

# 2020 Endorsement Questionnaire South County

Email address \*

info@melissa4newhaven.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 \*

Melissa Shuen-Mallory

City and zip code of residence.

Union City 94587

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What is your campaign website address?

www.melissa4newhaven.com

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What is your campaign email address?

info@melissa4newhaven.com

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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.

Since 2008 .....

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

My city and my trustee area have a large amount of Asian American and Pacific Islander residents. I want Asian American's and Pacific Islanders to know that I'm here for them and that I will fight for them on the School Board. It is personally important to me to have the endorsement of the APA Democratic Caucus because my wife is Asian American. I desire to serve and represent all of my constituents, not just the ones who have my same background or my same values.

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

New Haven Teachers Association

Council Member, Aisha Wahab, Hayward City Council

Commissioner Harris Mojadedi, Chair of Alameda County Human Relations Commission

Alfred Twu, Candidate for Berkeley Rent Board

Supervisor Richard Valle, Alameda County Supervisor, District 1

[www.melissa4newhaven.com](http://www.melissa4newhaven.com)

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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?

Four Years

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

San Jose State University, Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance, 2008  
California State East Bay, Hayward, Paralegal Studies Certificate, 2019

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

Albertsons Companies, Legal Assistant 2019 to present  
Forest Hill Management Services - Legal Assistant and HR Admin 2019  
STRATIM - Operations Generalist - 2015 - 2019

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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.

Chair of Southern Alameda Progressive Democrats  
Chair of Union City Human Relations Commission  
President of Queer Sphere  
Social Media at Intersex and Non-Binary Recognition Project  
Volunteer at Vigil for the Homeless in Fremont

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I have a bold vision for New Haven Unified School District. As the Chair of the Union City Human Relations Commission, a member of the Policing and Community Engagement Committee and a former educator, I am a proven leader who can make real change in our community. I was inspired to run for school board recently during the New Haven Teachers' Strike. I saw a lack of leadership on the school board and disrespect to our teachers. I am running to put our classrooms first and give teachers the resources they need to give our students the best education possible. We can do this by supporting Proposition 15. I would be the only LGBTQ+ member of the school board and I want to be there to support and advocate for our LGBTQ+ and age appropriate puberty and sex education because representation matters. I want to make sure that we have a plan to come back to schools safely after shelter in place. I want to end the school to prison pipeline and I want to give a voice to my community of Decoto and to Fairway Park by listening to my community's concerns on a regular basis. I want to use my experience as a commissioner to build a bridge between the city and the school district to better serve our families. I would be honored to have your support for this upcoming election in November and I would be honored to serve as your elected school board member for New Haven Unified School District in Trustee

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

One of our issues is that our black and brown students are over disciplined. I want to end the school to prison pipeline and I would make sure that all staff and educators have regular unconscious bias training. We should keep data on demographics of our disciplinary measures in order to know if any particular staff needs remedial training or discipline. We should also make sure that we are utilizing all our resources before calling the police to our campuses. We have great programs for mental health, de-escalation, mentorship and more that we can utilize before calling the police on our students. We should invest in those programs and in our students.

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

17.70% - 2,645 out of 14,941 people

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

38.64% of APA people are Filipino, 20.04% are Asian Indian and 23.12% are Chinese

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

We have a thriving Sikh community in our district. Even though the Sikh community does so much to feed those in need and gives generously to our community, they are unfortunately the targets of many hate crimes and bullying because of the turbans they wear as part of observing their religion. I would work to bring our communities together to increase understanding of each other's cultures and histories to help increase harmony in our district.

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

First is the concern of racism against APAs especially with COVID-19, then is the education disparity between different groups within the APA community, we must track and address these concerns, and third is addressing the needs of non-native English speakers

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?

We must look at the facts. China handled the pandemic response much better than the US did. We must educate our community on the facts and erase xenophobia.

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 that we can do better to reach out and encourage participation. I have, for example, seen an increase in Chinese Americans in our district, but not an increase in Chinese community participation in our local politics. We must do what we can to amplify the voices of APAs in our communities by reaching out to them and making sure they understand how important and welcome their participation is.



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 am endorsing Mayor Lily Mei for re-election, Congressman Ro Khanna, Harris Mojadedi for City Council in 2018, Alfred Twu, Vanessa Sadsad and Austin Tam for Alameda County Central Committee

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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