

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 *

Fred Simon

City and zip code of residence.

San Leandro, 94579

What is your campaign website address?

www.votefredsimon.com

What is your campaign email address?

votefredsimon@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.

31 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

I want to listen to the concerns of Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus and would like my campaign message to be heard by a large segment of the the San Leandro Population (Asian/Pacific Americans, 32.1%). I fully support the Caucus's four main goals: 1) Recruit and register Asian Pacific Americans into the Democratic Party; 2) Create and influence Democratic policy on issues of importance to Asian American communities; 3) Promote Asian Pacific Americans for electoral office and leadership positions within the Democratic Party on a local, state and national level; 4) Endorse candidates for key offices. I have sent my check in via US mail on 9/9/20 to join the AP Caucus.

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

Rob Bonta, California State Assemblymember District 18; Building & Construction Trades Council of Alameda County; Sierra Club; Benny Lee, Council Member, City of San Leandro; South Alameda County Young Democrats. See more complete list at www.votefredsimon.com

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?

25 years

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

I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Davis in 1994 and my Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1996

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

Contra Costa Water District, Senior Engineer; Employed 1998-current, 23 years
Oro Loma Sanitary District, Board Member; Elected 2018 - current, 2 years
East Bay Municipal Utility District, Assistant Engineer; Employed 1996-1998, 2 years

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 Senior Commission, Senior Commissioner
San Leandro Democratic Club, Executive Board Member
Boy Scout Troop 556, San Leandro, Committee Leader

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

My candidacy is distinguished from my competitor as I have prior and current elected official, democratic club, labor union, and community volunteerism experience. I have support from the Seniors in San Leandro (I am a San Leandro Senior Commissioner) and many voters from my 2018 Oro Loma Sanitary District Board successful campaign. My three key priorities are:

Invest in Community Equity & Quality of Life

Bring together San Leandrians, all races, age groups and the LGBTQ community, to improve our quality of life and increase economic opportunities. Build an "age friendly city" by optimizing opportunities for health, community participation and security in order to address the needs of our residents as they age. Expand Senior and youth services, Work together to end homelessness, and Reduce crime. Enhance fire and emergency response services.

Beautify San Leandro

Revitalize our neighborhoods by improving streets and curb appeal of residential homes and businesses, planting trees and greenery, and increasing community art. Share with our residents how community blight can harm our health and economy.

Bring in Businesses and Housing

Increase the number and variety of shops, restaurants, grocery stores, and entertainment venues. Bring in modern and energy sustainable housing to Bayfair and other community supported locations. Work together with Kaiser Hospital on the completion of their project on Marina Blvd. to transform the vacant land into a modern development that enhances the hospital facility and our community.

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

Invest in Community Equity & Quality of Life

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As a person of color (I am African American - biracial) and a Senior Commissioner for San Leandro I see first hand the social challenges that San Leandro faces. I am passionate about making San Leandro an "age friendly" city and helping those that are underrepresented and in need of help. There is too much division in the City on so many issues and levels; I will strive to bring us all together to improve community equity and quality of life for us all.

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

The City is 32.1% and District 4 is near 50%

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

Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese

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

The City of San Leandro 2017 Needs Analysis determined the most at-risk APA community are non-English speaking Asians . This undeserved group do not utilize the services they are entitled to because of lack of trust (similar to African Americans who are often leery of police or city/agencies that have historically discriminated against them) and they are not aware of the services available to them due to language barriers.

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

1) Public Safety (for example racist notes recently left on Heron Bay Asian resident's homes and an Asian male murdered during a robbery in Heron Bay on Harbor Way) 2) Health (Covid - 19) and 3) economic security

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 City of San Leandro has a proclamation resolution against Covid-19 racism against Asians. Growing up as an African American, and living with my wife and two children in a predominately Asian American neighborhood (Heron Bay) for 25 years, I understand implicate biases and blatant discrimination and mistreatment that people of color face. I will create policies to stand up against racism and educate people of all races of the mental, physical, social and economic harm that racism causes in our community.

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

No, I do not believe that Asian and Pacific Americans are adequately represented in local government. Benny Lee is the first and only Asian American on the San Leandro City Council and we need increased Asian participation in local government. I met Benny Lee over 20 years ago and I introduced Benny to community activism; I encouraged Benny Lee to run for his first San Leandro City Council term. Elected officials can improve participation of Asian and Pacific Americans in government by creating mentoring and internship opportunities with Asian youth in local government, encouraging community activism within the Asian Community to help with social and environmental issues and encouraging other elected officials to join the Asian Pacific Democratic Caucus.

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.

Benny Lee for San Leandro City Council 2012; Benny Lee for San Leandro City Council 2016; Benny Lee for Mayor of San Leandro 2018; Benny Lee for Oro Loma Sanitary District 2020; Andy Li, Contra Costa Community College District Governing Board 2018; Aisha Wahab for Hayward City Council 2018; Rob Bonta, California State Assemblymember District 18 2020

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.

Google Forms