

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address \*

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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 \*

Diana Prola

City and zip code of residence.

San Leandro 94577

What is your campaign website address?

pending

What is your campaign email address?

dprola@yahoo.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.

About 40 years .....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

A good share of the students in our schools are APA. I would like to be more aware of issues that concern them

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

CA Controller Betty Yee, Assemblyman Rob Bonta, Senator Nancy Skinner, Supervisor Wilma Chan, Mayor Paulin Cutter.

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 1977.

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

U. C. Berkeley (B.A. in English 1964); Cal State East Bay (M.A. English 1973, and elementary credential (for K-8th grades): Secondary credential (English, Social Studies and Math); second language certification.

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

San Lorenzo USD--teacher (8 subjects) and Director of Student Activities--10 years; Diocese of Oakland--elementary Principal(K-8);--3 years; Oakland Public Schools (grades 1-6)--20 years

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

San Leandro Scholarship Foundation, Building Futures with Women and Children, San Leandro Library Commission, Marina Gardens HOA (vice-president

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

There is a super-majority of parents on our Board currently, but I am the only member of the School Board who has teaching/administrative experience. I have served 3 terms on the Board, and have been Board president 3 different years. I am an elected representative to the California School Boards Association and have presented workshops at their annual conference 3 different times. I have worked with the Alameda Democratic Central Committee, and am supported by the Sierra Club because of my environmental work, and the Central Labor Council and Building Trades Council because I have supported them in issues that have occurred that affect their workers involved in school building projects.

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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.

A few years ago I had a conversation with Benny Lee, in which he told me that kids were leaving SLUSD for a private school because they wanted to study Mandarin, which was not offered in the public schools. Since that time, I have been involved in changing this. SLHS now offers Mandarin and Advanced Placement Mandarin!

We are considering a dual language program at one of the elementary schools, but that has been put on hold until the pandemic is over.

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

Although the APA population in San Leandro is larger, the number of students in the District is about 20%

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

Chinese, Vietnamese and Philippine

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

I believe the most at-risk of these communities is probably Vietnamese or Philippine because communication with parents who don't speak English is limited. We do have Chinese translators. Most of our newsletters are translated only into Chinese and Spanish.

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

School achievement, college admissions and jobs.

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?

The best way to address this is through education. It should be discussed in health and social studies classes (online, as well as in person.). No one group is responsible for a pandemic--and we are all responsible to prevent its spread. I have not been asked this formally before now, but this is my response if/when it comes up!

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

Asian and Pacific Americans are not well-represented at the local level, but the Bay area has excellent reps at the state and county level. (e.g. Betty Yee--state controller, Rob Bonta in the Assembly, Wilma Chan as County Supervisor and before her Alice Lai-Bitker). By the way, Bonta, Chan, and Yee have endorsed me! And Rob selected me as his Education champion of San Leandro for 2018.

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.

Assemblyman Bonta, Supervisor Chan , Alice Lai-Bitker, Betty Yee, Ken Pon.

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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