

2020 Endorsement Questionnaire

Email address *

terryataplin@gmail.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 *

Terry Taplin

City and zip code of residence.

Berkeley 94710

What is your campaign website address?

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

What is your campaign email address?

d2taplin2020@gmail.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.

I've been a registered Democrat for most of my life

Are you an APA Caucus member?

Yes

No

Why are you seeking the Caucus's endorsement?

To build a stronger bridge with the APA community for deeper understanding of how to serve them and advocate for their needs.

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

State Treasurer Fiona Ma, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County.

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?

I have lived in District 2 since I was 5 years old. I am 32. 27 years.

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

Berkeley City College, 2013, A.A. English Language and Literature December 2013; St. Mary's College of California, August 2017, B.A. Classical Languages: Ancient Greek and Latin; St. Mary's College of California, May 2019, MFA Creative Writing.

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

Events Writer, St. Mary's College of California, October 2018-May 2019; Research Assistant, Saint Mary's College of California, September 2014-October 2017; Instructional Assistant, Peralta Community College District, September 2013-June 2018.

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

Sierra Club, Sunrise Bay Area, Walk Bike Berkeley, NAACP

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

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

My deep roots in the community, my ability to build consensus and form broad, intersectional coalitions, and my track record of championing social justice and equity. I am a strong listener and proactive, collaborative problem solver. I combine bold, progressive vision with a laser-sharp focus on District 2 issues, unwavering commitment to constituent services, and the ability to collaborate with community stakeholders, council colleagues, and regional allies to get things done.

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

As Vice-Chair of the Berkeley Transportation Commission, I've advanced initiatives and legislation to combat traffic violence, invest in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and improve transit. My district has some of the most dangerous streets for cyclists and pedestrians of color. Additionally, 60% of GHG emissions come from Berkeley's transportation sector. To combat the climate crisis, people need to be able to get around safely and sustainably without relying on private automobiles.

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

8%

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

Filipino, Chinese, Korean

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

This is something I am still learning.

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

This is something I am still learning. Many people in the district across demographics are concerned with housing security, public safety, and economic stability and recovery in light of COVID.

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 will partner with community leaders, Peralta, Berkeley Unified, and the UC to host anti-Asian racism trainings for the public. The moment that I hear of such occurrences I will immediately reach out to those impacted to seek justice.

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

No. Elected officials can do more outreach to APA communities, produce more multilingual material, appoint more APA individuals to boards and commissions, and support more APA candidates.

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've endorsed Alfred Twu and James Chang for Alameda County Democratic Central Committee during the March 2020 Primaries, Alfred Twu and Dohee Kim for Berkeley Rent Board 2020, and Michael Chang for Berkeley School Board 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 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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