

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

megansweet@hometown.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 *

Megan Sweet

City and zip code of residence.

Alameda 94501

What is your campaign website address?

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

What is your campaign email address?

megansweet@hometown.com

What is the office that you are seeking? *

- Alameda City Council
- Alameda School Board
- Berkeley, Mayor
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 2
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 3
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist.5
- Berkeley, City Council, Dist. 6
- Berkeley, Unified School District Trustee
- Berkeley, Rent Stabilization Board
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 1
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 3
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 5
- Oakland, City Council, Dist. 7
- Oakland, City Council, At-large
- Oakland City Attorney
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 1
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 3
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 5
- Oakland USD, School Trustee, Dist. 7
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 1
- AC Transit, Bd. of Directors, Ward 2
- AC Transit Bd. of Directors, At-Large
- EB Regional Park Dist. Bd. of Directors. Ward 1

Regional Assembly, Bd. of Directors, Area 1

AD 15, State Assembly Representative

AD 18, State Assembly Representative

Peralta Community College District, Bd. of Director, 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.

30 years

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

Community lies at the heart of a school, and our schools have a great influence on whether each individual in that school, be they guardians, students, or staff, feels included in that community. Alameda has some excellent schools and currently does a great job creating community for some people. I am running for school board to advance the sense of community to include all of us, people who identify as LGBTQ+, as BIPOC, as single parents, or low income...folks that currently do not often feel as included in AUSD. I cannot think of a more important issue for us to address in Alameda. Basic brain science has demonstrated that when we do not feel safe, which means that our identities are not included or honored in our classrooms and schools, then we are not able to learn at full capacity. Creating a sense of community and belonging is therefore a basic human right, and without it, we are not serving our students appropriately. As a parent, I have been working to advance equity at my son's school. If elected, I would be an active and focused ally in creating more equitable and inclusive schools in all of Alameda.

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

Delaine Eastin, Former State Superintendent for California

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?

12 out of the last 16 years

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

UC Davis: BA , History

Stanford: MEd, Teaching Credential

Mills College: EdD, Administrative Credential

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

Mindful Schools, Senior Director of Program, Dec 2018 to present

Oakland Unified School District, Director of School Improvement, Aug 2014-April 2019

WestEd, School Improvement Partner, Oct 2013-Aug 2014

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

Tsuru for Solidarity, Planting Justice, Mindful Schools

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

I want to be on the governing board for the Alameda Unified School District because I understand many of the challenges the district is facing and I have the professional knowledge and expertise to provide support. I have chosen to step forward at this time because I believe we finally have the right leadership for AUSD to make significant changes to areas that need immediate attention, including Special Education services, finance, equity, and inclusion. I also chose to step forward because of the unique situation the district finds itself in right now--needing to adjust academic programming and operational supports to address a global pandemic and civil unrest. As a lifetime educator, I can place myself in the shoes of teachers, principals, and district leaders and I can act as a partner with them as they make the necessary adjustments to meet this moment. Finally, as a parent of an AUSD student, I have a strong understanding of what it is like for students in our system, and my son has reached an age where my attention can shift from his school to the larger district.

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

Equity. I have been a part of creating more equitable schools and being an ally for BIPOC throughout my career. Currently, at MIndful Schools, I am leading the organization-wide efforts related to Divesity, Equity, and Inclusion. This includes development of guiding principles grounded in equity, creating scholarship funds targeted at increase diverse student participation, proactive hiring practices to increase the diversity on my team, and revamping our curriculum to be more inclusive and trauma-informed.

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

42%

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

Chinese, Filipino, Korean

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

The Pacific Islander community and Filipino communities are the most at-risk in Alameda. Their test scores are lower than the average student and their suspension rates and chronic absence rates are higher than the average student.

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

Representation--Having people who share their identities in teaching, staff, and leadership positions
ELL--Alameda was out of compliance for many years in how they identified and supported English Learners, and the RFEP rate is low
Translation Support--Almost no meetings or materials are translated in languages other than English

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 prioritize our work to come together as a community, to put equity at the center, and to address instances of anti-Asian attacks. Equity is the most important issue facing Alameda.

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

No. By supporting people who are interested in taking leadership roles, coaching them, and providing guidance, it can eliminate the barriers for many to enter public office.

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 not had the chance to formally endorse any candidates.

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 North County Endorsement Meeting is scheduled for Thu., Sept. 24 beginning at 6:30 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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