Confidential Management Employees Association when I was Chief Assistant City Attorney, second in command in the City Attorney's Office.

This is a high stakes election during very unsettling times, and this is no time for training wheels and to gamble on city attorney who has no trial experience, no management or supervisory experience or any leadership record. I alone in this race have such a record.

And I am a lifelong Democrat.

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

City Attorney is a city-wide office. One of the issues that I am passionate about is housing justice and protecting tenants' rights. This work helps to maintain homes of long term Oakland residents and the diversity that we all love about our great city in terms of race, sexual orientation, age, and professions; and this work helps to protect and secure affordable housing and reasonable rents.

CRAFTING AND CO-SPONSORING TENANT PROTECTION LAWS - I have provided leadership in crafting and co-sponsoring tenant protection laws that empower the City Attorney to file lawsuits to stop egregious violations of tenants' rights and secure affordable housing.

PROTECTING TENANTS' RIGHTS - During the COVID-19 crisis, my award winning Neighborhood Law Corps (NLC) which is a community-oriented unit in my office that works with community members to identify and address problems, successfully intervened in over a dozen cases to immediately protect tenants and allow them to stay in their homes.

We secured a restraining order against investors who removed their tenants' belongings over their protests and changed the locks – all under the guise of a fake City notice ordering tenants out of the home. The NLC has sent demand letters in cases where utility shutoffs left tenants without access to electricity for weeks and convinced owners to turn the power back on.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - The NLC has also filed lawsuits that resulted in the creation of affordable housing. Our work resulted in the sale of the 90-unit Emphyrean Towers Hotel to an affordable housing developer guaranteeing the units will be affordable for at least 55 years. The NLC also sued the Holland Hotel property owner for drug nuisance and habitability issues. The City purchased the property after it was rehabilitated; it now serves individuals who are unhoused and individuals in encampments. The hotel has 90-person capacity

HOUSING JUSTICE INITIATIVE - I also have launched this initiative to focus and prioritize and expand our housing work. We have received two grants from the San Francisco Foundation.

FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR TENANTS AND PRESERVING CITY SERVICES AND JOBS - My leadership secured a nearly 50% increase in the NLC attorneys' salaries and expanded the unit from 3 to 5 attorneys budgeted by City Council, City Administrator and Mayor. Also, the work of the NLC and my Community Lawyering and Civil Rights Units has brought in more than a million dollars to compensate tenants and more than a million dollars for attorney's fees which preserves precious dollars for city services and jobs.

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

Approximately 17% of Oakland residents are of APA heritage.

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

My office is a city wide office. I apologize as I received this questionnaire only a few days before the deadline and did not have time to research and don't know this information off the top of my head.

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

My office is a city wide office. I apologize as I don't know which is the most at risk APA community in the City of Oakland.

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

My office is a city wide office. I do not know the answer on a city-wide basis and received the questionnaire only a few days ago and was not able to research this issue. I know that some APAs have concerns about (1) harassment and attacks dramatically increasing as a result of Trump's racist characterization of the virus as "Chinese," which is endangering lives and safety and health; (2) stereotyping and implicit bias in terms of the type of work Asians are best qualified to do; (3) housing costs.

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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?

As City Attorney I have filed lawsuits to protect civil rights and tenants' rights of Asians. Recently, I secured a \$1 million settlement from owners of an Oakland Chinatown residential building who intentionally created unbearable living conditions for their elderly and Chinese-speaking tenants. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I issued guidance in the form of FAQs to inform Oakland residents, businesses and leaders of their civil and constitutional rights and their options to seek redress. This guidance was issued in response to the dramatic increase in harassment and attacks and scapegoating of Asians due in part to Trump's racist characterization of the virus as the "China" virus.

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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?

I am not clear whether representation is adequate on the Council. Representatives are elected by district, except for the at-large representative and representation has fluctuated from term to term. The council currently has 2 APA members. With respect to appointed leadership positions in the City of Oakland, representation should be increased. In the City Attorney's Office, I have a very diverse staff and strive to maintain and increase diversity by reaching out to the various bar associations, including the ethnic bar associations when we have openings and asking attorneys in my office and others for recommendations.

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 do not endorse candidates in City of Oakland races as City Attorney due to ethical issues. I have endorsed Assemblymember Rob Bonta, County Assessor Phong La and supported Commissioner Pelayo Llamas' application for appointment as a Commissioner.

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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