

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

amit4ohlonetrustee@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 *

Amit Patel

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont, 94539

What is your campaign website address?

www.amit4ohlone.com

What is your campaign email address?

amit4ohlonetrustee@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 Sanitarv 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.

2012 - First election I took part in.

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I am seeking an endorsement from the APA because our goals are in alignment; to increase voter turnout within our community, increase the education of ballot measures that affect the Asian American Communities, and increase representation of our community members in key positions to diversify and better serve the entire range of our community. As a first generation born Indian-American and member of the LGBTQ+ community, I understand the need for a diverse range of representation in Education and Politics.

One of my main objectives as a member of the Ohlone College Board of Trustees, is to ensure that we are on the right track to understand and execute the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion objections that have been passed to us by the Chancellor's office. I am an alumni of Ohlone College, as well as a former President of the Associated Students of Ohlone College Student Government. I served in the Student government at Ohlone College for 3 years, and have a unique insight into the shared governance at Ohlone College.

As a community, Asian Americans, have an extremely diverse set of skills which extend beyond STEM. I myself, am a full-time artist, who has been thriving with the transition to virtual platforms. My work strives to combine Art & Activism efforts to unite, inform, and inspire our community to be more involved. I hope to receive your endorsement to further these efforts to best serve the students, faculty, and community of Ohlone College.

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

Linda Canlas - President - Alameda County School Board Association

Vivien Larsen - Current Member of the Ohlone College Board of Trustees

Sarabjit Kaur Cheema - New Haven Unified School District Trustee

Jenny Kassan - Vice Mayor - City of Fremont

Ann Crosbie - Fremont Unified School Board / Children's Democratic Caucus Chair

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?

27 years. Born and raised in Fremont, California.

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

I graduated Mission San Jose High School in 2010, and from Ohlone College in 2013, where I studied Business and Communication.

I am a full-time artist & entrepreneur, and have completed a diverse range of training in both theory and practice of the arts. Most notably, the San Jose Conservatory for Contemporary Arts, The Cambrian Project, The Hubbard Street Intensive, and as well as the Broadway Dance Center in New York.

I was a guest teacher at the University of Southern California, and guest speaker at the University of Michigan in 2019, where I spoke on Dance, Diversity, and Identity.

My experience as an Ohlone (Community) College graduate has taught me much about the education system, specifically that the quality of education is contingent upon the needs of the individual.

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

Self-Employed: Dancer/Choreographer/Teacher/Director.

The last three, most notable contracts I have had were with Netflix - Pride 2020 virtual show, NBC for the show a Little Late with Lilly Singh, and teaching a Master Class Series at the University of Southern California.

I am also a dance educator, and have used my social media following of over 170,000 YouTube Subscribers and 27,000 Instagram followers to adapt my teaching methods to become fully online. I have been fortunate to have been able to thrive through the pandemic, teaching students all over the world from the safety of home.

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

Bliss Dance Company (2011 - 2017) Supports the voice of female voices, through the art of performance dance. Through which I had the honor of working with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to commemorate the work and legacy of Maya Angelou.

Through my work as an artist and activist, I have worked with organizations like Maitri, the Sankara Eye Foundation, Jeena, the South Asian an Heart Association, and continued volunteer efforts with the India Community Center in Milpitas.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I went to school at Ohlone College, and was a member of the Student Government at Ohlone College for 3 years. I have an deeper insight into what goes on at Ohlone College than any of the other candidates. The position I am running for involves both an understanding of politics/state and federal policies/as well as understanding of how the college functions as it pertains to both faculty and students. As someone who has spent 3 years in that space, I understand the needs and concerns of both the faculty and students of Ohlone College.

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

My first goal is to work on the reform of the our Board Policies to reflect the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) objectives. My 2nd issue, which I am passionate about is advocating for the passing of the congressional HEROES Act, which would provide more funding for California Community Colleges.

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

55.7%

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

Asian Indian, Chinese, Korean

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

In my District the APA demographic have been blessed with

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

Cost of Education, Housing, Living in Fremont/Bay Area
Representation in Education & Politics
Job Search in pandemic era

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 is one of the reasons I am running, to address issues surrounding race. I believe its imperative as an institution to remain neutral, and promote a healthy learning environment for ALL our students. Ohlone College has a big international student population, and we need to make sure our policies and actions reflect the best interests and promote an enriched learning environment for everyone, including faculty.

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

I do not believe that we have enough representation in local government. For me as an Indian American and a member of the LGBTQ+ community there is no one I can identify with. I hope to be that for someone else, and represent the needs of those who are not currently represented.

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 campaigned for Ishan Shah for the Ohlone College Board of Trustees in 2010, and have been aware of APA candidates in local elections. The names I have voted for in the past have been Anu Natarajana and Ro Khanna.

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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