

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 *

Bill Quirk

City and zip code of residence.

Union City, 94587

What is your campaign website address?

reelectbillquirk.com

What is your campaign email address?

quirk4ad20@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 Sanitary 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.

I have been a registered Democrat since 1972.

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

The APA Democratic Caucus endorsement means a great deal to me. I respect the work of the caucus and its members. I have been endorsed previously and would be honored to be endorsed again for my 2020 re-election campaign.

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

California Democratic Party

California Labor Federation

California Teachers Association

Planned Parenthood

Muslim Democrats and Friends of Alameda County

(more at https://www.reelectbillquirk.com/bill_quirk_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?

I have lived in Assembly District 20 for over 40 years. My wife and I recently moved from Hayward to Union City.

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

Columbia University, School of Engineering, B.S., Applied Physics: 1967

Columbia University, Ph.D., Astrophysics: 1970

Postdoctoral Fellow California Institute of Technology, 1970-72

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

California State Assembly, Assemblymember, 2012-Present

City of Hayward, City Council Member, 2004-2012

Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Physicist, 1979-2005

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

I have been involved in several local and community non-profit organizations since I first moved to Hayward 40 years ago. In that time I have been a part of Hayward Rotary, Friends of the Hayward Library, Eden Area United Democratic Campaign, Hayward Democratic Club.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

My goal is to make life better for all Californians. I believe what sets me apart is my professional expertise and experience serving the constituents of the 20th Assembly District. As a scientist I look at the facts and truly take the time to understand the policies which I vote on in the State Assembly.

As the only scientist in the legislature, I am able to bring a unique perspective as Chair of the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, in this capacity I have worked to protect Californians from toxic substances. As a member of the Revenue and Taxation Committee, I am continuously working to kill bad bills that create tax cuts for the rich. As a member of the Public Safety Committee, I have worked to pass criminal justice reforms. I remain committed to representing the interests of the 20th Assembly District in Sacramento.

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

I am passionate about climate change and I have declared that we are in a climate crisis in the State of California. While on the Hayward City Council, I started the plans for Hayward to adapt to sea level rise. This resulted in the development of a green alternative to building more sea walls. It is to build up the marshes. This concept became part of the regional plan: Adjusting to Rising Tides. It is the preferred method for adaptation to sea level rise across the Bay Area. Since I was elected to the Assembly in 2012 I have been working to pass legislation that reduces our carbon footprint and increases the renewable energy portfolio. I am particularly interested in working with local leaders to form a regional body to plan, coordinate, and address the impacts of sea level rise in the Bay Area. I hope to continue these efforts.

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

In the 20th Assembly District, over 32% of my constituents are APA

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

Filipino, Indian, and Chinese.

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

I think that our immigrant APA community members are currently most at risk, particularly the Filipino families, who often have less resources than others. In order to better serve and support community members in mixed immigration status families I have supported and hosted 'Know Your Rights Events' and Citizenship Fairs.

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

COVID-19 Recovery
Rising Cost of Housing
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?

I condemn this type of behavior and will always speak out against it. Unfortunately, this stems from the misinformation and racist comments coming from our current administration in D.C. There is no room for hate in my agenda and as a scientist I will continue to use the facts and data to counter misinformation. I am particularly concerned for the Muslim community. I authored the first resolution in this country to honor the achievements of the Muslim community. Similar resolutions have now been passed by many local governments recognizing August as Muslim American month. The other group that I am particularly concerned about is the Sikh community. Many have been attacked when people see them wearing turbans. I have spent time with Sikh community leaders and attending their events. I am a co-author of the Assembly's annual resolution recognizing the Sikh community

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

I always welcome and encourage members of the APA community to run for office. I am proud to say that I have mentored many APA individuals who currently hold a local elected position in my district and even more proud to call them my friends. I am always available to meet and provide advice. I have been active in the Hayward-Ghazni Sister City organization and have met many Afghan-Americans. One of these decided to run for Hayward City Council becoming the first Afghan to achieve elected office. I was the first elected to endorse Aisha Wahab, who I believe is destined to be a regional and perhaps national leader. I also recognized Aziz Akbari in a special ceremony during the Muslim Appreciation resolution as an example of young Muslim leadership.

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.

Kansen Chu, Ash Kalra, Rob Bonta, David Chu, Jim Navarro, Wilma Chan, Raj Salwan, Sarabjit Kaur Cheema, Pat Gacoscos, Gary Singh, Sharan Kaur, Kamala Harris, Mae Cendana-Torlakson, Phong La, Aisha Wahab, Chandu Siramdas, Lily Mei, Harris Mojadedi, Fahria Khan, Linda Canlas, Sue Chan, Anu Natarajan, Aziz Akbari, Teresa Keng, Lance Nishihira, Yogi Chugh, Lance Kwan, and Chitra Ramanathan.

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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