

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 *

Pam Russo

City and zip code of residence.

Castro Valley, 94552

What is your campaign website address?

<https://www.pamrussoedenhealth.com/>

What is your campaign email address?

russoforedenhealthdistrict@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.

42 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

The Eden Health District encompasses Hayward, Fairview, Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Cherryland and Ashland with a mission is to improve health, health access and education to the community. The communities we serve have a growing number of Asian and Pacific American populations. It is very important that as elected officials, we understand the health needs of our community and become engaged with organizations who can assist us in making decisions based on community need. My priorities are to support funding throughout the District, with a focus on those communities that are at-risk. I believe connecting the Caucus with the Eden Health District would allow the District to better understand the health challenges of the Asian and Pacific American community. I would be honored to have the endorsement of the Caucus and look forward to the opportunity to interview with you.

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

Congressman, Eric Swalwell

Assemblymember, Bill Quirk

Alameda County Supervisor, Wilma Chan

Mayor of Hayward, Barbara Halliday

Hayward Firefighters Local 1909

Please see <https://www.pamrussoedenhealth.com/endorsements> for more 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?

64

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

My educational background is in the Eden Health District, where I was born and raised. I attended Tennyson High School in Hayward, graduating in 1974 and graduated from Chabot College in 1977 where I received an AA in Nursing.

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

Hayward Area Recreation & Park District (H.A.R.D.)
Executive Director, H.A.R.D. Foundation
2014 – 2020

PR Communications
Owner/Consulting Services
2012 – 2016

St. Rose Hospital
Executive Director, St. Rose Hospital Foundation/Nurse Administrator
1977 - 2011

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

Hayward Fire Department COVID 19 Testing Site, Nurse Volunteer
Hayward Rotary Club, Past President
Hayward Chamber of Commerce, Board Director
Government Relations Committee, Hayward Chamber of Commerce
Castro Valley Library Foundation

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have been a registered nurse for over 35 years, working in a hospital setting as well out in the community. This work, at the bedside, in health fairs, providing health education, has allowed me to understand the health needs of the District. I have been a strong advocate for health in the community by serving in Rotary, working with the special needs community, partnering with public officials and recently working as a volunteer for COVID 19 testing. These initiatives have allowed me to understand the health priorities of the community and implement health strategies to best respond to the District needs.

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

Health access for "all" is an area that I have been passionate about and I have worked to improve for decades in the Eden Health District. I have expanded pediatric medical and dental services at the Silva Clinic in Hayward. While working as an R.N. at St. Rose Hospital I was part of the team to obtain the distinction as a Cardiac Receiving Center for Alameda County. I opened a Women's Clinic for low-income women to receive OB/GYN services and opened a Breast Care Center to screen for cancer. I have also created a health mentorship program for at-risk youth for high school students throughout the Eden Health District.

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

Approximately 27%

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

Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian

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

Portions of Ashland, Cherryland, San Lorenzo and South Hayward are among the most at-risk communities in the Eden Health District. Health and health outcomes are associated with poverty levels and it has been evidenced that these communities have greater health disparities than wealthier areas such as Castro Valley and San Leandro. Access to health services, language barriers and obtaining gainful employment are detriments for the APA communities, especially as it relates to socio-income status.

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

Healthcare access/Insurance Coverage
Affordable Housing
Anti-Immigration Issues and Concerns

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 know instances of anti-Asian verbal and physical attacks have occurred and I am very much against this type of mentality and behavior. I have recently been appointed to the Eden Health District Board and during that time I have been active on the front lines doing COVID -19 testing and education. I have been able to provide clarity on how COVID-19 is transmitted, where the disease originated and dispel misnomers regarding the national shaming that has transpired due to the President of the United States. I would be very open to working with the Caucus on further addressing this in a larger forum.

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

I believe Asian and Pacific Americans are underrepresented in local government. As an elected official I would to encourage Asian and Pacific Americans to consider local government positions. One suggestion would be to apply for city commissions and advisory boards to introduce Asian and Pacific Americans to local government as a stepping stone to higher level public offices. I also would encourage youth leadership and mentorship opportunities beginning in high schools to Asian and Pacific American teens to develop leadership skills and advocacy and policy platforms.

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 have just recently been appointed as an elected official and not typically acted as an endorser of candidates. However, I would be very open to endorsing Asian and Pacific American candidates and work with several Asian and Pacific American leaders on MAC's, committees and in service clubs.

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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