

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address *

rsharma@aol.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 *

Rakesh Sharma

City and zip code of residence.

Fremont, 94539

What is your campaign website address?

www.electsharma.com (under construction)

What is your campaign email address?

sharmaforhlon@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.

more than 20 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Indo-American American, belong to Asian community

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

Raj Salwan, Fremont City Council; Yogi Chugh, Candidate for Fremont City Council

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?

More than 30 years

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

Pre-Med., B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D.

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

I am retired. Have worked for Stanford for 18 years. Retired as Professor and Chair, Saba University School of Medicine, Saba, Caribbean Island.

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

Founded Indo-Americans for Better Community out of our home (a 501c3 organization), Life ElderCare (Meals on Wheels), Ohlone College Foundation, Niles Rotary club (president year 2010-11).

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have the experience helping students to succeed and create a better community. For past 15 years, I have been actively supporting Ohlone College. Presently, I am Chair of the Ohlone College Foundation and Chair of the Ohlone Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (Measure G, \$349 Million Bond). I founded Indo-Americans for Better Community that has raised over \$750,000 for local organizations including over \$100,000 for Ohlone College Foundation. Indo-ABC has established endowment for Ohlone promise scholarship that provide two years of covered expenses for books and tuition at Ohlone. I am passionate about education and helping students to succeed. My education includes Pre-Med, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Phil. and a doctorate degree. I worked at Stanford for 18 years. I have worked in academic environment my whole life. I understand what is needed to provide excellent education and help students achieve their goals.

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

I will make sure Ohlone College uses all resources available to effectively and efficiently maximize student learning. Education changes life. I am in America because I had a good educational background and doing well. My whole professional career I have mentoring students. I am passionate about education, helping students to succeed and create a better community.

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

almost 50 percent

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

Chinese American, Indian American and other Asian American

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

First generation Asian youth. Mainly due to language barrier and standard of education that they had obtained in their home country.

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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?

Open conversation and education. Reaching out to the community that feel threaten and building relationships!

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

Yes, we are doing well in Fremont

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.

Lily Mei, Fremont Mayor; Raj Salwan, Fremont Council, Yogi Chug, Fremont Council

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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